



## ***Spickard... on Divine Worship***

***"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the End thereof are the ways of Death." -Proverbs 16:25, 1769 King James Version.***

***"The Worship of God requires a Divine Faith; but there can be no Worship of God without a Divine Revelation of the Will of God; therefore, whatever is thrust into the Worship of God that is not Agreeable to Divine Revelation cannot be done except by Human faith; which Faith will NOT be Profitable unto Life Eternal." - John Bunyan, in Pilgrim's Progress.***

***"But the hour comes, and now is, when the True Worshippers of God shall worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth; for the Father seeks such to worship Him." - John 4:23, 1769 King James Version.***

"

***I believe that the large majority of church-goers are merely unthinking, slumbering worshippers of an Unknown God." -Baptist Evangelical Leader, Minister, Charles Haddon Spurgeon.***

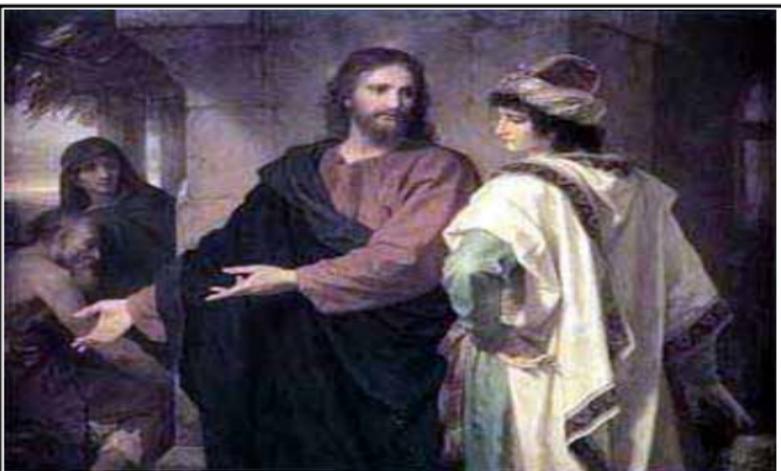
***"Giving Ear to the Prophets is a fundamental Character of the True Church." -Sir Issac Newton***

***Jesus with the Samaritan Woman at Jacob's Well in Samaria. Jesus was stressing that the Worship of God was not dependent on physical location, like the Temple in Jerusalem, but rather the condition and contriteness of the heart of the seeker of God.***



## ***Worshipping in Spirit and in Truth***

The Scripture account of the Discourse of Jesus at Jacob's Well near the village of Sychar is never given much thought or treatment. I have read little in this regard. Evidently, it is not a popular subject of interest for those who wish to maintain control of the laity, or worshippers. Here Jesus tells the Samaritan woman at the Well of a new type of worship unknown to her, as a Samaritan, as well as unknown to those in Jerusalem, called the Jews. This new type of Worship is not *based* on form, ritual, or ceremonial rites. It is not *based* on man's control or authority. It, instead, is a radical new form of Worship made possible by the Sacrifice on Christ on the Cross. Instead of using symbols and animals as part of a worship system, it is *based* on a living relationship with the Father through the medium of the Holy Spirit by the headship of Jesus Christ. This headship is determined not by a direct leadership lineage through Peter, claimed by the Roman Catholic Church, but rather the *active* and *ongoing* ministry of Jesus Christ at the very present.



^ ***The Rich Young Ruler*** came to Christ seeking to justify himself. He went away sorrowful instead. This can be viewed as a type of the modern popular Church. It is ***Rich*** and it considers itself a moral ***Authority***. Instead, its justification is rejected by Christ, who would have it "to sell all that it has accumulated, give it to the poor, and ***come follow me.***" ***Such will never be the case and the Church goes lacking the power of God to their unending sorrow and ineptitude.***

## ***What ? Is There a Ministry of Christ Now ?***

Yes, there certainly is. It is active and ongoing. Indeed, Christ is still Head of the Body of Christ, known as the True Church, and not some ecclesiastical organization or someone in Vatican City, making outrageous claims. Jesus Christ rules by the Gifts that He has bestowed upon individual believers just like He did in the example and pattern of the Early Believers. There are still the five ministries and the nine gifts in operation although seemingly

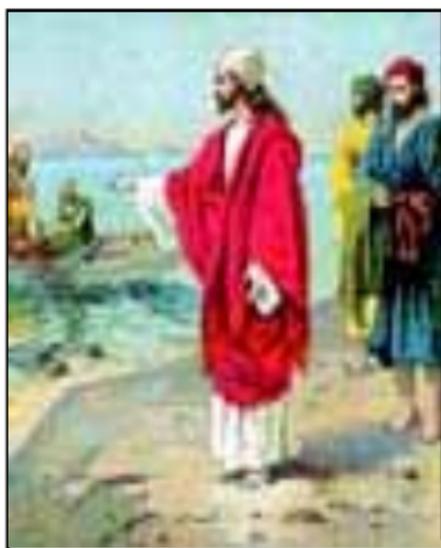


***WHAT ? Jesus is busy in a Ministry now ? Popular Church teaching suggests that Christ has lots of idle time on His Hands, waiting up in Heaven for the rest of us. This is hardly the case ..! He is as busy as ever, so much so that He is a quickening Spirit ! Learn more from my new tract, Spickard on the Gifts, available, \$5 postage paid.***

difficult to discern and comprehend...Yet, there is a Witness as Promised. Those seeking such must *seek* just a little deeper...they must go beyond the Sham and the Sorcery. They must understand that the Kingdom of God, or spiritually, the Remnant Church, is obscure...It does not come with "*observation*," as Jesus said. It is not based on location as the Woman at the Well thought..."*neither shall you worship in this mountain (Mt. Gerizim), nor yet at the Temple in Jerusalem, worship the Father*" (John 4:21). It is not location, but rather condition, of the Heart that Jesus was explaining to the Samaritan woman. This is the new worship: the worship of the Father in the Holy Spirit and in the Truth, which would quicken the hearts of the New Testament believers. Not a dead formality, nor a lifeless ritual, nor archaic symbolism,...but a new living way, based on the Grace of Christ through the gift of Faith, distributed to individuals in a community of called-out ones.

