

Who Will You Worship

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[This one of the series of messages "Worship" preached by Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam]

God has commanded us to worship Him only. With His command comes His enablement. He has created us with the ability to worship. We can and we will worship. The question is, "Who will I worship?", not "Will I worship?"

Exodus 20:2-5 says,

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them..."

What Is An Idol?

The Bible says, if we worship anything apart from God, we are an idolater. You have been created by God to be a worshipper and if God is not the One that you worship, the you are an idolater.

An idol does not have to be something that is tangible or visible. We often say to ourselves, "Oh, I am certainly not an idolater. There is no altar or idol in my house." But an idol can be a doctrine, a creed, a philosophy, or a person that you idolize. This then governs your lifestyle, the way you think and the company you keep.

Communism, for example, can be an idol. I remember reading a letter from a communist. He was going out with a very fine young girl, but because of his commitment to communism, he found that his communistic ideology did not permit him to be totally committed to this lady whom he loved. He wrote a letter to this lady: "I am sorry that I am so committed to communism, I have to end my relationship with you that I cannot marry you because my relationship with you is hindering that which I stand for and believe in. I have to cancel the wedding because communism is my meat, my sleep, my comfort, my joy..."

An example like this tells us how a doctrine or philosophy can be an idol. For Christians, an idol can even be something that God has blessed us with. We can be so taken up with God's gifts that we forget the Giver.

The gifts of God becomes the centre of our life because of the joy and satisfaction they bring to us. It can be a child, a husband or a wife or even a talent. They become the heroes of our life.

God tested Abraham in Genesis 22 when he commanded him to sacrifice Isaac, the promise son. God wanted to know if Abraham would love Isaac more than Himself. He is a jealous God. When Abraham was willing to sacrifice Isaac, God said to him, "Do not lay a hand on the boy. Do not do anything to him. Now that I know you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son" (Genesis 22:12).

The important truth is this: there cannot be any relationship that God supersedes our relationship with God. God must be given first place in our lives. Is there a relationship in your life that has taken precedence over your relationship with God? Is your career more important than God? Are God's blessing more important to you than God Himself? If you answer "yes" to any of these questions, then you have an idol in your life.

The Quality Of Our Worship

Poor knowledge of God results in poor worship. Some of us say, "Oh, I want to worship God but I don't know how to."

I have discovered by reading the Word of God that those who knew Jim worshipped Him excellently. When we have limited knowledge of the nature and character of God, we will be very weak worship. Therefore, to improve my worship of God, I need to grow in knowledge of God. What then must I do to know God better? The Scripture teaches us that when Jesus came to this earth, He came not only as a Saviour to redeem

mankind but also as a revealer of the Father. The more we know Jesus, the more we know God. Our appreciation for God grows. Read the Bible and you will know more about God through Jesus Christ with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus The Revealer Of The Father

This was one of the reasons why Jesus was sent – “to reveal the Father to man.”

The Scriptures confirms this in the following references:

John 12: 49

“For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it.”

John 5:19-20

“Jesus gave them this answer: I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these.”

John 14:9

“... Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.”

John 14:11

“Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.”

Hebrew 1:1-3

“In the past God spoke to our forefather through the prophets at many times and in various ways but in these days he has spoken to us by His Son, whom he appointed heir of all things and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in Heaven.”

Christ, The Only Way To The Father

Christ is the only way to the Father. There is no other. In the story of the Samaritan woman in John 4:19-30, we see how her relationship with Jesus changed according to her understanding of who Jesus is. She first knew Him as a prophet and therefore acted to relationship with him as a prophet (John 4:19) but as she found out that He was the Messiah – the way to the Father, she related to Him as to the Messiah and began to testify of Him (John 4:39).

When we know who Jesus is, we can worship God meaningfully. We have been set free through Jesus and can say, “I worship you, Mighty God; I worship you, God of miracles; God of love. You are Jehovah Jireh, my provider!”

Church, we need to improve our knowledge of God so that we can develop the quality of worship. God made us a worshipper, we must worship the true and living God. Let us render to Him our highest praise!