**12-30-2023 – IDLE WORSHIP - TRANSCRIPT**

Rick Stephenson

Good morning, John. Morning.

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How are you?

Rick Stephenson

I'm blessed.

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are you? lot of time.

Rick Stephenson

Yeah. You got some sunshine on you. That looks nice.

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You know, this is Africa, plenty of sun.

Rick Stephenson

Today is nice, though.

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Nice. This is Africa. Perfect.

Rick Stephenson

Thank you. Yeah. Nice to see you. Bye, Lisa. Good morning.

Alicia

Good morning.

Rick Stephenson

My wife says, Julie wants to know, John, what the temperature is there?

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You know, right now it is 27 degrees Celsius. Do you know it? Six. Six in the eight, you see?

Rick Stephenson

26 Celsius.

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Yes, decrease Celsius.

Rick Stephenson

That would be about 79 degrees Fahrenheit. So that'd be warm for us. We're at 25 Fahrenheit. So let's see, 25 Fahrenheit to Celsius.

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That's true, call.

Rick Stephenson

We never experience such ones. Yes, no, bet that.

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Yes, thank you. you.

Rick Stephenson

Yeah, that's kind of fun.

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Perfect. Perfect.

Rick Stephenson

Yes. Well, come on. Yes.

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Yes.

Rick Stephenson

I saw you, your friend joined towards the end of the Bible study last time. What was her name? John, that that lady friend of yours that joined right at the end of the Bible.

Sorry. What was her name? At the end of the last Bible study, two weeks ago, there was a lady friend of yours.

think that joined and I didn't catch her. Yes.

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What was her name? Oh, she was called Victoria.

Rick Stephenson

Victoria. Yes.

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Okay. Victoria. Yes. Yes.

Rick Stephenson

I think she joined almost right at the end. Like we had maybe five, 10 minutes left that we were talking.

And so I didn't walk a merge.

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We were confused at that time because last time when you are saying 3 a.m. You are.

Rick Stephenson

time it was five now three a month side is six sixty eight oh because of the change yes yes our our um we follow the like savings time do you guys follow a change in daylight savings now we don't we don't with us it is 12 hours daytime time to our last night I see I see we're on airy morning Rodney Rachel my Brian morning glad you guys could make it hopefully if you guys pull up the chat you will see the scripture list in the chat that will be going through today be a thumbs up if you see it just to make sure that it's out there I do not see it I'm mine you know how to access

the chat. If you go to the bottom, you'll see the little more dot dot dot. And then there should be an option to select chat.

Rachael Bertram

Not how mine works, but mine has chat right at the bottom. And I still don't see it.

Erin Ashcraft

I don't see it either.

Rick Stephenson

Let me repost then. Let's see if that helps. Okay, I put it back.

Rachael Bertram

I see it.

Rick Stephenson

Okay, good. right. Thank you. morning Chase. Thanks for joining us this morning. Thank you. on mute, but that's okay.

We'll just give it.

Chase

Let's see. How's that?

Rick Stephenson

you go. Great. Yeah, now I can hear you Chase. All right. Thanks. That's from if you don't mind us asking.

Chase

I'm in Florida actually.

Rick Stephenson

Trinity, Florida. Are you in Wisconsin? We are in Wisconsin, but our son and our future donor in law live in Tampa.

Near Tampa.

Chase

Yeah, that's right next door.

Rick Stephenson

Oh, cool. That's pretty cool. We were just seeing them last weekend and said we hadn't had anyone yet from Florida and the barbells.

Yeah.

Chase

Why do I have to win the book?

Rick Stephenson

That's cool. Yeah.

Chase

Mmm. like we have. from Illinois originally, so I know Wisconsin, yeah.

Rick Stephenson

Where in Illinois I was raised in Rockford.

Chase

Yeah. My oldest brother lives there still. Um, the suburbs, Chicago Heights area.

Rick Stephenson

Yeah. Yeah. I lived and worked around. I was born in Libertyville, worked in Oak Creek, lived in Lyle, Lombard.

Yeah. So I kind of know that area. Mmm. Oakbrook. Yeah. Oh, did I say Oak Creek?

Chase

I meant Oakbrook.

Rick Stephenson

Yeah. Oh, I'm Oakbrook. Yeah. at Wisconsin. Mmm. Good morning, Kat. you could join us this morning. We'll just give it one more minute since it looks like we're still jumping on.

