

spirit and it must be in truth. Now the truth he touched upon first. The Samaritans ~~have~~ have a distorted idea. God had said they should worship at Jerusalem. They said the place you must worship is at Mt. Gerizim. They had a distorted idea. They only had the Pentateuch. They did not have the rest of the OT. They had a certain amount of truth, but they did not have the amount they should have.

He does not withdraw the least bit from the importance of this truth: salvation is from the Jews, he said. But, he said, the time is coming when it won't be so important whether you worship in Mt. Gerazim or worship in Jerusalem or where you worship, because the important thing always has been that worship be in spirit and in truth.

There have been those who have said that worship must be by the Holy Spirit. There is much important teaching in the Scripture about the Holy Spirit, but I don't think we are right to find a reference to the Holy Spirit in this particular chapter. At this point there had no revelation been given about the differentiation of Persons in the Godhead. And it is immediately before the statement "God is Spirit." We must worship the Father in spirit and in truth. God is spirit. The triune God is spirit. God does not have a body. God is not bound by physical circumstances. The important thing is not any material physical thing we do. But the important thing is the relation of our spirit to God's spirit. This is after all what is important about worship. Sometimes people say, Now let us worship God in taking up the collection. I don't think that is the proper use of the word "worship." It is entirely proper in a worship service to take up the collection, and as you give the collection you may be looking to God in adoring contemplation of His majesty; you may be worshipping, but that is not what taking up