

Finally, we must have the correct way: "in truth" (i.e., in accordance with the Truth of the Word of God [John 17:17; Col. 3:17]). When we worship God as "true worshipers," our worship will exclude human traditions, innovations, and the commandments of men. True worship is centered on God and not on men.

God still seeks true worshipers, and those who "worship Him **must** worship in spirit and truth" (emph. JW). The true worshiper of God will worship Him from the very essence of his being (Gen. 1:26-27; 2:7ff.; Isa. 45:18).

We are to worship God on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2). When we thus assemble, we are to **sing** (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16), we are to **pray** (Phi. 4:6), we are to partake of the **Lord's Supper** (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20ff), we are to **give** as prospered (1 Cor. 16:1-2), and there will be the **teaching/preaching** of His Word (Acts 2:42; 20:7; 28:31). Let us worship God both in **spirit** and in **truth!**

—Jess Whitlock, Evant, TX



The Northpoint Lighthouse

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Let us pray for...

Don Henderson—pacemaker surgery Tuesday (Sheri Woodall's Dad, Jeff's Granddad)

Ken Chumbley—fighting cancer and other physical problems (Gospel preacher)

Janice Ruffner—severe blood clots (Sherry Gleaton's mother)

Ann Henderson—cancer (Sheri Woodall's aunt)

Brian Ritter—rare autoimmune disease (son of Rick Ritter, Gospel preacher)

Tim Smith—chronic physical problems from auto injuries (Gospel preacher)

Richie Aidoo—Joshua Aidoo's 8-year-old son (seizures)

Samuel Bagsangi—Gospel preacher in Philippines we help support

Joshua Aidoo—Gospel preacher in Ghana we help support

Records you helped make last week...

Bible Classes	21
Sunday AM Worship	21
Sunday PM Worship	15
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	17
Contribution	\$720.00
Contribution average (2014)	\$856.61

Internet Sermon broadcasts...

Both sermons each Sunday are broadcast, beginning at approximately 10:45-10:50 a.m. and 1:12-1:15 p.m., via Internet through our Website, www.northpointcoc.com.

Assignments...

Bible class teacher for August

Jerry Smith

Chairman of Men's Meetings (July-September)

Jerry Smith

Preacher, *The Lighthouse* editor

Dub McClish

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Sunday
Bible Class 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 1:00 PM
Wednesday
B.C./Worship 7:00 PM

The Winner Is...

To the entire ungodly world it appears that Truth and goodness are weak. Most certainly, error and evil have the vast majority of men and the preponderance of wealth and power on their side. With manifestations all about us of Paul's inspired axiom that "evil men and impostors shall wax worse and worse" (2 Tim. 3:13), even the elect sometimes despair of being victorious. In fact, many who once stood with the Truth and with the faithful have lost sight of spiritual verities and have defected to the camp of the enemy. However, in spite of all of these realities about the power of evil and error, there is no clearer message in the Bible—from beginning to end—than that Truth and righteousness will triumph at last.

The very fact that God, the Almighty, the Supreme One, is the source of all good, necessarily implies the eventual triumph of good over evil (Jam. 1:17). God's primitive promise of Christ's victory over Satan (Gen. 3:15) not only pointed to His triumph over death and Satan when He arose "by the glory of the Father" (Rom. 6:4). This passage also promises the eventual and final triumph of Truth over error and good over evil. The preservation of humanity because of the goodness of one family in Noah's wicked generation foreshadowed this final triumph. The outpouring of the plagues on Egypt and the liberation of Israel from bondage typifies that final vanquishing of all evil. The conquests over the evil Canaanites and the inheritance of the promised land typify the final solution to the problem of evil. To the discouraged, downtrodden disciples of the seven Asian churches, the consoling message of The Revelation preaches triumph for the unfaltering.

The great victory to be won in Christ has two aspects. First, we must consider it from the standpoint of each individual Christian. We all have the personal responsibility to "work out" our "own salvation with fear and trembling" (Phi. 2:12). We must "not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we

faint not" (Gal. 6:9). We will be glorified with Christ only if we have suffered with Him (Rom. 8:17). The "crown of righteousness" is reserved for me if I have "fought a good fight...finished my course, [and] kept the faith" (2 Tim. 4:7-8).