And Kat, you're in Nashville, right? Is that on your Nashville? Between Chattanooga Nashville, okay And we have John who is from Kenya and we have a lot of people were from Wisconsin on Cottage Grove Rachel you're from font Alac, right Yes, I am and Aaron and Rodney remind me of those city in the town you live in I forget the name Cambria new star with the CEO's good big city I was good sitting in middle of the cornfield.

Yeah And Alicia you're in Sun prairies. All right Okay, All right, well if people join they join but let's get through a couple of minor housekeeping things here If you recall last time I had a timer You're not gonna see the timer today because I'm using their free account And you only get two meetings a month and it happens to me This is a three meeting month for us just the way the dates felt so you won't see the timer You do see perhaps a thing saying that I'm recording the message

Which I mentioned last time I was going to try to have a take notes for us so we'd have transcript I messed it up last time since it was first time so it didn't work, but hopefully it will be working this time And then once I have a transcript I'll post that out there with the videos as well For those who are new I also want to quick share how to access the videos and so I will share my screen here and Hopefully now you see that I pulled up my website You can get to it Rick Stephenson music calm or Rick Stephenson ministries calm.

SCREEN SHARING

Focus started screen sharing

They lead to the same place Once you get out here, you'll see a tab for ministry And then if you highlight that and you'll see focus Bible studies You can click on that and it will take you to the page where we had to focus Bible studies if you scroll down Then the videos are there Did anybody have chance to read the Document from last time and or watch the video that I also included

Erin Ashcraft

Completely forgot about it.

Rick Stephenson

Oh, no problem. Yeah, if there's additional resources, I'm going to post them out there too that I think you guys might enjoy or compliment the Bible study.

Feel free to look at those. I think you can even download the article and take it with you, you know, if you want to print it out or whatever.

But yeah, feel free to look at those. And one last thing, as we are ending the year, this is the December 30th.

If you want to give to the ministry, the name of the ministry is called Zombie Rescue Mission, but you can either donate here.

And if you're interested in a tax receipt, I will need your address, mailing address. So can mail you a tax receipt.

you can reach my email either through contact on here or at rajag4 at tds.net. And I'll put that in the chat for you as well.

So again, it was rajag4 at tds.net. that. All right, enough housekeeping. That's all the kind of boring stuff I don't like to do, but wanted to make sure I got out of the way.

All right, let's open with the word prayer after we welcome Luke. thanks for joining us this morning. If you don't mind letting us know where you're joining from that, it'd be great.

But I think you're on mute and if not, that's fine too. All right, let's go ahead and say word prayer.

Lord Jesus, we thank you for our friends that were able to gather here this morning and Lord, I have said to you, bless them with ready ears, ready heart and a ready spirit Lord that you could pour in and speak to us God.

Use my mouth, use my tongue, use my heart for your glory God. We want to magnify you. want to draw closer to you.

thank you for the spirit of revelation that you settled upon us. Thank you for your holy word. We give you glory and give you praise in Jesus name.

Amen. All right, today. We're going to talk about idol worship. What do you think of when you hear the word idol?

Anybody? I instantly think of false gods. False gods, yes. And that would be the common understanding. And we will talk about false gods today.

that will be a little later. Because when you hear the word idol, go ahead, Rodney. You're going to say something?

Erin Ashcraft

I was thinking the other way, like lack of or mediocre or unfired worship.

Rick Stephenson

Yes, yes. That's exactly what we're going to talk about because people, they hear the word idol and they think of IDOL, right?

And some kind of statue or false god. But there is word IDLE that is also pronounced idol. But it's

As Rodney was pointing out has a totally different meeting, but there is as we'll learn today a connection between the two So let's talk about in the Bible the word idle ID L e shows up at least in my King James version 11 times and as you if you know me if you hang out around me for a while Luke you have a raised hand I'm sorry.

Luke

Go ahead. Oh, I was gonna say Yeah, least right now Trump Trump With the Christian community Okay, when you think of idle you think of that.

Yeah, okay.

Rick Stephenson

Yeah There could be some core low there Yeah, see as we get into the Bible study right if there if that seems to be true now Once you yeah, can raise your hand like Luke did There's a little icon in the reactions and hopefully it will pop up on the screen for me And let me know that you have it Otherwise feel free to just say, you know, excuse me can ask a question or something like that to grab my attention, okay?

