

“Here I am to Worship!”
(Turnpike Wesleyan Church – September 8, 2019)

Scripture: John 4:23-24

“But the time is coming, indeed it’s here now, when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

Introduction

Here at Turnpike Wesleyan Church, we have **five** core values that we hold dearly to. Today we are going to look at the first of those core values and that being “worship.”

We worship God because we need to. But our need runs a distant **second** to the thoroughbred reason for worship ... God **deserves** it. God would **die** for your sin before he’d let you **die** in your sin. What do you do with such a Savior? You lift up your **gift** in worship!”

There is a never-ending list of “worship **misconceptions**.” Perhaps, some of the contributing factors to these common misunderstandings are our **expectations** of worship.

- Some expect **intellectual** stimulation from the sermon.
- Some expect a form of **entertainment**.

What we must understand this morning is that worship is not about **intellect** or **entertainment**, it is about an **encounter** with the living God.

Worship becomes the **outward** expression of our **inward** relationship with our heavenly Father. If that relationship is **absent**, there is **worthless** worship. If it is **present**, there is **worthy** worship.

What we need to understand this morning is that “neither **synthesizers** nor 18th century **hymns** guarantee genuine worship that engages the Spirit of God.

True Worship.

I. A time is coming and has now come when worship will no longer be associated with a **place**.

“Emmanuel” – “God with us.” God’s presence, thus the place of worship, is no longer centered in the **Temple** of Jerusalem, but is centered in the **heart** of every believer!

If you go to church thinking you are going to the place of worship, then you do not understand worship. The church is a place of fellowship where united worship takes place.

Tony Evans says, **“If you limit worship to where you are, the minute you leave that place of worship you will leave your attitude of worship behind like a crumpled-up church bulletin.”**

II. A time is coming and has now come when worship will be done in spirit and in truth.

What this means is that you do not measure worship by:

1. your level of entertainment,
2. your personal satisfaction,
3. your level of comfort.

What this means is that worship is not dependent upon a place or the presence of certain people but is determined by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

And the presence of the Holy Spirit is not determined by:

- the bricks of this building
- the color of the carpet
- the cross or communion table
- the position of the pulpit
- the pastor
- but is determined by the attitude of the worshiper.

If you walk away from a worship experience saying with the Psalmist, “Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,” then you have experienced worship.

If you walk away from a worship experience voicing criticism about why you didn’t like this or that, it is fair to say, you have not experienced worship.

And if that is how you measure worship; you hold the same position the Samaritan woman held. You hold the same position that the Pharisees held. You hold the same position that the people of Malachi’s day held.