

**NEWS AND VIEWS**  
**MOUNT OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH**  
3500 Edwards Mill Road  
**Raleigh, North Carolina 27612-5362**

Phone... (919) 787-1910  
FAX... (919) 787-0085  
E-mail: office@mobic.org  
Web Page: www.mobic.org

*“Southern Baptists with the Full  
Gospel for the Whole World”*

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SAM GORE, Senior Pastor  
EDITH JACKSON, Prayer Coordinator

NANCY MCBRAYER, Office Manager  
MIKE KING, Maintenance Supervisor

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In the worship service lately we have been focused on the true meaning and the practical implications of worshipping rightly and wrongly. This seems to be a critical piece in putting the puzzle of life together. For we have been designed to be worshippers. The key to being successful in godly living is whether or not we are worshipping rightly. Consider the following words from our Lord.

*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. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth. (John 4:23-24)*

I remember that a woman once told me the reason she stopped coming to the worship service was that she wasn't getting anything out of it. I can't help to wonder if she actually thought that *she* was supposed to be the focus of worship. The truth is that she was supposed to be the giver of worship and not the recipient. And when we come expecting to receive a good feeling about worship and do not have that experience, it doesn't mean that we haven't worshipped...only that we have worshipped wrongly. Then there was another comment made by a certain young man. He said he had stopped coming to the worship service because he didn't encounter much *worship* and didn't see anyone *servicing*. This declaration may have come from a cynical young man but there may have been more truth in that statement than we want to realize.

When we have been emotionally scarred and rejected by others, it is a powerful experience when someone comes to us and shows us love with a pure heart. The last thing we need for someone to pretend that we matter to them and find out that it's all been false. Jesus met such a person in John 4 and told her where to find God. He said we encounter Him when we worship Him in spirit and truth. When the Father is truly worshipped, we find hope. Like the woman at the well, we may have been exposed to empty worship experiences. But when we worship Jesus, we will encounter true worship. True worship always glorifies God. He is the focus. False worship is always centered on human desires. True worship is God's desire.

**I. TRUE WORSHIP IS SPIRITUAL.** Too much of what passes for worship are planned and managed events. Although there may be some preparation that accompanies ministry tasks, we also know that we can get so bound up in the details that we lose sight of why or who we worship. The management of God is something the flesh desires.

**II. TRUE WORSHIPPERS ARE SPIRITUAL.** We don't become spiritual by going to church activities or participating in small group studies. We become spiritual when we encounter and are changed by the Spirit of God.

**III. TRUE WORSHIPPERS ARE TRUTHFUL ABOUT THEIR SPIRITUAL CONDITION.** We should know who we are and be real about it. Pretending to worship is a lie that we practice. Worship based on lies is not of the Spirit of God. It is idolatry. Are you bound up in idolatrous and empty worship? You can be free today when you worship Jesus. Only He can set us free to truly worship. Are you worshipping freely and serving faithfully?

Blessings to you,  
Pastor Sam