All right So as I was saying the word idle ID LE Appears in my King James version 11 times and as I was saying if you know me, you know I'm an accountant and so I like numbers and God talks to us at times in numbers in fact There's an entire chapter in the Bible called numbers So there's some meaning there and the number 11 represents disorder chaos and judgment Isn't that interesting that idle would be associated with disorder chaos and judgment?

Seems kind of fitting doesn't it? But the definition of the word idle as Rodney was starting to define it for us, but I actually looked in the dictionary and it says it's the avoidance of work Lazy without purpose or effect pointless It generally refers to a lack of motion and or energy Vane or trifling That's interesting, isn't it you think about that and you think perhaps in terms of both

words, idle and idle, meaning without purpose, pointless, right? Think about this, an engine, an engine idles, doesn't it? What happens when an engine idles anybody?

I forgot to let everybody know too, my wife is here in the room, and she's just sitting off screen, that was her hand flashing in front.

So if you hear another voice, she is here, and maybe there's others in your room too. Rosemary, thank you for joining us this morning.

Well, we're talking about idle worship, IDLE, when an engine idles, what does it do?

Luke

happens? Anybody? Well, it's just running.

Rick Stephenson

Go ahead, Luke.

Luke

That's going to say, yeah, she's running or warming up.

Rick Stephenson

Yeah, it's just, it's just sitting there, right? And there's so much energy in an engine. In other words, you could say there's so much potential, but nothing's happening, right?

The engine that is the heart of the car is just vamping. It's just sitting there, you know It's it's actually causing harm in the long run If the engine and the car are not fulfilling the purpose while it's idling what's happening the engines wearing down Because it's running and it's putting out toxins into the air.

So it's actually poisoning those around them Think about that for a second So with that in mind, let's go to our first scripture in Proverbs chapter 16 Proverbs 16 and verse 27 And for those who are new what we do around here is we take turns reading If you're comfortable reading out loud, so everybody can hear the word If you're not comfortable, that's fine.

No pressure. You just simply say pass. Okay When I call on you so I typically start in my screen the way it's laid out And I'll just go around and go from there and so when I first look up julies actually the first one across from me, so

I'm going to have her read the first one in Proverbs 16 verse 27. A scoundrel plucked evil and his speech is like a scorching silence.

Mm. One more time for us, please. A scoundrel plucked evil and his speech is like a scorching fire. Interesting.

Now, anybody else have a different version? Just raise your hand here. Okay.

Rachael Bertram

Go ahead. And I'm godly man digs up evil and it is on his lips like a burning fire.

Rick Stephenson

Okay. Interesting. And here's one from the living Bible translation. And this is why it shows us typically, you know me, I'll stick to the King James, but listen to this from the living Bible translation.

hands are the devil's workshop. Idle lips are his mouthpiece. I'll read that again. Idle hands are the devil's workshop.

lips are his mouthpiece. That actually comes from a common saying. You might hear folklor, you know, or common, I forget what the term might be, but it says idle hands are the devil's tools or sometimes you hear it idle hands are the devil's playground.

I remember hearing that as a kid growing up. People would say that. So what do you think that means when you hear that phrase idle hands are a devil's playground?

Erin Ashcraft

Anybody? If you're not keeping busy, you get yourself in trouble.

Rick Stephenson

Yeah, exactly. Yeah, why do you think that is?

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I think because the space in the brain is, it's not occupied. It's not activated then. Something which is beneficial.

So the space which is lagging provokes the evilness in the brain and then What comes in, because it is empty, anything can come in and feel it in.

So, wherever there is a room in a space, anything can jump in. But when a room is occupied by something special or something precious, no doubt can come in.

Rick Stephenson

Yeah, that's very good. Very good, John. Makes me think of this was not in the notes, but I'm going to jump to a description.

You don't have to turn there if you don't want to, but it's Philippians chapter 4, verse 8. It says, finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are a good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, and here's the key, on these things.

Think on these things. So, what John was saying, and I think I kind of agree with him, that we are always thinking about something.

Our mind is always, He's going, you can't turn your brain off. You can't turn your mind off. You might think you can, right?

You might try to eliminate your thoughts, or maybe sometimes you're feeling your thoughts are going. quick that you'll go seclude yourself somewhere, get some quiet space, a quiet place or something, and try to get your mind to calm down, and to stop thinking about some stuff.

But in reality, you can't turn your brain off. You're always thinking about something. So what John is, I think, saying is like, look, if you don't have purpose or direction in what you're thinking, the devil's going to inject thoughts there for you to think about.

