

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Worship Is Not About A Physical Place

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**T**he woman of Samaria, perceiving Jesus to be a prophet after revealing the truth of her private life, promptly changed the subject. She turned the spotlight away from her to the problem of determining where one should worship God. Being a Samaritan, her people worshipped in mount Gerazim. Yet she knew that the Jews say Jerusalem is the place where God is to be worshipped. (John. 4:20).

Jesus responds with two interesting facts regarding worship. **First, worship is not to be offered through ignorance.** “Ye worship that which ye know not: we worship that which we know; for salvation is from the Jews” (John 4:22). Giving homage to God was not manifesting reverence through emotions void of understanding. Salvation was being offered and was coming through the lineage of the Jews in Jesus. Understanding revealed salvation continues to be one reason for why one is to worship God. **Second, worship should be focused upon our spirit guided by truth instead of stressing a particular place.** “Jesus saith unto her, ‘Woman,

*believe me, the hour cometh, when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, shall ye worship the Father... But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such doth the Father seek to be His worshippers” (John 4:21, 23). Since God is “spirit”, our connection to him in worship must be through our spirit molded by revealed truth. “God is a spirit: and they that worship Him must worship in spirit and truth” (John 4:24).*

One avenue that God wants our spirit to take in worship is “singing.” Under the influence of the Spirit’s teachings, we are to engage in “*speaking one to another in psalms and hymns and making melody with your heart to the Lord;*” (Ephesians 5:19). Since we reverence God, we carry out his specific commands without unauthorized additions. In our spirit, we offer spiritual thoughts through singing in accordance to truth without mechanical instruments of music.

Convicted by this truth and the understanding of Jesus’ words in John 4:21-24, one would as-

sume regardless of where we find ourselves, we would sing hymns and spiritual songs without any mechanical instrument. But such is not the case.

While some will not sing “I’ll Fly Away” with an instrument in the building on Sunday, they have no problem with strumming a guitar and singing the same words in their home on Saturday. Is the Saturday night exercise offered without considering God and his promises, therefore not worship?

Others will not sing “Rock of Ages” with a mechanical instrument in our assemblies, but will sing the same song with a piano at a funeral. Are we saying to God, this is not worship, but just uttered words not offered in praise of you? Have we not ignored the fact that Jesus has not restricted worship to a physical place?

May the light of truth vanquish the darkness of ignorance. The praise of God offered from our spirits is worship regardless of where we are. Offer it in the way God wants to be worshipped. Offer it according to Truth!