

## **Practice Makes Perfect (Almost): Worship**

Mike Hagan

John 4:23-24 True worship is worshipping God the father in spirit and truth.

- “in” controls both, so one thing is in mind, one unit that doesn’t work without both.
- “in spirit” = worshiper’s spirit → attitude (see Eph 1:17) of openness to Holy Spirit and person’s spirit meeting; attitude.
- “truth” – spirit is not enough; the truth is the actual state of affairs, a real meeting with God, the Spirit, a genuine meeting.
- Outward forms change; genuine worship finds the Father who is seeking.

Matthew 4:10 (Deut 6:13); Mark 12:30

### **True Worship (by its opposite)**

Psalm 95 Sing . . . worship!

Isaiah 1:10-20

29:13

57:3-13

58:2; 13-14 – outward matches inward.

65:1-12 – worship Yhwh alone.

66:1-2 – no temple needed. Cf. 57:15

66:23

### **Practical considerations**

1. Real dangers of true worship (not a ‘supposed’ danger, like worship styles)
  - We really encounter God. “But the God we seek is the God we want, not the God who is” (Labberton 66).
  - We lie to God – Amos 2:6-8; Luke 6:46; we say Jesus is Lord (Ro 10:9) but kind of live our way.
  - We lie about God. [worship wars; national agenda; plans; etc.]
  - We don’t change. “To worship is to change” (Foster 1978, 148). Either we fail to meet God or we are not prepared to let it affect us; either way we do not change; Phil 2:12; Rom 12:2. Fear we might lose control?
  - Worship doesn’t change the world. Isa 6:8; Micah 6:8

## 2. Avenues to help worship

- Alone or corporately, still all human activity – Hab 2:20
- Praise – Heb 13:15; 1 P 2:5, 9; 1 Cor 14:15; all singing, dancing, shouting, thanks, etc. = praise.
- Worship with your whole being → mind, soul, body → wholehearted to God. Col 3:16

### **Bibliography**

Richard Foster 1978, ch. 11.

Mark Labberton. *The Dangerous Act of Worship*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2007.

Anne Ortlund. *Up With Worship*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1975.