

Not Just Today, But Every Day – John 15:1-11

What a great month of messages on True Worship we have had. We have been reminded that we serve the One, True, Living, and Active God, and it is Him and only Him who is worthy of and deserves our praise. Christians worship God because of who HE is, what HE's done, and for what HE has in store for the future. Our worship is something which involves every bit of who we are. If not, then we fall short at meeting the standard established by Jesus where we know that God seeks those who love Him and worship Him in spirit and truth. Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus our blessed redeemer! When we begin worshipping God in this manner, our worship transitions from something done on occasion to something that is just as much a part of our daily lives as breathing. A new birth in Christ, means a new creation on earth and for eternity. As the power of God transforms us from the old to the new, we better understand why He is so deserving of our honor, and praise! *"Sing to the Lord, O you His saints, and praise His holy name."* (Psalm 30:4)

This morning we'll conclude this series of messages on True Worship by considering a plan for helping us grow stronger in our faith and transitioning to the daily worshipper God desires. I want to be upfront with you on this. Why? Because it's going to require some work and a stronger level of dedication on your part. To become a more worshipful person, you must first decide to commit to the task at hand. Are you ready and willing to do this? Afterall, it will take commitment to worship, **Not Just Today, But Every Day.**

I want to take you once again to a familiar passage of Scripture. As I read through this, I want you to listen for a word that is repeated over and over because this word will become important for the rest of today's message.

Read John 15:1-17

If we desire to impact the world around us in a powerful, Kingdom way, then we must learn to abide in Christ. Our closeness with Him determines the quantity and quality of fruit we bear. To include our worship. Look back at **verses 2-5**. Jesus tells us that the key to ensuring our fruit is good lies in how well we reside with Him, or if we stay close to Him. It is fair to conclude that if our salvation is genuine and based on said salvation, the Spirit of God comes to dwell with us, then we must make room for Him in our life. We must then take the decision to dwell there with Him also. Wouldn't you agree?

So how do we do this? There is not a cookie cutter method for this, so, I want to provide a suggestion, a tool, if you will, that will help you learn to draw close to Him and remain in His presence. I have printed this guide for you and placed it here on the table. If you would like to put in the work and put forth the commitment, then I simply encourage you to pick one of these up, and give it try. Forming new or breaking old habits used to take around three weeks, but new studies suggest that it's closer to two months now. That's where commitment and work come into play. Don't try because I want you to. Try it because you recognize the importance of abiding in Christ, and you want to make it a priority in 2024.

1. Begin your day with God. Spend 3-5 minutes just having a conversation with God. Do this before getting out of bed. It doesn't have to be formal. Just speak to Him, like you would your own Father. If you feel that you can only pray when kneeling, or bowing, or with your eyes closed, then simply slide to the side of your bed, and kneel there on the floor. Prayer, while it is a form for worship, is also essential to who we are as worshippers. We must learn to communicate with Him! **Read Psalm 141:1-2.**
*"O LORD, I call upon you; hasten to me!
Give ear to my voice when I call to you! Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,
and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!"*
2. End your day in the same manner. Spend another 3-5 minutes in conversation with God. Thank Him, praise Him, trust Him in these moments. Trust Him to listen, not just hear. Why is it important to begin and end each day with prayer? Prayer is how we intimately speak with God. And, we can only have intimate conversation with someone if we are close by. Prayer helps us draw near to Him. **Repeat Psalm 141:1.** *"O LORD, I call upon you; hasten to me!
Give ear to my voice when I call to you!"*

3. What about the rest of the day? Remember that little verse about worshipping, “*in spirit and truth*”? These two things go hand in hand. Both require the presence of the other. Set aside some time each day for the purpose of learning. Start small. Maybe 10-15 minutes. Make the decision to read God’s Word. Again, not just to check the box, but to grow in knowledge. To discover God’s truth all by yourself. Of course, with the Holy Spirit right there with you. Let me share a Biblical truth with you this morning. Paul reminded young Timothy of the importance of reading and studying the Scriptures. **Read 2 Timothy 3:16.** God gave us the Scriptures for a purpose. Paul teaches us that they are profitable to us. They help us discover and understand doctrinal truths. They also help us recognize something which is not truth, reproof. The Scriptures will correct us when we are in error. This is one of the ways God protects us. The Scriptures also teach us the “right ways”. God is pleased when we seek more knowledge. He instructs us to read the Word, study the Word, pray over the Word, meditate on the Word, memorize the Word, and then apply the Word. Starting tomorrow, read a Psalm, then a Proverb. At the end of day 62, you will have read almost half of the Psalms as well as gone through Proverbs twice. If you have more time, choose a reading plan, and use it as a guide.
4. While you read, keep a notebook, or a note card nearby. When a particular verse or group of verses stands out to you, jot it down. Not just the reference, but the entire verse or verses. You can do this every day if you’d like, but I suggest you begin small and go big as you grow big. Do this every Monday and then spend the rest of the week meditating and memorizing the verse or verses. If you do this each week for an entire year, by the end of the year, you will have memorized at least 52 verses of Scripture. When we gain more knowledge, then we will begin worshipping through our obedience. Why? We’ll stop seeing God’s commands as a set of rules and value them as a way of life. When we become more obedient, then He becomes more pleased with our transformation. He will know how much we love Him. Jesus said in **John 14:15**, “*If you love me, you will keep my commandments.*” The more we understand His ways, the more we will worship Him through our love for Him.

That’s it. That’s the simple process. Pray, Read, Remember, Pray. And then, as your knowledge grows, begin looking for other ways in which you can learn to become a more faithful daily worshipper. How about daily confession? It doesn’t have to be a public confession, but as you read and study the word, and the Holy Spirit begins to show you areas of sin in your life, confess those sins and ask Him to forgive you and help you avoid them in the future. **1 John 1:9** says, “*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*” It’s important we recognize our sin and take active steps to remove those from our daily lives. Otherwise, we’ll fall short of the fulness of His glory. Sin separates us from God, but remember our goal? We desire to be closer to Him and not further away.

How about giving? And not just your money. Should you give of your money? Absolutely! But only as a form of thanksgiving and worship for what God has blessed you with. But giving includes more than just our money. Remember the words of **Colossians 3:23-24**. “*Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.*” This says, whatever you do.

How do you give of your time? Oh, how I wish I could take back wasted time.
How do you give your words? Do your words cause harm, or do they edify?
How do you give your work? Do you work heartily or just do enough to get by?
How do you give of your life? How dedicated are you to your family, your job, your church?

You see, how and what we give each day is directly tied to our attitude towards service. **Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-13.**