In contrast, *False Religion* is always characterized by location, *rather* than **relationship with God!** *False Religion* always emphasizes a relationship with a group or sect, *rather* than a **relationship** with God. Is this not the case? Whenever a person in the System gives their testimony, it is not about their individual faith, but rather which *church* that they belong to, or attend? I hear this constantly out here. For example, I never hear that they are a Christian, but rather, in my last three instances, a *Baptist*, a *Mormon*, or a *Lutheran*. This, reader, is a good example of what I am talking about. These people are not Christians, they are *false religionists*... *The Philosophy of false religion is---religion in **harmony** with the thinking of the natural or carnal mind...*

People need to understand that Christianity is not about "attending the church of your choice." Indeed, such a phrase is not in the Bible...People need to understand that real Christianity is not about using a church, sect, or group, as a sort of substitute for God. No, God has to be approached directly...no institution of so-called faith can do that for a person. A relationship with a sect, church or group, instead of a relationship with God, is in **harmony** with the natural mind and the thinking of man. Such a substitute is really idolatry. Jesus explained to the Samaritan woman that the worship of the Spirit and of the Truth is based on a relationship with God, not form, or function, or a blind faith.



***Jesus taught the disciples what a real relationship with God was: He said, "This is Life Eternal, that they might know **You**, the only True God, and Jesus Christ, whom **You** have sent" (John. 17:3). **Knowing God thru Christ is the basis of redemptive salvation.*****

## ***Worshipping an Unknown God***

So it is made evident, by the words of Christ in both John 4 and John 17:3, that substitutionary objects in the place of God, such as sects, groups, church congregations, or fellowships, cannot save an individual believer. Nor, substitutionary forms of worship such as sterile formalism, staid rituals, the preaching of the word of God *without Faith* present in the minister, ceremony and pomp, can replace the worship that Jesus introduced to the woman at Jacob's Well..the Worship of God in the Spirit and in the Truth. God has to be known in a personal *covenant* relationship. How is this done? This is explained in my tract, "*Spickard on Being Born Again.*"

The true Church is not about an organization, but an organism...a living body,....of Jesus Christ. The Greek word for church is "*ecclesia.*" The meaning for "*ecclesia*" is the "*assembly of called-out ones.*" The Church is supposed to be an assembly of "*called-out*" persons who are called out from the world to serve God. Going to church is not necessarily learning about God...but rather learning from God. If God is being worshipped in spirit and in truth, He will also be honored by preaching that is the spirit of Prophecy. This is shown by Christ at the Well, just before he introduced the news of the worship



**^ CHARLES SPURGEON, was the Billy Graham of his day except for the fact that he was totally genuine, unlike Graham . Nearly 150 years ago, Spurgeon noted the same phenomenon as today... "the large majority of churchgoers are merely unthinking, slumbering worshippers of an Unknown God." Christ said that worshippers of the True and Known God would be lively.... Quickened by the Holy Spirit. Jesus said that even his words, were "spirit and they are life" (John 6:63). Contrast this, with the words of modern Christendom which puts its hearers to sleep on a weekly basis as shown, above right....**

of God in Spirit and in truth, he manifested the Spirit of Prophecy in telling the Samaritan woman that she had been married five times already...In response to this, the woman declared Christ to be a Prophet. This is, another mark of the true Church, is that, the gifts of the Spirit,...particularly that of Prophecy...is, as Sir Issac Newton said, "*fundamental ...of the true Church.*" So it is, even as Christ told the Devil, "*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that **proceeds** (present tense) out of the mouth of God*" (Matthew 4:4).

### ***Divine Worship Based on Divine Faith***

Thus the importance of the role of the gift of Prophecy is paramount in the true Church! Without it, ...it is not the true Church. History thus proves then, that the popular Church has never suffered the moving of the Holy Spirit and the exercise of Spiritual Gifts. Hence, it denies that Christ is able to come into the flesh, or Body of the Church, thru the Gifts that He has bestowed upon true believers. The Bible calls such the "spirit of Anti-Christ" (1 John 4:2-3). The only times in Church history there has been such a manifestation of the Spirit of Prophecy,... there has been Revival! Divine Faith, cannot be without Divine Revelation of the Will of God. Divine Revelation, reader, is the gift of the Spirit of Prophecy. It will reveal the Divine Mind and the Divine Will, and from that will come ***Divine Faith*** which will guarantee the True Worship of God... exactly as John Bunyan said in his classic work, *Pilgrim's Progress*.

***For more information write:***

***Spickard's Signs of the Times  
P O Box 1131  
Lake Ozark MO 65049***