So how did Paul tell us to combat it? He said, look, I basically am summarizing here that basically, look, I understand you're going to be thinking about something all the time.

So if you want to really live for God, you really want to be close to Him and avoid the temptation, then think on these things.

And what did he say? Things that are true, things that are honest, things that are pure, lovely, Right all these things that are virtuous and praise worthy those are the things you should think think about So here's a little thing the next time if you find your mind racing and the feeling thoughts that you don't want to be thinking You know, maybe you struggle with the temptation.

Maybe you struggle with some negative thoughts What do you what can you do to get rid of those? Well, could pick up the word of God and you can read it and then think about what you're reading And if you do that long and hard enough eventually you won't be struggling with those thoughts If you constantly go back to it over and over every time you have that negative thought yet you you're developing a pattern You're developing a lifestyle that then will prove that you want relationship of God the enemy is gonna go well That attacks not working anymore.

I was hitting them with this and they keep hitting me with the word Right he's gonna get tired of attacking you that way because he knows it's not gonna work So constantly fill up your word fill up your mind with the word fill up your spirit with the word That's just a bonus

But yes, back to the common saying of that, I know Hans or Devil's playground, meaning that a bored person, person who's not on being attentive or working at something, was more likely to get into mischief.

Coming to the in James version of the same scripture, some of you may have read it as an ungodly man to get up evil and his lips, there's a burning fire.

So I thought, why did one translate it idle hands and idle lips and another one saying, nongodly man and a burning fire?

What's the association? How can you really get that out of translations? So I looked up the Hebrew word for burning fire.

And I can't pronounce it. It would sound like gibberish to me if I tried to pronounce it. But essentially it means scorching or widespread fire or disease.

That's the root for burning. And the root for fire is a supernatural fire, or God's anger is an interesting.

So, go ahead. So if you take that ungodly man as idle hands, because that's the translation difference between the two, that is interesting that there's an association between the ungodly man having idle hands.

And there's association between the idle lips and the burning fire. So our lips get us in trouble, right? And they actually stir up or start a fire.

This also was not in the notes, but it's coming to my head right now, because I've been reading in my daily reading in James.

And it's in chapter three of James. And I'm going to read it verse one through verse five, or actually I'll just read verse five.

It says, even so the time. is a little member and both of great things behold how great a matter a little fire kindle with Isn't that interesting?

So if we're idle with our lips, we're not cautious over what's coming out. We're not really working at thinking about what we're saying.

It just comes out of us, right? Comes out of our heart, comes out of our spirit. And if we are in the wrong spirit, we're setting a fire and we're producing God's wrath, right?

That we have to be very cautious about that. The word ungodly also means worthlessness without profit or good for nothing.

So what's interesting is that root word that was used in the King James ungodly cannot directly be translated as idle.

Yet somebody who translated the living Bible translation made in the same association that said, hmm, this word on godly is so close to the word idol.

going to shoot word idol, right? Because he could have translated it as ungodly hands, but he translated it as idol.

So ungodly idol and that again meaning worthless without profit or good for nothing. And ungodly man therefore is good for nothing.

And ungodly man is worthless from God's viewpoint, right? So, you know what's scary thing? Yeah.

Chase

The scary thing is when I read the scriptures and I've been a believer since I was a young man, is God writing the Ten Commandments no longer on tablets of stone, but on our hearts.

Yes. Okay. But even to this day, even though people best know that they don't understand it. They really don't because go through the 10 commandments.

We, you know, we say, oh, nine other 10 are good, but we will eliminate the fourth one, which is remember the seventh day, you know, keep it holy.

And then it doesn't make sense. The older I get as a believer and think about it, because I wasn't staying away.

Yeah, the book of James says, if you keep the whole law, but stumble at just one point, you're guilty breaking all the law.

Yeah, you see, so in my experience, most, most Christians just regret, they don't think for themselves. They have idle hands.

They don't stretch the scriptures. They just regurgitate false, wrong teachings that they learned from these false teachers that they really do.

That's all they do. You try to explain truth to them. right away, they're just on my brainwatch to defend the false teacher interpretation of scripture.

Yep. Yep. agree with

Rick Stephenson

I was reading this morning actually my devotional and it quoted that very scripture about writing the law in our hearts right so I think you're right on and as we encourage in the bible study here is we are to find out for ourselves right to read and study the word of god and really know for ourselves so yeah thank you for sharing that let's go to Exodus chapter 5 verse 8 Exodus chapter 5 and verse 8 and Luke would you mind reading that for us today?

