

Jesus
The Living Water Pt. 7
“Worshipping the Father”
John 4:13-26

- 13** Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again,
- 14** but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”
- 15** The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.”
- 16** Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.”
- 17** The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.”
Jesus said to her, “You have well said, ‘I have no husband,’
- 18** for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.”
- 19** The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.
- 20** Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you *Jews* say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.”
- 21** Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.

- 22** You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.
- 23** 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.
- 24** God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
- 25** The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When He comes, He will tell us all things.”
- 26** Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am *He*.”

Introduction

Years ago I attended a Conference where Al Molher was speaking, and following the conference I ask what was the #1 issue facing the church, and then, he said Pragmatism. Well it is clear he was right and we reaping a whirlwind of pragmatism in the church now. But now I believe and agree with some leading evangelical and reformed pastors and theologians that now....

The biggest problem facing the church is lack of discernment.

If you can't discern the truth you can die the death of a thousand heresies. It's just like spiritual AIDS. A deficient immune system leaves you susceptible to dying at the hands of a thousand illnesses.

Along with the responsibility to teach, preach, and instruct, part of the responsibility of ministry is to reprove, rebuke and

exhort (2 Tim 4:2 cf. Titus 1:9). And in that vein, it needs to be said that a massive part of Christianity lacks discernment.

We want to be Bereans, measuring everything against the Word of God.

There are a half a billion of professed Charismatics. For some frame of reference, there are a 1.2 Billion Roman Catholics, and 14 million Mormons. So you see that this is a massive issue.

It is amazing to me how little time is spent by the average christian developing a biblical mindset to become a discerning person.

“The undiscerning contemporary church, for example, has often rejected Darwin and Huxley but accepted Freud. Has often rejected doctrine, and favored and embraced relationships, as if they were the priority. Has become fascinated with entertainment and bored with exposition. Has been enamored with feelings and lowered the value of thinking clearly. As a result, evangelical Christianity - listen to this - is fighting for its very life. I’ll say that again. Evangelical Christianity, in my view, is fighting for its very life.” JM

Twenty years ago Martyn Lloyd-Jones saw the movement of relativism coming into the church. Instead of seeing the danger of the trend, and heeding his words, evangelicals accommodated themselves to the trend as if it was some kind of boon to their cause.

And in England, a man rose to prominence by the name of David Watson and he led the charge of relativism into the Church of England. This is what he said.

“The reason I travel with a team gifted as they are in the performing arts is that they are able to communicate the gospel much more effectively than I could with mere words.”

That is an astounding statement. That is an abandonment of the biblical pattern for the proclamation of the truth through words.

And it was reflective of the mood of the time.

David Watson then became the partner of John Wimber and the Vineyard Movement - in which doctrine is not even an issue.

In fact, John Wimber has said, “We are in the process of cataloging our experience so we can come up with a theology.”

Pure experience.

David Watson says “I don’t want to preach because the truth can be better communicated through the performing arts.”

May I remind somebody that Jesus was not a singer, he was a preacher?

And John the Baptist was not a singer, he was a preacher.

And the apostles were not actors, they were preachers.

David Watson went on to criticize the Christian church for concentrating exclusively on the mind.

This is what Watson said,

“Most churches rely heavily on the spoken or written Word and then wonder why so few people find the Christian faith to be relevant.”

He is saying the written Word and the spoken Word make the Christian faith irrelevant.

Christianity is not mental. Christianity is not rational. It is not doctrinal. It is emotional. It is experiential. It is mystical.

This movement has come like a flood. The emphasis in the church has gone from preaching doctrine to the mind to give people a greater knowledge of divine truth, to doing little more than inducing feelings, inducing emotions, focusing on needs.

Coupling that relativistic approach with the Charismatic Movement and with those psychologists who come in to the church with their relational stuff, and preaching becomes mystical, relational and relativistic. Worship began to descend.

Now the emphasis is on the experience and what you feel, little to do with truth, discernment, doctrine or exposition

In fact in an article in Charisma magazine entitled

“10 Reasons Worship is Weird”

The author shares what he believes is the most common distractions to Worship

They are:

1. Incomprehensible choir or praise team words.
2. Unsmiling faces leading worship
3. Poor musicians or singers.
4. Unprepared singers
5. "Preachy" music directors.
6. Songs disconnected from the sermon topic.
7. Difficult songs to sing.
8. Weak use of media for lyrics.
9. Poorly done blended style.
10. Introducing new songs without teaching them

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What I found interesting, is all of it had to do with music,

nothing about preaching. You get the sense that Preaching and teaching really have nothing to do with worship.

This has taken the problem of the lack of discernment in the church and multiplied it a 100 times worse.

We are so consumed with what we think is worship; that we miss worship altogether

And as time progresses and the church continues to minimize truth, the doors have swung wide open for a flood of heresies to come into the church with arms wide open and welcomed with enthusiasm .

