

## TRUE WORSHIP IS ESSENTIAL

**God never commanded *that* men worship, but instead specified *the object and manner of worship*.** Worship of higher beings among men is universal. Because He is a "jealous God" (Deuteronomy 5:6-10; 6:11-15), man was to "have no other gods before" Him (Exodus 20:3). In the Patriarchal Age, there was to be worship of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Even today, under Christ, we know there is no god but one (1 Corinthians 8:4-6), and He is the Creator of all things (Acts 14:15-18; Hebrews 11:3), and Sustainer of life (Acts 17:24-29). The Bible provides sufficient evidence to convince any reasonable person there is but one proper object of worship: God.

**In every Age, God has specified the type of worship He wanted.** Jesus said God seeks "true worshippers" (John 4:23), those who follow the truth, or that which has been spoken by God (Romans 3:4). *Before Moses' Law*, to honor God, men erected altars (Genesis 8:18-21; 12:7; 35:1), offered sacrifices of animals (Genesis 4:3-4; Hebrews 11:4), recognized the distinction between clean and unclean animals (Genesis 7:2), and gave tithes (Genesis 14:17-20). *Under Moses' Law*, men used the priests to offer animal sacrifices (Exodus 20:24-25; 28:1), offered incense (Exodus 30:1-9), studied God's Word (Exodus 24:6-8; Deuteronomy 5:29-6:9). *Under Christ*, we must sing with the melody of the heart and not a mechanical instrument (Ephesians 5:19), observe weekly the Lord's death (1 Corinthians 11:20-29; Acts 20:7), contribute weekly (1 Corinthians 16:1,2), offer prayers as our incense (Revelation 5:8; 1 Timothy 2:1-4, 8; 1 Thessalonians 5:17), and study God's Word (1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:15-17; 4:1-5).

God rejected Cain's sacrifice when not offered according to His instructions (Hebrews 11:4; 1 John 3:12; Genesis 4:3-5). He rejected Nadab and Abihu for not offering incense properly (Leviticus 10:1, 2). Jesus taught the Jews of His day that God would not accept their worship when mingled with the commandments and traditions of men (Matthew 15:3-9). Christians must worship God according to the truth in the New Testament, not as God decreed in another Law. To add mechanical instruments to the singing, or Mary to the prayers, or change the frequency of the Lord's Supper, or otherwise tamper with God's Word renders the worship vain and the worshipper unacceptable to God. **One does not honor God with worship that is not in accord with the truth.**

Dear Reader, do you worship according to truth?

-----John T. Polk II