

# **Spirit of Christmas**

*John MacArthur*

## I. Introduction.

- A. There are many wrong suggestions about what the true spirit of Christmas is.
- B. Those who participated in the first Christmas tell us the true spirit of Christmas.
- C. Text: Luke 2.
- D. The response of Elizabeth, Zechariah, the angels, the shepherds, Simeon, Anna, the wise men and Mary to the birth of Jesus was worship. (Luke 1-2, Matthew 2, 1 Samuel 2)

## II. The attitude of worship.

- A. True worship is internal. (Isaiah 29:13, John 4:24, Psalm 139)
- B. True worship is intense. It is not hypocritical. (Isaiah 1)
- C. True worship is habitual. (Philippians 1:20)
- D. True worship is humble. The truest kind of spirituality is the kind that does not recognize itself. (Isaiah 57:17)

## III. The object of worship.

- A. We are to worship God and him only. (Luke 4:8)
- B. The joy and the worship is always linked to salvation.

## IV. The reason for worship.

- A. We worship for what God does for us.
  - 1. God blesses Mary and all generations will recognize it.
  - 2. This glorifies God and not Mary.
  - 3. We know very little about Mary.
  - 4. We begin to worship when we understand what God is doing for us.
- B. We worship for what God does for others. Those who fear God are those who are really saved. (Psalm 112:12)
- C. We worship for what God has done in the past. (Habakkuk 3)

**Application Questions:**

1. What does intense worship look like? Should it always be visible? Explain.

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2. Why does pride get in the way of true worship? How can a person cultivate an attitude of humility in worship?

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3. What is God doing for you that you may have neglected before?

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