

Eisenhower Church of Christ

Worship's Essential Ingredients

John 4:24 says, "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." Whenever we study what the New Testament teaches about worship, John 4:24 is a good place to start. As we examine this verse of scripture, there are at least four words that are especially noteworthy.

1. **MUST.** Webster's Dictionary defines this word as follows: "an imperative need or duty: REQUIREMENT...an indispensable item: ESSENTIAL. "The first thing we need to acknowledge is that the teaching of John 4:24 is not mere advice or a "take it or leave it" suggestion. The infallible Son of God declares that if our worship is to be accepted, it absolutely has to meet the conditions contained in this verse.

2. **SPIRIT.** Our worship must be in spirit. This means that we must be sincere whenever we approach God in worship. True worship is not limited to externals only. Our inner self or spirit must be involved as well. It is easy for some to put on a good show when worshipping God. They can do all of the right things, but their hearts are not in it (Matthew 5:8). In contrast, the one who worships "in spirit" worships with all his heart.

3. **TRUTH.** Our worship must be in truth. Pilate once asked, "What is truth?" (John 18:38). Unfortunately, he did not wait around for the answer. Our Lord could have told him. He tells us in John 17:17. As Jesus prays to His Father, He says, "Your word is truth." In man's search for truth, he need look no further than the Bible. If I worship "in truth," I am worshipping ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF GOD! It makes no difference who you are (Acts 10:34). Your worship is not acceptable to God unless it is done in accordance with His Word or, more specifically, the New Testament (Romans 7:1-6; Colossians 2:14; Hebrews 8:13; 9:15; 2 John 9). Instead, it is vain or worthless, Jesus said, "*And in vain they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men*" (Matthew 15:9). In other words, if my worship is directed by the fallible ideas of men instead of the inspired word of God, I had might as well stay in bed on Sunday morning. My worship accomplishes absolutely nothing as far as God is concerned!

4. **AND.** Jesus did not say to worship in spirit OR truth. It is not a pick and choose situation. Acceptable worship involves BOTH spirit AND truth. We only deceive ourselves when we believe we can get by with one or the other. I am wrong if I believe that sincerity is not important as long as I outwardly worship as the Bible directs. A superficial, "just going through the motions" worship is unsatisfactory to God. Our external worship must be guided by the Scriptures, but we must also put our hearts into it. For example, partaking of the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week is certainly a part of worshipping in truth because we have God's authority for such (Acts 20:7). But the one who participates in this sacred act without the proper spirit "discerning the Lord's body; eats and drinks judgment to himself" (I Corinthians 11:29). I am also wrong if I think I can get by with sincerity alone. We often hear people say, "It does not matter how you worship, as long as you are sincere." What a grand assumption! Those who make such a statement need to realize that they are doing nothing less than contradicting the Son of God. In John 4:24, our Lord declares unequivocally that sincerity is not enough. I can believe with all my heart that the earth is flat, but all the sincerity in the world will not make that belief any less erroneous. Many fail to understand that one can be SINCERELY WRONG in religion. If you want to read about some people who were sincere in their religion, turn to 1 Kings 18. The ancient prophets of Baal were so sincere, they actually cut themselves; with knives and lances, until the blood

gushed out on them” (1 Kings 18:28). Now friends, that is sincerity! As they discovered, however, no amount of sincerity will change a false religion into a true one. By all means, be sincere, but be **SINCERELY RIGHT!**

John 4:24 teaches that our sincerity and God’s Word are two essential ingredients in the only kind of worship that God accepts. Follow the Bible! Follow the Bible only! And follow it with all your heart!

— Jeff Spencer

Prayer Requests

Charles Wood was under the weather with an upper respiratory problem last weekend and unable to attend services.

Maria Anaya was taken to the ER at ORMC last Tuesday with chest pains and hurting down her arm. She was experiencing an irregular heartbeat and high blood pressure. Maria was kept overnight in the hospital for monitoring. She is in need of prayers.

Julia York has requested prayers for her uncle **Walter** who is on medication for the pain he is having in his head. Please keep him in your prayers that he can get a cause for the pain.

John Wood has requested prayers for his friend, **Milous Mitchell**. Milous is starting his first infusion for MS. He needs prayers.

Concerns Update

Rhona Lyne was transferred to “Continuing Care” at MCH. She is in critical condition and they are keeping her comfortable.

