“The City of God: The City Bowed Down”

**John 4:20-24**

(notes based on the sermon by Pastor Sean Hoisington, Hayden Bible Church, 10/24/21)

 We all worship every day; we’re worshippers at heart. Our worship is expressed by our inner disposition and our outer expressions of who we value, who we offer reverence and awe to, and who we honor and serve. (Q1) As Christians, we worship the one, true, living God. (Q2) He called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (1Peter 2:9). Psalm 150:6 expresses the way our worship is meant to be, but we all have been born with a worship disorder: we have been born into a fog of lostness (Acts 17:22-28). We are idolators, worshipping the creation, not the Creator (Rom. 1:18-23). But fortunately for us, Jesus came to heal our worship disorder.

 Many cultures have a worship system invented from their own imaginations. Such were the Samaritans. A worship disorder is often manifested by rebellion to God, doing what is right in your own eyes (Judges 21:25). How do you know when you’re worshipping the Father correctly? In 4:21, Jesus tells the woman, “Believe Me.” Right worship is **established by God.** John 2:14-16 gives a vivid example of what worship is NOT. It’s a delusion to think that right worship is based on MY preferences, what looks right, what feels right, the right music, the right mood. When Pastor Sean came to Christ, in that moment, he “wanted Him, all of Him, and nothing but Him.” That’s worship!

 Right worship is **directed by God.** We Gentiles are able to trust in the blood of the Jewish Messiah. Miraculously, we are adopted into God’s own family. Right worship is **through Christ, the Messiah.** Read Rom. 9:24-26. He replaces our stone-like hearts with broken hearts for Christ, hearts overflowing with gratitude. We are beneficiaries of the promise through the Jewish Messiah.

 Right worship is **from the right temple.** The real temple was standing right in front of that Samaritan women! Genuine worship **is in spirit and in truth**. It is NOT done by letter, instruction book, or direction manual. Right worship **is from the right heart**. The natural man cannot see this (1Cor. 2:14), but the true Christian can (Phil. 3:3). God seeks worshippers who worship Him from their hearts. God is spirit, so we must worship Him in spirit and truth (John 4:24). (Q3) Right worship **grows from a right understanding of God**. Of course, this is informed from the Word of God, the Bible. At Hayden Bible Church, worship is a way of living. (Q4) So church, be diligent so that you don’t veer off the road and into the ditch of worshipping yourself or some created thing. Worship only your holy, just, merciful God. Amen. (Q5) (Q6)

**QUESTIONS:**

1. In 2021 America, what do people worship?
2. Where does right worship originate?
3. My quest to understand this phrase, “worship Him in spirit and in truth” took me to Gal. 5:25. Read it. Here is my paraphrase: “The Spirit enlivens us. Let us be so in tune with the Spirit that our walk matches His.” How should our walk match His?
4. Pastor Sean said, “At Hayden Bible Church, worship is a way of living.” He mentioned serving, singing, fellowship, the obedience of baptism, and God-centered ministries. What else would you add to this list?
5. Pastor Sean ended with the TRUTH found in the benediction from Eph. 3:20-21. Read it. What is the Power that works in every believer? WHY should we worship our God?
6. Pastor Sean shared this acrostic that Pastor Darryl shared with him:

**W**hole hearts surrendered to the living God

**O**bedience to our Savior

**R**everence given to God and God alone

**S**erving God with gladness

**H**ope in Jesus’ return

**I**mmeasurable love of God

**P**raise God from Whom all blessings flow

Which phrase most fills your heart with worship?

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” (Perronet)

1. All hail the pow’r of Jesus’ Name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all!
2. Ye chosen seed of Israel’s race,
Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him Who saves you by His grace,
And crown Him Lord of all!
3. Let every kindred, every tribe,
On this terrestrial ball,
To Him all majesty ascribe,
And crown Him Lord of all!
4. Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall!
We’ll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all!