Evelyn Underhill, writing in 1928 to a Conference of Clergy in the Church of England said this. “We are drifting toward a religion which, consciously or unconsciously, keeps its eye on humanity, rather than deity.” It’s a great statement. That was stated in 1928, and in 2016 I think it’s definitely true.

Review

Acceptable Worship

I. The Place of Worship

- 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you *Jews* say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.”
- 21 Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father.

II. The Person of Worship

A. God is Spirit

24 God *is* Spirit,

He is infinite, eternal, omnipresent spirit. He is not confined to temples made by mans hands. He is not limited by space.

Lesson

Acceptable Worship

I. The Place of Worship

II. The Person of Worship

A. God is Spirit

B. God is Father

This is not Father in the sense that we are his children and
He is a Father

In this Text it has in mind the Father in the Trinitarian Sense.

The Father of the Son

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit The Trinity

He is presented as the Father of the Son

not in the sense that Son is Submissive to the Father in his
incarnation, and humiliation

But rather God is Father of the Son in the sense of Essence

The Father is of the same essence as the Son and Son is of
the same essence as the Father.

How do we know this, the context of John tells us this. How
John uses it.

John 5:17-21

17 But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."

18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.

19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

20 For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.

- 21** For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to *them*, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.

Jn 10:29–33

- 29** My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand.
- 30** I and *My* Father are one.”
- 31** Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him.
- 32** Jesus answered them, “Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?”
- 33** The Jews answered Him, saying, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.”

Jn 17:1–6

- Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,
- 2** as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.
- 3** And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.
- 4** I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.

- 5** And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Mt 11:27

27 All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and *the one* to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*.

There are people who say they worship God, and to affirm that God is the eternal living Spirit everywhere present, and they are worshipping Him, and they may be saying that He is their Father, and they worship Him as their Father, but if they deny that Jesus Christ is essentially the same as God the Father, their worship is unacceptable. You understand that?

So no one, no time, worships God as Spirit who does not worship God as the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ. God cannot be defined in any other term. God is not just God up there. He is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and there's no other way to define Him or worship Him.

So, when you have the Jehovah's Witnesses, or the liberals who would deny the deity of Jesus Christ yet claim to worship God, it is a lie, because God is non other than the One who is the same with Jesus Christ

How did the the Apostles worship

Eph 1:3

3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Eph 1:17

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory

2 Co 1:3

3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

Php 2:9–11

- 9** Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,
10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,
11 and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Ro 15:6

6 that you may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I Peter 1:3

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

2 John v3

3 Grace, mercy, *and* peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father

You see, beloved, you cannot worship God apart from a recognition that Jesus Christ His Son is equal to God. That's His deity.

Jn 5:22–23

- 22 For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,
 23 that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

III. The Participants of Worship

A. In Salvation

v23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship (Future Active Indicative) the Father in spirit and truth; for **the Father is seeking such to worship Him.**

zētei

ζητεῖ ,

seeks Present Active Indicative

V-PIA-3S

tous

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who

Art-AMP

proskynountas

ΠΡΟΣΚΥΝΟΥΝΤΑΣ

worship Present Active Participle

V-PPA-AMP

**LITERAL = God is continually seeking those who are the
Worshipping ones of HIM**

The Father is actively seeking out true worshippers.

As one writer said, “You awakened from your moral slumber in the morning of your regeneration to begin to worship God.” And that’s what a Christian is, **Philippians 3:3**, a worshipper of God.

This the the efficacious seeking
The Calling of God
The Irresistible

God is not anxiously seated on the edge of His throne biting His nails hoping that maybe you will be willing to accept his Son, After all he did all this for you, in dying on the Cross, surely you wont reject it all.... will you.

**There is a popular Hymn, sung many times in churches
for Worship,**

The Savior is Waiting
The Savior is waiting to enter your heart

Why don't you let Him come in?
There's nothing in this world to keep you apart
What is your answer to Him?

Chorus:
Time after time
He has waited before
And now He is waiting again
To see if you are willing
To open the door
Oh, how He wants to come in.

If you'll take one step
Toward the Savior, my friend,
You'll find His arms open wide.
Receive Him, and all of your darkness will end
Within your heart He'll abide.

Chorus:
Time after time
He has waited before
And now He is waiting again
To see if you are willing
To open the door
Oh, how He wants to come in.

NO, NO NO NO That song is not the a Biblical view of
Salvation at all
God is not hoping his plan will be fulfilled, He is actively
Seeking,

This does not imply that God is looking for us and we are hiding and He can't find us. A kinda spiritual Hide n Seek.

John 6:37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

John 6:44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

James 1:18 Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Acts 16:14 One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. **The Lord opened her heart to pay attention** to what was said by Paul.