I think you might be on mute and I have forgotten to hit record so I'm going to hit record now well I apologize everyone okay so again we're talking about idol worship today we covered Proverbs chapter 16 verse 27 as our first scripture and now we are on the ex-

This chapter five, so I'll go over to Alicia. Would you mind reading that for us?

Alicia

Yes. You said it was verse eight.

Rick Stephenson

Correct.

Alicia

Okay. But require them to make the same amount of bricks as before. Don't reduce the quota. They are lazy.

That is why they are crying out. Let us go and sacrifice to our God.

Rick Stephenson

Hey, thank you. Now that word lazy that appeared in your version appears as idle. IDLE in my version. So I looked at that root word and that root word in the Hebrew actually means feeble fail.

Play it. Pardon me. Weak slack or faint. So that really is a true definition of the word idle, right?

Because we looked up the definition in the dictionary, which meant work avoidance of work lazy without purpose or effect pointless.

And so here we see this Hebrew word as truly being identified as that. So how do we get from?

from that laziness or that weakened state or that faint state to that state of worthlessness or spreading the supernatural fire of God's anger, that burning that scorching out was talked about.

How do we make, how do we fall from one to the other? Because it seems so innocent in the sense when you say somebody's lazy, right?

Somebody's, know, just doesn't want to work. Okay. But how does that then bring that judgment of God? How do we reconcile that difference?

Well, let's go to Matthew, chapter 12. Matthew chapter 12. Let's read verse 36. And Aaron, do you mind reading that for us?

Erin Ashcraft

But I say unto you that every idle word that man shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

Rick Stephenson

That's right. Yeah. So here, that Greek word, idol, also again meaning slow, lazy, shunning labor, which one ought to perform.

So here, even the lazy things Jesus is saying in his word, that we have to give an account of that on the day of judgment.

Whoa. Think about that for a moment. If that's true, then I'm already judged, right? Because I know I've not put careful thought into every word I've ever spoken in my life on fortune.

So does that mean I'm doomed? Well, what that means is I need to rely upon the grace of God.

And I think this is the point Chase was bringing out is we need to rely. None of us can be perfect in fulfill all 10 commandments.

We want to try. We want to live for God. We want to do our best. But we fail. We fall at times.

So what can we truly count on? The grace of God, he knew that because even Paul said in the word, the law was a schoolmaster force.

It was to teach us how to live for God, but also more importantly, it was to teach us that we never could on our own, that we would fail, that we would fall.

And therefore, we have to rely upon the grace of God, the fact that he's the one who saves us, the fact that he's the one who died for our sins, that shed his blood to cover us.

So, we have to trust in that. Now, between the Old and the New Testament and that word, idol and the strength of that, do you think that God would suddenly change his thoughts on being idol?

Of course not. Well, let's go to Ezekiel chapter 16. Ezekiel 16.

Chase

By the way, I have to add this, we're saved from the curse of the law. We're not delivered from the law itself.

Rick Stephenson

We're saved from the curse of the law.

Chase

Paul, the one we've seen, you know, we have forgiveness, but like a father expects his children to obey his rules and commandments in the home.

Our Heavenly Father expects us to obey the new covenant, which is all the 10 commandments. You can't escape it.

There's no escaping it.

Rick Stephenson

You know, I agree. And I should clarify that. There were certain parts of the law. There were three types of law, right?

There was the ceremonial law, the judicial law, get to you in just a second week. And there was the, so there's moral law, the judicial law, and the ceremonial law.

Now we are free from the ceremonial law. We don't have to go through those rituals that the priests went through, right?

The moral law we're still under, meaning we need to live according to the 10 commandments. We need to live according to God's moral standards and the judicial laws, the law of the land.

So of course we have to live under the law of the land as long as it is not in opposition to the Word of God.

Okay, so yes, we need to continuously do our best to live for God and to uphold those 10 commandments.

Luke, you have your hand raised?

Luke

Yeah, I was just wondering, so you're saying that when you talk about either you associate like slop comparatively to idle worship, are you saying that they're one and the same?

Rick Stephenson

We're going to get there.

Luke

We're going to get Okay.

Rick Stephenson

right. Yep. Okay. So in Ezekiel, let's read chapter 16 verses 49 and 50. Rodney, would you mind reading that for us today?

