

Sin and Condemnation: The World's need to get right with God

(68)

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[Romans 1:18-3:20](#)

(Continuation from 06/25/17)

E. The Arguments of the Religionist (Jew) Against a Heart Religion, [Romans 3:1-8](#)

1. What profit is there in being a religionist—in being circumcised or baptized (v.1-2)?
2. Does unbelief void God's promises—make God a liar (v.3-4)?
3. Is God unjust if He takes vengeance (v.5-8)?

[Romans 3:1-2 \(NASB\)](#)

¹“Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the benefit of circumcision?”

²Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God.”

[John 4:20-26 \(NASB\)](#)

²⁰“Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you *people* say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.”

²¹Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.”

²²“**You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.**”

²³“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will 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.”

²⁵The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.”

²⁶Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am *He*.”

(John 4:22) You do not know: The Samaritans did not know God. They did not have the full revelation of Him, and thus, could not worship in truth. The Jews did have the full revelation of God in the Old Testament. The Jews knew the God they worshipped because salvation's truth came first to them and through them to the world. (cp. [Romans 3:2](#); [Romans 9:4-5](#)).

[Romans 3:2 \(NASB\)](#)

²“Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God.”

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Romans 9:4-5 (NASB)

⁴“Who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the *temple* service and the promises,
⁵ whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.”

John 4:23 (NASB)

²³“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people, the Father seeks to be His worshipers.”

(John 4:23) Hour: This refers to Jesus’ death, resurrection, and ascension to God having completed redemption. **True worshipers:** Jesus’ point is that in light of His coming as Messiah and Savior, worshipers will be identified, not by a particular shrine or location, but by their worship of the Father through the Son. With Christ’s coming, previous distinctions between true and false worshipers based on locations disappeared. True worshipers are all those everywhere who worship God through the Son, from the heart (**Philippians 3:3**).

Philippians 3:1 (NASB)

¹ Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things *again* is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you.

(John 4:24) God is Spirit: This verse represents the classical statement on the nature of God as Spirit. ”

John 4:24 (NASB)

²⁴“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

The phrase means that God is invisible (**Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:27**) as opposed to the physical or material nature of man (**John 1:18; John 3:6**).

Colossians 1:15 (NASB)

¹⁵“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.”

1 Timothy 1:17 (NASB)

¹⁷“Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Hebrews 11:27 (NASB)

²⁷“By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen.”

As opposed to the physical or material nature of man (**John 1:18; John 3:6**).

John 1:18 (NASB)

¹⁸“No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*.”

John 3:6 (NASB)

⁶“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”

The word order of this phrase puts an emphasis on “**Spirit**”, and the statement is essentially emphatic.

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John 4:24 (NASB) KJV / NKJV Spirit

²⁴“God is **Spirit**, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Man could never comprehend the invisible God unless He revealed Himself, as he did in Scripture and the Incarnation.

John 4:24 (NASB) KJV / NKJV Spirit

²⁴“God is **Spirit**, and those who worship Him must worship in **spirit** and truth.”

Must worship: Jesus is not speaking of a desirable element in worship but that which is absolutely necessary.

In spirit and truth: The word “**spirit**” does not refer to the Holy Spirit but to the human spirit. Jesus’ point here is that a person must worship not simply by external conformity to religious rituals and places (**outwardly**) but inwardly (“**in spirit**”) with the proper heart attitude.

The reference to “**truth**” refers to worship of God consistent with the revealed Scripture and centered on the “**Word made flesh**” who ultimately revealed His Father (**John 14:6**).

John 14:6 (NASB)

⁶“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”

John 1:14 (NASB)

¹⁴“And the **Word became flesh**, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

I want you to think about this for a moment:

- 1) Israel was the only people group chosen by God.
- 2) Israel was the only people that had ever heard the voice of God.
- 3) Israel was the only people that had ever received the oracles of God.
- 4) Israel was the only people that God had chosen to reveal His plan of redemption.
- 5) Israel was the only people that had personally witnessed the hand of God.
- 6) Israel was the only people that God had chosen to send His only begotten Son to die for.

Many come to bring their clothes to church rather than themselves.

Thomas Fuller, English Churchman 1642

The Church is not a gallery for the exhibition of eminent Christians, but a school for the education of imperfect ones.

Henry Ward Beecher American Congregationalist clergyman 1856

It's about time we quit playing church in these services that start at eleven o'clock sharp and end at twelve o'clock dull.

Vance Havner American Preacher 1967
