

# S.O.H.L.

## WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

*Pronounced "Soul"*

March 23, 2015

# Worshipping the Wrong One

**LUKE 4:14-15 NKJV** - (14) Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. (15) And He taught in their synagogues, *being glorified by all.*

Many worship the right God, but the wrong way. God has given instruction of how we are to worship Him. Those who worship Him, His way, are called True Worshippers and therefore all others are false worshippers. We can't come to God our way or on our own terms, we must come to God by the only way He has provided, which is Christ. We cannot serve God our way, but must humble ourselves to serve Him according to His will. Nothing else is acceptable to God. He doesn't accept those who try to come without coming through Christ. He doesn't accept worship that is not as He desires it. He doesn't reward service that is not according to His will. What we do that is religious or that we think is for Him is meaningless and will bring no benefit or reward for it is not His way. With God it is truly "My Way (His) or no way at all." The precept is "Do NOT create any representation of God, by hand or in your imagination." Nothing that would replace God in your mind and heart. Many don't understand that idolatry is a spiritual thing and it begins in and with the heart and not in bowing before an image, tree, piece of wood or metal or picture representation. The physical bowing would not be there if the spirit of idolatry were not in the heart. And because idolatry begins with the attitude of the heart, anything or anyone can become an idol in our heart.

A parent can be an idol. Many people worship and pray to dead ancestors and it is even called ancestor worship. Others worship a spouse or child and yet others worship an idea, their status or education, their job, their possession, literally anything that keeps us from making God first and giving Him first place in our lives, He calls an idol and our god. Most gods are made like unto men and beasts. **Hosea 13:2** "And now they sin more and more, and have made them molten images of their silver, and idols according to their own understanding." **Romans 1:22-25** "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, ... Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen." The idol is self, self-worship.

Some make idols out of ministers, priests or men like the Pope or Billy Graham. Men are only conduits and representatives of God and not to take his place. No man is god, no man is like god, no man can be a replacement for or Vicar of Christ, only tell us of Him and lead us to Christ. Others make an idol of tradition and worship at the shrine of tradition, as the Jewish Pharisees in Jesus day and as many religious people do today as they worship their church, their church doctrines or their church traditions or denominations.

**JOHN 4:23** tells us that a time is coming and that time is now where people will worship Him in Spirit and Truth! What does this mean? The word "Spirit" stands contrasted to ritual, rite, or form as represented by His mention of the Temple in Jerusalem. "Spirit" implies heart, mind, with gratitude, praise, pure sincerity, and fervent desire to glorify God by being like Him. It is these true worshippers to whom God grants His Spirit. They are close to Him because they seek Him. Such a Christian presses the relationship. He continues to pursue it right to the end because it is good. Reciprocity is here at work: We seek Him, and He seeks us. He gives us His Spirit, and it flows out from us in good works that bring glory and honor to God.

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

2 Kings 17:38-39

### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

"Worship is an it-is-well-with-my-soul experience." -



March 1, 2015