

God Seeks to Be Worshiped Through Preaching

(John 4:23-24)

Introduction:

1. According to John 4:23, God seeks "true worshipers" to worship Him.
2. True worshipers as those who worship God "*in spirit and in truth.*"
3. In this lesson we are showing that "true worship includes preaching."
4. The first point we need to make is that . . .

Discussion:

- I. THE NEW TESTAMENT AUTHORIZES "PREACHING" IN WORSHIP
 - A. This is where we must begin because we are to only say and do those things that Christ has authorized in His Word (Colossians 3:17, 16a).
 - B. God's people have been preaching for many centuries.
 1. (2 Peter 2:5) Noah is described as "*a preacher of righteousness.*"
 2. The Old Testament prophets were preachers [ex. Jonah (3:1-2)].
 3. John, the forerunner of Christ, preached (Matthew 3:1-2).
 4. Jesus preached during His ministry (Matthew 4:17, 23).
 5. Jesus included preaching in His Great Commission (Mark 16:15-16).
 6. Great emphasis was placed on preaching in the early church.
 - a. (Acts 6:4) Preaching was the primary work of the apostles.
 - b. (Acts 8:4) Other Christians preached as they scattered from Jerusalem.
 - C. While God's people have been preaching for a long time, the New Testament authorizes preaching as an act of Christian worship (Acts 20:7).
 - D. The requirements of worshiping God "*in spirit and in truth*" apply to preaching.
- II. PREACHING "*IN SPIRIT*" [from the heart, sincerely, with the proper attitude]
 - A. A practical definition of preaching is "the communication of God's Word by man [a speaker] to men [those who hear]."
 - B. The Bible addresses the sincerity and disposition of speakers and hearers.
 1. We read about the motives of those who preach in Ephesians 4:15 and Philippians 1:15-17.
 2. The proper way to hear is revealed in Acts 17:11 and 1 Thessalonians 2:13.
 - C. When the speaker preaches "*in spirit*" and the audience hears "*in spirit,*" God will provide the increase (Acts 2:14, 36, 37, 38, 41; Luke 11:28).
- III. PREACHING "*IN TRUTH*" [according to God's will revealed in the New Testament]
 - A. The New Testament identifies the proper message to be preached.
 1. "The Word" is the proper message (2 Timothy 4:1-2a).

2. This includes *"all the counsel of God"* (Acts 20:27).
- B. The proper way in which the Word is to be preached is revealed in:
1. 2 Timothy 4:2b-4
 2. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
- C. The New Testament reveals "who" is responsible for preaching in the church.
1. God's will is for men to preach in mixed assemblies.
 2. The New Testament clearly teaches that:
 - a. women are to *"keep silence in the churches"* (1 Corinthians 14:34)
 - b. women may not teach or usurp authority over men (1 Timothy 2:12).
 3. Women may teach children and other women; however, men are responsible for preaching to mixed assemblies.

Conclusion:

1. Preaching that pleases God is designed to accomplish several important objectives, including:
 - a. imparting knowledge from the Scriptures
 - b. convicting the sinner
 - c. strengthening the weak
 - d. comforting the downtrodden
 - e. encouraging the audience to draw nearer to God.
2. In closing, let us listen to the greatest preacher who ever lived -- John 3:16; Luke 13:3; Matthew 10:32; Mark 16:16; Revelation 2:10; Matthew 11:28-30.