Prayer List

Mary Anchondo; Maria Baeza; Irene Balerio; Ameer Blumenauer; Betty Branson; Mary Brown; Naomi and Adelynn Bustillos; Glenna Callendar; Arthur Campos; Sylvia Campos; LaDonna Chism; James Drake; Jon Easley; Cathy Eastwood; Daniel Eastwood; Hattie Gilmore; Paul Gunn; Doug Guynn; Lon & Lana Howard; Charles Lewis; Ronda Lyne; Leigh Ann McFarland; Keith Mitchell; Juan & Estella Morolez; Inocencio Munoz, Sr; Julie Munoz; Bruce Plyler; Linda Straw; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Carolyn Wilkerson; John Wood; Wilene

Eisenhower’s Homebound...

Betty Branson; Glenna Callendar; James & Joyce Drake; Ronda Lyne; Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley & Marilyn Upshaw.

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military and the spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Events

Watch “***In Search of the Lord’s Way***” Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9

Parkview Church of Christ is hosting a “**Lecture**” highlighting different topics—Saturday and Sunday, October 28th & 29th. The flyer is posted on the BB with the times and names of the speakers and themes for both days. Please stop by and check it out.

Brandon Aguilar will be here next Sunday to present our Bible Class and AM Sermon.

Thank You...

Many thanks for all the prayers. I do not think my outcome would have been as good without everyone’s prayers! Many Thanks, Jon Easley

Office News...

We will have a “**Potluck Luncheon**” next Sunday, following our morning service followed by our PM service. Our visitors are welcome to join us.

“October Attended Nursery”

10/22 Terresia & Virgie

10/29 Linda & Devida

Like An Eagle

Environmentalists are saying a great deal about eagles today. They want them preserved as an endangered species.

Christians can learn much from what the Bible says about eagles.

“He encircled him. He instructed him. He kept him as the apple of His eye. As an eagle stirs up its nest, hovers over its young, spreading out its wings, taking them up, carrying them on its wings. So, the Lord alone led him ... (Deuteronomy 32:10:12). **“You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagle’s wings and brought you to myself,”** (Exodus 19:4). **“But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles. (Isaiah 40:31).**

The eagle is one of the largest and most powerful birds in the world. Some eagles weigh as much as twelve or thirteen pounds and have a wingspan of about seven feet.

The nests of eagles are called eyries (air-ee). They are built mainly of sticks and are often lined with fresh green leaves while they are being used. Once a year, the female lays one or two eggs, and they are carefully tended, sometimes even by the male eagle, until they hatch in about forty days. Both parents then guard the nest and take food to the young.

At about eleven or twelve weeks, a curious thing happens. If the eaglets have not ventured forth on their own, the parent eagle “stirs” or rocks the nest, tipping the eaglets out! The young eaglets flap about in panic, still novices at this flying business. The parent eagle hovers watchfully, waiting for the critical moment. With wings spread wide, the eagle then swoops down underneath those babies and delivers them back to the security of the eyrie.

Ours is a God of powerful gentleness. Ours is a God whose timing is perfect. Like the parent eagle, He is sensitive to our needs. He knows when the nest has become too comfortable and needs a little stirring. He, too, watches carefully, and, as with spread wings, catches us up, bringing us to Himself. But He wants us to learn from our fluttering and flopping. He wants us to leave behind our panic and to learn to wait on Him. Then, with our eyes on our parent eagle, we will begin to know what it means to soar on eagle’s winds!

—Tom Kelton

October 22, 2023

Announcements

Song Leader

Sermon

Opening Prayer

Scripture Reading

Second Prayer

Closing Prayer

A.M.

Jeff Wesson

Cody Wesson

Allen Weakland

Jeff Wesson

Travis Ruckman

Charles Wood

Jacob Carson

P.M.

Jeff Wesson

Jacob Carson

Allen Weakland

Jeff Wesson

Scot Straw

Cody Wesson

Caleb York

Lord’s Supper

Caleb York

Don Easlon

Jackie Perkins

Bill Ryan

Richard Siler

Communion

(In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Jeff Wesson –556-5547 *Deacon:* Bill Ryan 272-5507—*Pulpit:* John Wood 413-7444—*Table:* Richard Siler 556-2151 — *Song Leaders:* Cody Wesson 934-4646 — *Recording Sermons:* Tommy Garcia 312-5332 — *Contributions:* Tommy Garcia

Sunday AM

“Ensuring Faithfulness” (Hebrews 12:12-17)

Sunday PM

“Divinity of the Messiah” (Psalm 45:1-8)

Our Records

Bible Class... 68

Morning Worship...118

Evening Worship ... 56

Wednesday...66

Contribution...\$4,633.50