



## BIBLICAL FOOTPRINT 11 — WORSHIP/GOD'S SANCTUARY

The worship of God must be a spiritual worship, wrought only through the Holy Spirit. John informs us in **John 4:23, 24**, “**But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.**” Worship is defined in the *Webster's 1828 Dictionary* as “To adore; to pay divine honors to; to reverence with supreme respect and veneration. To honor with extravagant love and extreme submission. This accords with the definition given in *Strong's Concordance* of worship which states the following: “From G4314 and probably a derivative of G2965 (meaning to kiss, like a dog licking his master's hand); to fawn or crouch to, that is, (literally or figuratively) prostrate oneself in homage (do reverence to, adore). The entire basis of worship is the principle of love, loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. **Mark 12:30**. Worship must be focused on Him and Him alone as the Sovereign of the universe. No man can serve two masters. It is either God or Satan. Anything that becomes more important than God and His place in our lives through the Holy Spirit becomes our god and all we then give the true God is lip service, a false worship that He will neither hear nor appreciate. **Matthew 6:24**. We are not to use pictures, images, or any other construction of man as a reference to who God is or how He may appear to us. **Deuteronomy 4:11, 12; 15-19; Exodus 20:4-6**. Such is an abomination to Him as those images or pictures, or whatever may be used become our focus of worship and will condemn us. **Ezekiel 8:9-12**. The final test of mankind will be that of worship—the worship of God, signified by the keeping of the Sabbath of God as holy; or the worship of the beast, the false worship on

the false Sabbath; Sunday. **Revelation 13:12-17; 14:9-12; 18:1-5.** Those not engaged in true worship will suffer the eternal death and separation from God through complete extinction; for their names will not be found in the Lamb's Book of Life. **Revelation 20:15.** This judgment will begin at the house of God, **Ezekiel 9:5, 6; 1Peter 4:17,** and thus the house of God must be treated with the greatest reverence and respect.

The sanctuary is the house of God. Its sole purpose for existence is to provide man a place of absolute solemnity in which he can meditate, pray, and truly worship God as He is meant to be worshiped. It is to be revered. **Leviticus 19:30.** Jesus declared that His Father's house is to be a house of prayer for all people, not a place for fundraising, social activities, or entertainment. **Isaiah 56:7; Matthew 21:13.** When God's house was dedicated by Solomon, he said, "That Thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which Thou hast said, My name shall be there: that Thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place." **1Kings 8:29.** God's eyes see what transpires in His sanctuary, and when He sees the abominations of noise, confusion, distraction, worldly behavior and conversation thereto—a lack of heartfelt, love and adoration and reverence to which He is due; the lack of humility and extreme submission to Him from which true worship can only originate—He shuts His ears to anything coming out of that house, withholds any blessing, and deems the acts carried out therein to be false and an abomination to which He has no regard. **Ezekiel 8, in its entirety.**

*"Unless correct ideas of true worship and true reverence are impressed upon the people, there will be a growing tendency to place the sacred and eternal on a level with common things, and those professing the truth will be an offense to God and a disgrace to religion. They can never, with their uncultivated ideas, appreciate a pure and holy heaven, and be prepared to join with the worshipers in the heavenly courts above, where all is purity and perfection, where every being has perfect reverence for God and His holiness."* **Ellen G. White, Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, pg. 500**

*"'Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.' God will not share a divided heart. If the world absorbs our attention, He cannot reign supreme. If this diminishes our devotion for God, it is idolatry in His eyes. God will not excuse the transgressor in this respect. He is 'a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation' of them that hate Him; and 'showing mercy unto thousands' of them that love Him, and keep His commandments. Just as surely as a life of devotion, of respect and reverence for Him, will redound in blessings to ourselves, so surely will indifference to His requirements result*

in the ruin of our souls.” **Ellen G. White, The Youth Instructor, December 31, 1896.**

“It is impossible for man to love God with all his heart and yet to have other gods before the Lord. This supreme love to God does not consist in a mere acknowledgment of His universal power, and the offering of a prescribed form of worship to Him, while the heart finds delight in serving idols. Self-love, love of the world, or an undue affection for any created thing, is idolatry in the sight of God, and separates the affections from Him. God requires the heart's best and holiest affections, and He will accept nothing less. He must reign supreme in the mind and heart.” **Ellen G. White, Spirit of Prophecy, Vol. 3, pg. 52.**

“Since the true worship of God is to love God with all the heart, and all the soul, and all the mind, and all the strength; and anything that draw away either the heart, soul, mind, or strength to it, and comes between man and the true worship of God, is another god; so the allowing of money, the desire for money, the love of money, to come between a man and his true service to God, is the worship of Mammon. And to allow the desire for money, the love of money, to separate a man from true Christian thoughtfulness, and care of mankind temporally and eternally, is the worship of Mammon; it is to have another god than the Lord; it is to break the First Commandment.” **A. T. Jones, Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, March 19, 1901.**

“Mark, that spiritual worship is not a privilege merely, but a necessity. Jesus did not say that they that worship God may worship Him in Spirit, but that they must do so. There is no worship of God but spiritual worship. All professed worship of God, that is not in spirit, is but idolatry, and the taking of His name in vain. We cannot worship the true God unless we know Him. Our thoughts and our conceptions of Him cannot supply the place of His own revelation of Himself to us; for our thoughts and conceptions of Him are as much beneath His knowledge, which is the truth, as the earth is below the heavens.” **E. J. Waggoner, Present Truth, UK, June 20, 1895.**

“Religion is not to be confined to external forms and ceremonies. The religion that comes from God is the only religion that will lead to God. In order to serve Him aright, we must be born of the divine Spirit. This will purify the heart and renew the mind, giving us a new capacity for knowing and loving God. It will give us a willing obedience to all His requirements. This is true worship.

“It is the fruit of the working of the Holy Spirit. By the Spirit every sincere prayer is indited, and such prayer is acceptable to God. Wherever a

*soul reaches out after God, there the Spirit's working is manifest, and God will reveal Himself to that soul. For such worshipers He is seeking. He waits to receive them, and to make them His sons and daughters.”* **Ellen G. White,** *Desire of Ages, pg. 189.*