

Worship God

The Theology and Practice of Worship (Part Six)

Coming of Jesus...

Old Covenant Forms

- **instructional** – concerning God's holiness and mercy; the necessity of atonement, mediation, substitution, consecration
- **typological** – foreshadowed the person and work of Christ as the substantive and real basis of all true worship of God

Coming of Jesus...

John 4:20-24

- 21) Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, shall you worship the Father..."
- 23) But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.
- 24) God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Coming of Jesus...

John 4:20-24

1. Location was no longer important
 - "*not in Jerusalem*" – the place of the temple, the priests, the offerings, the festivals
 - by this Jesus makes obsolete the entire Old Covenant system of worship

Coming of Jesus...

John 4:20-24

2. Jesus' fulfillment effects this change
 - "*hour is coming*" – refers to the cross, resurrection, and exaltation of Jesus
 - John 2:19-21 – by his death and resurrection, Jesus replaces the physical temple with Himself

Coming of Jesus...

John 4:20-24

3. True worship is in spirit and truth
 - "*in spirit*" – our spirit (inward man) regenerated and made alive by the Holy Spirit
 - "*and truth*" – by means of Christ; in knowledge of and on the basis of Christ (God's "truth")

Coming of Jesus...

Summary

New covenant worship is largely indifferent with respect to outward forms but is essentially the heart engagement with God on the basis of Jesus Christ and the life made available through the Holy Spirit

Coming of Jesus...

Implications

1. Old covenant external forms of worship are not carried over in new covenant worship

- no sanctuary, no ritual offerings, no altars, no incense, no priestly garments, no festivals
- no ordained priesthood – Christ is our High Priest and only mediator

Coming of Jesus...

Implications

2. All of life is worship

- every aspect of life is a spiritual sacrifice of worship – a continuous engagement
- no distinction between “sacred” and “secular” – a “sacralization” of all space, time, food, activity