

**Answering The Religious Errors Of Our Family, Friends, and Neighbors 1**  
**“It Makes No Difference How One Worships!”**  
**Lesson 24**

**INTRO:**

- A. This is an idea and attitude which an increasing number of people are accepting.
  - 1. It is neither a recent idea nor an attitude unique to this particular generation that we live in.
    - a. **Isaiah 29:13**
    - b. Jesus repeated it to be true of His generation: **Matthew 15:7-9**
  - 2. When people’s hearts (minds) are no longer focusing on God, doing His will and pleasing Him is no longer a main concern for them.
    - a. This results in affecting every aspect of our thoughts and way of living.
    - b. We no longer study His word but, instead, let someone else do the studying for us and they tell us what we ought to know.
      - 1) Like the Lord said to Isaiah: Our fear toward God is taught by the commandment of men. **Isaiah 29:13.**
  - 3. Add to this the mindset of no absolutes in what to believe and tolerance for anything and everything that people want to practice in religion.
    - a. God has been made in **OUR** image!

**I. WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES HAVE TO SAY CONCERNING IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE HOW ONE WORSHIPS?**

- A. If it makes no difference, why was there some worship God accepted and some He did not accept?
  - 1. Take for example, Cain and Abel. **Genesis 4:3-7**
    - a. It’s obvious Cain pleased himself; this was the way he wanted to worship God.
    - b. He might have thought, like a lot of people think today, that God would accept his worship as long as he was sincere; after all he was putting forth effort.
    - c. The Hebrew writer tells us why Able’s sacrifice was accepted and Cain’s was not. **Hebrews 11:4**
      - 1) From this, we necessarily conclude Able offered the animal sacrifice because that was what God had commanded!
      - 2/ He offered it “*by faith*” and “*faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*” (**Romans 10:17**)
  - 2. Another example is that of Nadab and Abihu who served as priest under the Law of Moses. **Leviticus 10:1-2**
- B, It it makes no difference, why has God always been very specific to show how He wanted mankind to worship Him?
  - 1. Take for example the instructions regarding the Passover in **Deuteronomy 16:1-8**

**Answering The Religious Errors Of Our Family, Friends, and Neighbors 2**  
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**Lesson 24**

- a. The chapter continues to give detailed instructions for observing the Feast of Weeks (**vs. 9-12**) and the Feast of Booths (**vs. 13-17**).
- C. If it doesn't matter how we worship God, our worship could never be in vain. Yet, Jesus said, *“And in vain they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”* **Matthew 15:9**
- D. We are commanded to worship God *“in spirit and truth”*. (**John 4:24** *“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him **MUST** worship in spirit and truth.”* emphasis mine, ERH)
  - 1. What does it mean to worship God *“in spirit”*?
    - a. God is a spirit (Jn. 4:24) and we cannot worship Him with our hands. **Acts 17:25**
    - b. Therefore, we can only worship acceptably when we worship him with our heart. **Psalms 111:1**
    - c. The Bible *“heart”* is the mind - that with which we think, reason, and concentrate.
      - 1) *“Heart”* is found 835 times in 775 verses in KJV.
      - 2) God knows all of our hearts, *“For you alone know the hearts of all the sons of men.”* (**1 Kings 8:39**)
      - 3) The heart is the thinking aspect of man. *“For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.”* (**Proverbs 23:7**)
        - a) Jesus asks, *“Why do you think evil in your hearts?”* (**Matthew 9:4**)
        - b) **Matthew 15:19; Romans 8:6; Daniel 10:12; Philippines 4:8**
  - 2. What is involved in worshiping God *“in truth”*?
    - a. Worshipping according to God's word for God's word is truth. **John 17:17** *“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”*
- E. Worship consists of:
  - 1. Preaching and teaching. **Acts 20:7**
  - 2. Prayer. **Acts 12:5**
  - 3. Singing. **Ephesians 5:19**
  - 4. Upon the first day of the week: the Lord's supper. **1 Corinthians 11:23-29**
  - 5. Upon the first day of the week: giving. **1 Corinthians 16:2**

**CONCLUSION:**

- A. We must abide in the doctrine of Christ. **2 John 9**
- B. Thus, we do not have the right to decide how we are going to worship the Lord.
- C. To worship as we desire, without regard for the Lord's will, is to be guilty of *“will worship”*. **Colossians 2:21-23**