

## Worship, True or False?

Jesus said, “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the *true worshipers* will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:23-24). Since Jesus referred to “true worshipers” then there must exist *false worshipers* who offer a false worship. Consider the manner in which you worship, is it true or false?

- **False worship is “vain” –**

Jesus said, “These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in *vain* they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men” (NKJV, Matt 15:8-9). Vain worship is empty, having no value. These Jews were not worshiping God as He prescribed; they were simply following human traditions.

- **False worship is “ignorant” –**

“Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship *without knowing*, Him I proclaim to you” (NKJV, Acts 17:22-23). Ignorant worship has no basis in truth. These Greeks could not worship God until Paul explained the true nature of God and His commands to all mankind.

- **False worship is “self-imposed” –**

“Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their *self-imposed* worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence...These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings.” (NIV, Col 2:23, 22). Self-imposed worship is derived from the human intellect rather than the commands of the New Testament.

Green Meadow church of Christ  
3438 Green Meadow Dr.  
San Angelo, TX 76904; (325) 224-2848  
Sunday: 9:30; 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.