

The Worshipers Whom God Seeks

John 4:19-24

John 4:23

But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

Five Essential Characteristics of a true worshiper of God

1. A true worshiper _____ as the one and only true living God

2. A true worshiper _____ with God through Jesus Christ, God's only way for such acceptance

3. A true worshiper _____ as his life purpose, to honor God in all he does and make Him known

4. A true worshiper _____ in all _____ and _____ his life to God's character

5. A true worshiper _____ God with all his heart, seeking to _____ God's purposes in the world

Day by Day in the Word

"Day by Day in the Word" is a tool we use to help in the transformation process in which the Spirit of God uses the Word of God to bring about Christlikeness.

Monday "A true worshiper acknowledges God as the one and only true living God."

- Read Exodus 20:1-6. Most false religions have many followers who are very sincere in their beliefs, but God does not accept sincerity unless it rests upon truth (John 4:23-24). Worship of a false god never honors the true God.
- Read Romans 1:18-25. False religions and false gods are the product of "suppressed truth" (v.18) and "willful ignorance" (v.19-20).
- Read Isaiah 43:10-11. Take time to thank God that He has revealed Himself to you and brought you into a personal relationship with Him. If you'd like to worship Him in song, here is a YouTube link you'll enjoy.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKLQ1td3MbE> (How Great is Our God)

Tuesday “A true worshiper seeks acceptance with God through Jesus Christ, God’s only way for such acceptance.”

- Read Colossians 1:13-14. Now, reread these two verses and use them as a guide for a prayer of thanksgiving, focusing on four key words that give us ample cause for thanksgiving: rescued, transferred, redemption, and forgiveness.
- Read Colossians 1:15-20, and then compare these verses with Hebrews 1:1-4. Jesus is no ordinary man. He is nothing less than God incarnate! No wonder John said, “Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also.” (1 John 2:23) Use the Colossians and Hebrews verses to express praise to Jesus, God’s only way of acceptance. Here’s another appropriate YouTube link for worship in song.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iNeOmrq37MI> (My Savior My God)

Wednesday “A true worshiper adopts God’s glory as his life purpose, to honor God in all he does and make Him known”

- Read Isaiah 5:11-12. The focus of God’s condemnation is not the wine and strong drink (v.11) but the neglect of God and the things of God (v.12). Israel was to be about honoring God among the nations and making Him known. God has given us much in life to enjoy and celebrate. The challenge for the true worshiper is to not relegate God to a secondary position.
- Read Colossians 3:1-4. These verses stand in sharp contrast to those we just read from Isaiah. Take some time in prayer to examine your heart for things which might be crowding out God. This YouTube link is a great worship video.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4xR-uC2I4JU> (Love You So Much)

Thursday “A true worshiper walks in all God’s ways and conforms his life to God’s character.”

- One of the strongest warnings and condemnations Jesus ever gave was directed at those who claimed to be His followers, but who did not walk in God’s ways and live in conformity to His will. Read Matthew 6:21-23. We know we are saved by faith, not by works, but a faith which fails to produce a transformed life has never saved anyone (See James 2:17, 20, 26)
- Read Deuteronomy 5:29. This is the beautiful side of obedience to God’s ways: it is the pathway to blessing! Jesus put it this way. “If you know these things, you are blessed if you *do* them.” (John 13:17) This worship song makes for a good prayer of commitment to God’s ways.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Y8zP34AhuU> (Refiner’s Fire)

Friday “A true worshiper serves God with all his heart, seeking to carry out God’s purposes in the world.”

- Read Psalm 96. We often think of this psalm as a call to worship, and indeed it is. But notice the emphasis on proclaiming, telling, and saying in v.2,3,10. And notice the repetition of the words “peoples” and “nations.”
- Read Matthew 5:13-16. In what ways are we living as “salt and light”? How else might we “let our light shine” so that others might come to glorify God? Here’s one more YouTube link to augment your worship today.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDAITgJXO1I> (The Potter’s Hand)