Romans 8:29-30 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined **he also called, and those whom he called he also justified**, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

2 Timothy 1:9 Who saved us and called us to a **holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own**

purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,

Philippians 1:29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should **not only believe** in him but also suffer for his sake,

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And **this is not your own doing**; it is the gift of God,

Irresistible Grace

by John Piper

The doctrine of irresistible grace does not mean that every influence of the Holy Spirit cannot be resisted. It means that the Holy Spirit can overcome all resistance and make his influence irresistible.

In **Acts 7:51** Stephen says to the Jewish leaders, "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit as your fathers did." And Paul speaks of grieving and quenching the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:19). God gives many entreaties and promptings which are resisted. In fact the whole history of Israel in the Old Testament is one protracted story of resistance, as the parable of the wicked tenants shows (Matthew 21:33-43; cf. Romans 10:21).

The doctrine of irresistible grace means that God is sovereign and can overcome all resistance when he wills. "He does according to his will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand!" (Daniel 4:35). "Our God is in the heavens; he does whatever he pleases" (Psalm 115:3). When God undertakes to fulfill his sovereign purpose, no one can successfully resist him.

This is what Paul taught in Romans 9:14-18, which caused his opponent to say, "Why then does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" To which Paul answers: "Who are you, O man, to

answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, 'Why have you made me thus?' Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for beauty and another for menial use?" (Romans 9:20f).

More specifically irresistible grace refers to the sovereign work of God to overcome the rebellion of our heart and bring us to faith in Christ so that we can be saved. If our doctrine of total depravity is true, there can be no salvation without the reality of irresistible grace. If we are dead in our sins, totally unable to submit to God, then we will never believe in Christ unless God overcomes our rebellion.

2. This grace of salvation is an *irresistible* grace. On the surface of it, it is plain that the power of grace must be a great power. Man is the sinner; God must be the Savior. Man is incapable; God must be able. Man is powerless; God must be omnipotent. Man is weak; God must be sovereign. Man is Dead God must be the Giver of Life.

Our confessions teach the same thing. **The Canons of Dort** especially state this truth more beautifully than I ever could. I quote from the third and fourth head of doctrine, Article 10:

“But that others who are called by the gospel, obey the call, and are converted, is not to be ascribed to the proper exercise of free will, whereby one distinguishes himself above others, equally furnished with grace sufficient for faith and conversions, as the proud heresy

of Pelagius maintains; but it must be wholly ascribed to God, who as he has chosen his own from eternity in Christ, so he confers upon them faith and repentance, rescues them from the power of darkness, and translates them into the kingdom of his own Son, that they may show forth the praises of him, who hath called them out of darkness into his marvelous light; and may glory not in themselves, but in the Lord according to the testimony of the apostles in various places.

That is the confession of all those truly Reformed. Article 11 of the same confession states:

But when God accomplishes his good pleasure in the elect, or works in them true conversion, he not only causes the gospel to be externally preached to them, and powerfully illuminates their minds by his Holy Spirit, that they may rightly understand and discern the things of the Spirit of God; but by the efficacy of the same regenerating Spirit, pervades the inmost recesses of the man; he opens the closed, and softens the hardened heart, and circumcises that which was uncircumcised, infuses new qualities into the will, which though heretofore dead, he quickens; from being evil, disobedient, and refractory, he renders it good, obedient, and pliable; actuates and strengthens it, that like a good tree, it may bring forth the fruits of good actions.

The other articles are also pertinent. Read them. This is the confession of Reformed churches in which they express what they believe the Word of God plainly teaches.

Other confessions of the church teach this same truth. The *Westminster Confession*, Article 10 of Chapter 1 states:

All those whom God hath predestinated unto life, and those only, he is pleased, in His appointed and accepted time, effectually to call, by

His Word and Spirit, out of that state of sin and death, in which they are by nature, to grace and salvation by Jesus Christ; enlightening their minds, spiritually and savingly, to understand the things of God; taking away their heart of stone, and giving unto them an heart of flesh; renewing their wills, and by His almighty power determining them to that which is good, and effectually drawing them to Jesus Christ; yet so as they come most freely, being made willing by His grace.

Is the picture clear? Both the confession of Scripture and the Confessions of the church based upon Scripture express that the grace of God is His irresistible power whereby He saves His people in Christ.

**The the First of the the Participants learn is
the they are the Saved
They are the Sought of God
They are the Redeemed.
You must be Saved to Worship.**

One of the great experiences of my brief life has been to read “excerpts” **Stephen Charnock’s book called The Existence And Attributes Of God.** It’s a book of about 700 or 800 pages. It takes you a whole lifetime to digest it. All it is is all of his thoughts about God; rich, profound insights. And at one point he says in that book,

“To pretend homage to God and intend only the advantage to myself is rather to mock God than to worship Him. When we believe we ought to be satisfied rather than God glorified, we set God below ourselves and imagine that He should submit His own honor to our advantage.”

And that’s the hindrance to worship. You set yourself, and your needs, and your advantages, and your blessings, and whatever, above God