

SERMON STUDY NOTES

30 June 2019

Speaker: Martin Armstrong

Worship in Spirit and in Truth - John 4:24

1. There are no easy formulas for worship: we cannot put God in a box— *the Spirit blows where He wills*. We must be careful not to become so set in our ways that we organise the Holy Spirit out of the service. Discuss how this can happen.
2. David makes some practical suggestions on how to enter the presence of God in Psalm 24 “*Who can ascend the hill of the Lord? Who can stand in His holy place*” “*He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.*” Clean hands refer to our actions. Do we have accepted behaviours that may God find offensive? Discuss.
3. A pure heart refers to the realm of attitude and motivation. We may enter a worship service with muddled motives. For example, we may be coming out of a sense of obligation, or habit, or to meet up with our friends. What are some other reasons for coming? What is the main reason why you come to a Sunday worship service?
4. Is "worship" essentially an action, an experience or a feeling? Discuss

5. Can you recall a special moment in a Christian gathering when you have had a real encounter with God or a revelation from God? Are church services to be measured by the extent to which we enable the congregation to enter into such moments?
6. Isaiah 1 and Psalm 101 identify behaviour that God approves of and that God disapproves of. Read them and determine how you think that we measure up as a church.
7. "Hypocrisy" comes from a Greek word, which means "actor." It involves putting on a religious act. King David was guilty of adultery and murder, yet for some time he carried on **as though nothing had happened**. There was a large gap between David's outward behaviour and the inward condition of his heart. Can you share a time when you were convicted in a worship gathering of a wrong behaviour that you needed to put right so that your relationship with the Lord could be restored?
8. Proverbs 28:13 says *"He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and turns from them will be shown mercy."* Our society is accepting and approving more and more behaviours that God clearly disapproves of. What are some of these? How do you think that this will affect our society in the long term?
9. Worship in truth calls us to recommit ourselves to obeying what we know to be true - being honest with God rather than faking it. To what extent is it an individual or a corporate problem? How can we be more obedient and transparent?

10. Pray for obedience in our families, communities, city and nation in these regards.