

Week Thirteen: “Worship That Pleases God”

Day One: “God is Pleased When our Worship is Accurate”

Read: 2 Timothy 3:10-17 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 1408)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life* section entitled “God is pleased when our worship is accurate.” (beginning of chapter 13 through first paragraph of page 101)

Reflect: In the “last days” (2 Timothy 3:1) there will be terrible times. And people will reject truth. Do you think we are in the last days? What evidence is there in our culture and the world to lead us to believe we might be in the last times?

Dig: Turn to the concordance of the Freedom in Christ Bible (p. 1560—if you have never used a concordance, read the introduction on p. 1560) and then to p. 1600 of the concordance. Look up and study all the entries listed under “doctrine.” What do you learn about how important doctrine (teaching) is and how it should be used in the church? How did Jesus treat the Bible? See Matt. 5:17-20. (p. 1082)
Is the phrase “crap detector” a good synonym for “sound doctrine”? Why or why not?

Apply: In every age when the church has lost its respect for the absolute authority of the Word of God, it has drifted from power and vitality. Do some soul-searching before God today about whether you are falling more in love with the truth.

In prayer, ask God for a craving for the pure spiritual milk.

Ask God for at least two instances today where your “crap detector” will sound off.

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Day Two: “God is Pleased When our Worship is Authentic”

Read: John 4:1-26 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 1202)

Read: *Purpose- Driven Life* section entitled “God is pleased when our worship is authentic.” (pp. 101-103)

Reflect: When do you feel “fake” in worship? Why?

Dig: What is the main point of this story in John 4?

In terms of worship, what seemed to be important to this woman?

Look up these postures for worship in the Bible and state in one sentence what that posture or style represents to God:

Hebrews 13:15 (Freedom In Christ Bible p. 1438)

Psalms 7:17 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 594)

Ezra 3:10-11 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 511)

Psalms 149:3 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 689)

Psalms 150:3 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 690)

Nehemiah 8:6 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 530)

Apply: Since “your biggest distraction in worship is yourself---your interests and your worries over what others think about you,” ask God for a more free spirit and loss of inhibition in worship. Now, decide to take a step in authentic freedom this coming Sunday morning!

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Day Three: “God is Pleased When our Worship is Thoughtful”

Read: Matthew 22:36-40 (Freedom in Christ bible p. 1110)

Read: *Purpose- Driven Life* section entitled “God is pleased when our worship is thoughtful.” (pp. 103-104)

Reflect: Is it easier for you to engage your emotions or your thoughts in a worship service? Why?

Dig: Compare this passage from Matthew 22 to the passage that Jesus was quoting in Deut. 6:5 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 199). What is the difference?

Read Acts 17:10-12 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 1260). What was their practice when anyone preached?

How should this example influence our church practices?

What is the Bible’s attitude toward doctrine?

See Titus 2:1 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 1411). How does that compare with your own attitude toward doctrine?

Apply: Try praising God without using words like *praise, hallelujah, thanks*. Instead of saying “we just want to praise you,” make a list of synonyms and use fresh words like *admire, respect, value, revere, delight*. So as you begin this day (or close this day) write out a thoughtful and fresh prayer of praise to God.

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Day Four: “God is Pleased When our Worship is Practical”

Read: Romans 12:1-2 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 1295)

Read: *Purpose-Driven Life* section entitled “God is pleased when our worship is practical.” (pp. 105-106)

Reflect: How does worship change you?

Dig: Using Romans 12:1-2 as your basis, how would you write a definition of worship?

What does Isaiah 1:12-20 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 754) tell you about how God feels about worship that is not practical?

Read 2 Samuel 24:18-25 (Freedom in Christ Bible p. 363). What principle do you see in play here regarding worship? How could you follow this principle?

Apply: One thing worship costs is self-centeredness. How are you self-centered in worship and what do you need to ask God to help you with?

For example, do you want “your songs” sung?

Are you self-conscious?

Ask God to bring you to more selfless worship in the coming days and weeks.

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Day Five: **“Meditation”**

Using the **“Lectio Divina”** method of Bible study (see page 3 of this booklet), **meditate on this scripture:**

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” Mark 12:30 (NIV)

Lectio divina (a Latin expression which means Sacred reading) is done in three stages:

- reading: you read the passage slowly and reverentially, allowing the words to sink into your consciousness; after you have memorized the text, write down one word which strikes you and draws your attention and note why you chose that word.
- meditation: you allow the passage to stir up memories within you, so that you recognize in it your own experience or that of people who have touched your life; write down memories of events or conversations or other scripture passages.
- prayer: you allow the meditation to lead you to prayer - thanksgiving, humility and petition. Write out a prayer based on the passage.