

40 Weeks of Purpose

Week 13

Worship that Pleases God

POINT TO MEDITATE ABOUT FROM LAST WEEK:

I'm as close to God as I choose to be

God wants to be our best friend. He is always there and ready... We are the ones that need to develop that relationship with God.

VERSE TO MEMORIZE FROM LAST WEEK:

"Draw close to God, and He will draw close to you." – James 4:8

The closer we get to God, the closer He gets to us. The benefits increase, and the ease of doing so is greater.

QUESTION TO CONSIDER FROM LAST WEEK:

What changes do I need to make in my life to be closer to God?

We talked about constant conversation, continual meditation, being honest with God, obeying Him in Faith, choosing to value what He values, and desiring friendship with God more than anything else. Which area are you dedicating yourself to improve this week?

- What kind of Worship pleases God?
 - First of all: God wants ALL of you
- God doesn't want a part of your life
 - He wants all of your heart, all of your soul, all of your mind, and all of your strength
- Worship that pleases God has FOUR Characteristics:
 - 1) **God is pleased when our Worship is Accurate**
- People often say, *"I like to think of God as..."*, and then they share their idea of the kind of God that they would like to worship

- We can't create our own image of God simply because we are more comfortable with that
- Worship must be based on the truth of God that we find in His scriptures
 - Not our opinions about God
- John 4:23 NIV
 - 23) Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.
- To "Worship in Truth" means to worship God as He is truly revealed in the Bible

2) **God is pleased when our Worship is Authentic**

- When Jesus said you must worship in Spirit in Truth, he was referring to the Truth revealed in the Bible, but what was the "Spirit" he was referring to?
- The word is "Pneuma"... it doesn't just mean the "Holy Spirit" but it also means a breath, a human spirit, a rational soul
- We must worship God with OUR spirit!
- We aren't being called to Worship God in the Holy Spirit
 - We are to worship God with our human hearts
- Our worship must be genuine and heartfelt
- It's not a matter of saying the right words, you must mean what you say
 - Heartless praise is no praise at all... It is a worthless insult to God
- Man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart...
 - When we worship God, he looks past our words to see our attitude
- True Worship engages your emotions
 - Those emotions can't be faked
- We can worship God imperfectly, but we cannot worship Him insincerely
- John 4:23 MSG
 - 23) ... That's the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly *themselves* before him in their worship.

3) God is pleased when our Worship is Thoughtful

- God is not pleased with thoughtless singing of hymns or perfunctory praying of clichés
- If Worship is mindless, then it is meaningless
 - True Worship engages your mind
- Jesus warned against “vain repetitions”
 - Even biblical phrases can become tired clichés from overuse
- Reading from other translations of the Bible will awaken you to new ways to praise
- Always be specific
 - To simply say “Thank You” or “I praise you” over and over is useless
 - Tell God what you are thankful for, and why you praise Him

3) God is pleased when our Worship is Sacrificial

• Romans 12:1 NIV

- 1) Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.
- Why does God want our bodies?
 - God isn’t looking for us to be there in “spirit”
 - He wants our bodies in the seats!
 - Our sacrifice isn’t a dead animal, it’s a living body
 - God wants us to give our lives to Him
 - True Worship costs
 - It costs our time, our effort, our money, our self-centeredness, our energy, and our comfort
 - When you praise God when you don’t feel like it...
 - When you get out of bed to worship when you’re tired...
 - When you help others when you are worn out...

- That is the worship that pleases God

POINT TO MEDITATE ABOUT THIS WEEK:

God wants ALL of me.

VERSE TO MEMORIZE THIS WEEK:

“Love the Lord your God with all your....” – Romans 6:13

QUESTION TO CONSIDER THIS WEEK:

What is more pleasing to God right now, my public worship or my private worship?