The second aspect of the great victory of good over evil will be the utter and ultimate overthrow of all evil and the consignment of the prince of all evil to Hell (Rev. 20:10). This will occur when Christ returns, raises the dead, judges all men, destroys the material universe, and takes his people away to Heaven, the prepared place (John 14:3; Phi. 3:20; 1 Pet. 1:4; 2 Pet. 3:9-10). Only those who remain steadfast and immovably faithful to Christ through all the temptations and trials of their personal pilgrimages will be partakers in His final great triumph (1 Cor. 15:58; 2 The. 1:4-10).

—Dub McClish
Denton, TX

Why So Few?

Since the fall of man in Eden, there has never been a time in the history of the world when the majority of people were God-fearing. Jesus said there will be more people lost than will be saved (Mat. 7:13-14). But this is not God's fault. Peter said that God is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet. 3:9). Nor is it the desire of Christ that anyone should be lost (Heb. 2:9). It follows then that the reason so many will be eternally lost is the fault of man himself. Why is this so?

Many people do not think they are lost. They give lip service to righteousness, but deep down they believe in universal salvation. They think they are just too good to be lost, and those who thus believe will make no effort to seek safety.

Many are trusting in salvation by "faith only." They think that just because they believe Jesus is the Son of God, they are saved. But faith, apart from works, is dead (Jam. 2:24). Noah's salvation came about because his faith was obedient (Heb. 11:7; cf. Gen. 6:22). One cannot be saved apart from an obedient faith. Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Mat. 7:21). Christ is the author of salvation "to all them that obey him" (Heb. 5:8-9).

The love of sin will keep multitudes from heaven. Jesus said men love darkness more than light (John 3:19), and Paul said men would be lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God (2 Tim. 3:1-5). He who would be saved must shun the things of the world (1 John 2:15-17).

Many are lost because they are trusting in moral goodness to save them. If morality alone could save, men could be saved apart from the blood of Christ (Eph. 1:7), and men did not even need a Savior (Mat. 1:21). There was moral goodness in the world before Christ came, while He was here, and after He ascended back to Heaven. If morality could save, He was foolish to die for our sins.

Many are lost because they are trusting in the doctrines of men. Jesus said this renders one's worship (and thus his service) to God vain (Mat. 15:8-9). Men trust more in reciting a so-called "Sinner's Prayer" than in obeying the Gospel of Christ, and those who teach such nonsense are sending men to eternal torment.

Many are lost because of their own biases. They have loved and believed religious lies for so long that they have closed their eyes to the Truth and are self-deceived (2 The. 1:10-12). In that condition, they are prejudiced against the Truth and those who preach it.

Although more people will be lost than saved, each person determines his eternal destiny. God has revealed the plan of salvation in His Word, and if we follow it, He will save us. He says men must believe in Him and in Jesus Christ (Heb. 11:6; John 8:24), repent of their sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38), confess Christ before men (Mat. 10:32; Acts 8:37), and be baptized for the remission of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38).

—Jerry C. Brewer
Elk City, OK

True Worshipers

Worship is a precious privilege for God's children as they come together to worship Him!

But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24).

The mighty Messiah spoke to a woman of Samaria, as recorded in John 4. The woman was interested in the geographical place of worship. The Jews worshipped only in Jerusalem (Deu. 12:5-11). The Samaritans worshipped "on this mountain" (John 4:20) (i.e., Mount Gerizim). A tremendous change in worship was about to take place. The Son of God declared that "the hour is coming and now is." Soon there would be a transition from the Old Law of Moses to the New Testament of Jesus Christ. The place would not be any designated location or structure. Wherever "true worshipers...worship the Father" true worship would (and does) occur. True worshipers will worship only the true and living God. Thus we know "true worship" is possible. Also, there is vain worship (Mat. 15:9; 2 John 9-11) and ignorant worship (Acts 17:23-31).

True worship is rendered to "the Father in spirit and truth." The majority of worship in the religious world today is not offered in spirit **or** in truth. In order for worship to be acceptable, we must have the correct **object**: God, the Father and Creator (Gen. 1:1; Exo. 20:9-11). We must have the correct **attitude**: "in spirit" (i.e., sincerely, involving the spirit/soul of man in the worship activities).