

### *Morning Nourishment*

**John** But an hour is coming, and it is now, when the true 4:23-24 worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truthfulness, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

**Phil.** For we are the circumcision, the ones who serve by 3:3 the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh.

The believers not only serve God in their spirit but also serve Him by the Spirit of God... (Phil. 3:3a)... *Serve* means to serve as priests. All New Testament believers are priests to God (1 Pet. 2:9; Rev. 1:6)... As priests, we must serve God and worship Him in our spirit and by His Spirit.

The believers serve and worship God in spirit and truthfulness... (John 4:23-24). In typology the worship of God should be in the place chosen by God to set His habitation there (Deut. 12:5, 11, 13-14, 18) and with the offerings (Lev. 1—6). The place chosen by God for His habitation typifies the human spirit, where God's habitation is today (Eph. 2:22). The offerings typify Christ. Christ is the fulfillment and reality of all the offerings with which God's people in the Old Testament worshipped Him. Hence, ...we should contact God the Spirit in our spirit, instead of in a specific place, and through Christ, instead of with the offerings, for now, because Christ the reality has come, all the shadows and types are over. God is Spirit, and to worship God is to contact Him... Today we worship God in our spirit with Christ as the reality of all the offerings. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 1834-1836)

### *Today's Reading*

In serving and worshipping God the believers should have no confidence in their flesh... (Phil. 3:3b)... We may think that to trust in the flesh simply means to trust in the fallen human nature. But this is actually not the meaning of "flesh" in Philippians 3:3b. After saying that we should not have any confidence in the flesh, Paul goes on to say that he was circumcised on the eighth day, that

he was of the race of Israel, that he was of the tribe of Benjamin, that he was a Hebrew of the Hebrews, that according to the law he was a Pharisee, that according to zeal he persecuted the church, and that according to the righteousness of the law he was blameless. All these things were aspects of Paul's flesh. However, we may think that the flesh includes only evil things but not good things. Nevertheless, the honorable, lovable, and superior aspects of our natural being are still the flesh... Anything natural, whether it is good or evil, is the flesh... As believers in Christ we should not trust in anything we have by our natural birth, for everything of our natural birth is part of the flesh. In order to render genuine service and worship to God, everything we do must be by the Spirit of God, in Christ, and with no trust in the flesh.

Even though we have been regenerated, we may continue to live in our fallen nature, boast in what we do in the flesh, and have confidence in our natural qualifications... We need the Lord's light to shine on us concerning our nature, our deeds, and our confidence in the flesh... Although we have been regenerated to become children of God with the divine life and nature, we still live too much in the flesh. One day, when the light shines on you concerning this, you will want to prostrate yourself before the Lord and confess how unclean your nature is. Then you will condemn everything you do by your fallen nature... Formerly, we boasted in our deeds and qualifications. But the time will come when... we shall condemn [the flesh]. Then we shall boast in Christ alone, realizing that in ourselves we have absolutely no ground for boasting.

Only when we have been enlightened by God shall we be able to say truly that we have no trust in our natural qualifications, ability, or intelligence. Only then shall we be able to testify that our confidence is wholly in the Lord. After we are enlightened in this way, we shall truly serve and worship God in our spirit and by the Spirit. (*The Conclusion of the New Testament*, pp. 1836-1838)

*Further Reading: A Word of Love to the Co-workers, Elders, Lovers, and Seekers of the Lord*, ch. 2; *Basic Lessons on Service*, lsn. 16

**Enlightenment and inspiration:** \_\_\_\_\_

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