**TEOLOGICAL STUDIES ABOUT THE WORSHIP BASED ON GOSPEL OF JOHN CHAPTER 4:24**

**Hengki Wijaya**

*hengkilily1988@gmail.com*

**Abstract**

The purpose of this article is to understand the meaning of worship based on John 4:24, the theological implication concerning worship and the attitudes and the manner of worshipping the Father in spirit and in truth. True worship from a biblical viewpoint is worshipping the true God with a spirit that is renewed by the Holy Spirit and living in accordance with the truth of God, that is, to know Jesus personally as the Living Water. The implication for biblical theology is that God is Spirit, so God is worshiped in spirit (the inner being that is renewed by the Holy Spirit), and not only worshiped outwardly, in a physical manner. It is God alone that should be worshiped by human beings, there is no other. In practice believers should worship God with a right attitude that is renewed by the Holy Spirit and live in concordance with His righteousness. The attitude of true worship is an attitude of the heart that glorifies the Lord because of His sacrifice that saves, where believers worship the one and only Savior and tell the world about Him.

Keywords: worship, spirit, righteousness, John Gospel, attitude, Holy Spirit, Samaritan

**Preliminary**

The issue of “worship” becomes so important especially when it is related to the passage of the Gospel of John 4:24 “... God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” The word “worship” becomes an important thing because it is connected in a directly with God himself. Djohan Handoyo, one of the pioneers of praise and worship in Indonesia explained: “The person of God is the Spirit. The dimension of worship as communication between us and God requires tongues as the link.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

For the “mainstream and evangelicals” the meaning of worship is not only in the church liturgy, but in all aspects. True worship is the right life according to the Word of God. Even if worship is interpreted in the liturgy of worship then worship is also not a practice of worship in the pietists. This meaning is conveyed by John MacArthur:

“Worship is not a matter of being in the right place, at the right time. Worship is not an outward activity that requires the creation of a certain atmosphere. Worship takes place in the heart, in spirit.”[[2]](#footnote-2) “The nature of worship is to give worship to God from the innermost part of ourselves, in praise, prayer, singing, giving help, and life, always based on His revealed truth.”[[3]](#footnote-3)

The word “worship” has become a trend in church communities, such as the terms praise and worship. The statement that believers must worship the Father in the Spirit and the truth is the revelation of the Bible, but how to do such worship, at a glance some brief views have been stated above.

Based on the issues surrounding worship, the author will describe the truth about the word “worship” and the definition of worship itself with the background approach to the context of John 4 which is associated with worship, the meaning of the word worship based on the word “worship” in the Old and New Testaments especially John 4.

The writers then give insights on the definition of worship, and explain the basis of the theology of worship based on John 4:24. At the end is discussed how to be worshipers in spirit and truth.

Exposition of Worship Based on John 4:24

Background Context John 4: 1-42

The conversation of the Lord Jesus with the Samaritan woman (John 4: 1-42) is a dialogue between the Jews and the Samaritans. An unusual meeting for the Jews. The Jews did not mingle with the Samaritans. Because they are “a mixed race of mixed religion, which even accepted the Pentateuch and admitted to worshiping the God of Israel.”

“In the text of Deuteronomy received by the people of Samaria chapter 27: 4-5, Joshua was commanded to set up an altar on Mount Gerizim. The same case, in the manuscripts received by the Jews, said that the altar had to be erected at Mount Ebal, not Mount Gerizim. The Samaritans rejected other holy scriptures, besides the fifth Book of Moses, they did not accept 2Chronicles 6: 6, saying, “But then I chose Jerusalem as the place of my abode and chose David to rule over my people Israel.”

Who is the woman is not clearly mentioned identity. When Jesus was in the well of Jacob, He asked for water to the woman. However, more than just the need for water, Jesus “shows that the woman has a deeper need, the need that Jesus can accomplish through the gift of God.” Morally the Samaritan woman is a sinner with her incorrect personal life, and through problems it is also Jesus revealing the truth about the existence and needs of the innocent woman's heart. In his talk, the woman talks about worship and talks where the place of worship is actually. But Jesus explained to him that it would come that the devotee should worship the Father (God) in spirit and truth.

1. Djohan E. Handoyo, *Praise and Worship* (Yogyakarta: Penerbit ANDI, 2007), 50. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. John MacArthur, *Prioritas Utama dalam Penyembahan* (Bandung: Kalam Hidup, 2001), 151. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. John MacArthur, *Prioritas Utama dalam Penyembahan*, 162. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)