

WORSHIP HIM July 5, 2020 AM

God knew us before He formed us and created us for Himself, for good, to change the world for good. Our purpose is found in Christ, and living on purpose is about being intentional about everything we are and do – loving God with all our mind (and attention), our heart and soul (and affection) and our strength (our ability). 1 Corinthians 10:31.

Ephesians 1:3-9 (NIV) We are created for His good pleasure and purpose.

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴For He chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love ⁵He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will— ⁶to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves. ⁷In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸that He lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ,

God has feelings and He shows them. He has joy when He sees some things. He can be grieved. He receives pleasure from our worship; **worship to be understood as everything that is done as unto Him**. Psalm 149:1-4 – He is delighted when we praise Him together, with faith, when we come around the Word together, when we give... as unto Him.

God cannot refuse a broken (humble) and contrite heart (Psalm 51:17). Whenever we spend anytime reflecting upon how far God went, in His love, to bring us to Himself – consider His passion; those last few days of His life – it brings about a recognition, an honour, respect, thoughtfulness, contemplation of how great His love is toward all people, the same. He cannot love anyone, more or less. When we recognise who He is and His great love, when we walk with Him, humbly (with a right opinion of Him) – we will worship. Micah 6:8.

John 4:23-24 The Message: It is God's desire that we worship Him in spirit and in truth. *"It's who you are and the way you live that count before God. Your worship must engage your spirit in the pursuit of truth. That's the kind of people the Father is out looking for: those who are simply and honestly themselves before Him in their worship. God is sheer being itself—Spirit. Those who worship Him must do it out of their very being, their spirits, their true selves, in adoration."* cf. John 17:17

"Truth without emotion produces dead orthodoxy and a church full ... of artificial admirers ... on the other hand, emotion without truth produces empty frenzy and cultivates shallow people who refuse the discipline of rigorous thought. But true worship comes from people who are deeply emotional and who love deep and sound doctrine. Strong affections for God rooted in truth are the bone and marrow of biblical worship" from Desiring God.

Fulfilling the Great Command: Loving Him, worshiping Him; making our walk in God practically supernatural – applicable truth; worshiping (in everything I do as unto Him) based on the Word of God and being led by His Holy Spirit. In consideration of our primary purpose to glorify God, to worship Him:

1. We love the Lord our God with all our mind and attention:

Consider our attention span; how easy it is to daydream. To love the Lord with our mind is to be intentional; to do those things that bring focus upon Jesus – that thoughtfulness and contriteness – we cannot help but love God when we consider the extent of His love and far He has gone for us).

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 – **taking every thought captive** and bringing it into the obedience of Jesus Christ. This takes a lot of attention; this is worship and God honours this. The first battle is in the mind and every battle needs a plan: Romans 8:7 – explains the strategic fact that to be led by the Spirit (controlled/governed by Him) is a person who sets their mind to things Spirit.

Romans 8:5-8 The Message (esp. v7): *'Those who think they can do it on their own end up obsessed with measuring their own moral muscle but never get around to exercising it in real life. Those who trust God's action in them find that God's Spirit is in them—living and breathing God! Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end; attention to God leads us out into the open, into a spacious, free life. Focusing on the self is the opposite of focusing on God. Anyone completely absorbed in self ignores God, ends up thinking more about self than God. That person ignores who God is and what He is doing. And God isn't pleased at being ignored.'*

This is basic Christianity, that we don't allow our mind to drift. God will not do this for us but our love for Him will bring a mastery over our focus.

Romans 12:1-2 The Message: This shifts 'focus': *'So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what He wants*

from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.'

Matthew 6:5-13 The Message: Our focus moved to reflecting upon Him: "And when you come before God, don't turn that into a theatrical production either. All these people making a regular show out of their prayers, hoping for stardom! Do you think God sits in a box seat? ⁶ "Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace. ⁷⁻¹³ "The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They're full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don't fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing with, and He knows better than you what you need. With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply. Like this: Our Father in heaven, reveal who you are. Set the world right; do what's best - as above, so below. Keep us alive with three square meals. Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others. Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil. You're in charge! You can do anything you want! You're ablaze in beauty! Yes. Yes. Yes."

Speaking sincerely and right in prayer – thoughtful words; not babbling; praying His will knowing He wants what is best. Praying with all your mind.

2. We love the Lord our God with all our heart and soul; our affection.

Hosea and Isaiah – we see God wanted their attention, their love - not the often costly, outward sacrifice - but a heart seeking Him (focus) face to face – this brings Him pleasure. Even the briefest focus on the Passion of Christ, the Cross, His passionate love for 'me', the fact that He is jealous for me ... will focus our heart; focus our emotion, focus our affections.

1 John 4:17-21 NIV: 'This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love because He first loved us. ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ And He has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.'

When we understand His love; that He instigated towards us; when we focus our love upon God, it brings our focus to compassion for all mankind.

3. We love the Lord our God with all our strength, our abilities:

Colossians 3:23 NIV Worship: everything we do as unto God: 'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,'

Our abilities are in His hands – we are appointed, anointed, empowered to the good things that He has prepared for us in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10.

2 Corinthians 5:9 NIV Worship: in everything we do, we make it aim to please Him. 'So, we make it our goal to please Him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it.'

LOVING THE LORD OUR GOD

WITH ALL OUR ATTENTION; ALL OUR AFFECTION; ALL OUR ABILITIES

THIS IS TRUE WORSHIP: IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH

Attending to those things He pays attention to; those things He loves; those things He would do: Matthew 25: 'giving a little one a drink of water' – this is worship; in all and every little thing I do - as unto the Lord – with all my strength, with all my ability as if He is right there; this is an outstanding thought. This is not a works thing; this is a love thing. Understanding our purpose – simplifies our life; it brings about decision ('de' off 'cise' cut) for priorities. The Christian walk is not mystical – it is not too difficult to serve the living God; His commands are not burdensome.