Erin Ashcraft

Sure. Amen. Amen. Oh, behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters.

Neither did she strengthen a hand of the poor and needy, and they were haughty and committed a

Rick Stephenson

Vomination before me therefore I took them away as I saw good Okay, thank you So Ezekiel here is talking about Sodom and Gomorrah.

probably know the story of Sodom and Gomorrah from Genesis, right? Where Sodom and Gomorrah were so deep in sin and God was so disgusted with their sin Excuse me that he poured judgment on them fire in brimstone, right the scorching fire Foul upon Sodom and Gomorrah and they were destroyed right and so here Ezekiel is making some Comment about what God was why the judgment of God was brought upon them one for their pride Fullness of bread abundance of idleness She didn't help out the poor and the needy they were haughty committed abomination right all that accumulation Where God said enough enough and you judge them Now what's interesting to note here and that I underlined is that

I don't miss right that takes us right back to proverb 1627 where we started Idleness it leads you into something IDLE Idol leads you into something they had an abundance of Idleness so like John was pointing out they had Time to think about things right and they weren't thinking about God.

What did they end up thinking about? they thought about things that they could do that were an abomination to God They didn't exist beforehand right?

We know what refers to it's a homosexual act right that wasn't Before this time that wasn't common practice. So their idleness led to that practice Something that was unusual different.

It wouldn't have been natural you see being idle Without putting thought behind what you're doing for God why you're living for God and the purpose of the God has for your life Will lead you to do things

things that are against God. So the Hebrew word for Sodom means burning or scorch. So do we see the connection yet?

Idleness, the burning, the judgment of God, when we aren't living for God, when we aren't at least trying to do our best, we're going to fill up our time, our mind, our thoughts, our energy with things that actually oppose God.

And that is what leads to judgment.

Chase

And that's what I found like the last day's church. I mean, the letter to Laodicea, Jesus says, you're good for nothing.

I'm going to vomit you out of my mouth. Yeah. I am rich. I have become wealthy. don't need anything.

I don't need to study the scriptures. I don't need to know about prophecy. I don't need to know what your 10 commandments really mean.

I don't know. I don't need to know why I don't keep the Sabbath. My false teacher, my false pastor, doesn't keep the Sabbath.

We worked upon Sunday. So who's Jesus to tell me that I have to obey my How there's commandments to keep the seventh day holy instead.

We don't think we're lazy.

Rick Stephenson

Yep What was the description of the laodicean church they were luke warm good for nothing Yep, and so when you're luke warm what you just that What's interesting about the molecules of water when they're hot They are the molecules are speeding along right they they are like full of energy and full of potential right they're moving When cold water those molecules get really tight and packed in right and and they have a purpose And still that purpose is you know there their energy is just being used for something else when you're luke warm They just those molecules are just plasm They just lay there right they're idle so to What so so in all this that we've talked about move we go back to proverb 16 What were the two things that were talked about being idle?

What were the two specific things talked about being idle?

Chase

Hands and lips.

Rick Stephenson

Hands and lips. And what do we usually use to praise God or to worship God? We use our hands and we use our lips.

Those are the two main things. So as Luke was pointing out, what am I saying? I saying that being idle leads to idle worship?

Well here, in order to understand if it does or not, we need to understand what is worship. Right? Worship, including all of its forms such as worshiping, worship, worshiped, worship purrs, in my King James Version, appeared 188 times.

And again, numbers mean something. represents blessings and abundance. So if that's the number that is associated with the blessings of God and the potential for great things to happen in your life, when you worship there's potential, there's something there.

fair, right? can be expressed. There's potential that can bring blessings. But yet idle, remember 11 times, represented disorder, chaos and judgment.

So why wouldn't we want to worship if there's potential for blessing in the worship, in the fact that we worship God?

But yet why would we want to remain idle if there's chaos or just judgment there? So these things should start to become clearer.

And as they become clear, we need to understand how did worship start? What are the ingredients of worship? Let's go to Genesis chapter 22.

Genesis chapter 22, we're going to read one verse verse five. Rachel, do you know yet? I usually don't call on you.

apologize.

Chase

Chase, would you mind reading chapter 22 verse 5 of Genesis 22 verse 5? This says, and Abraham said to his young men, stay here with the dogs.

The lad and I will go yonder and worship and we will come back to you.

Rick Stephenson

Thank you. So here this story is about God speaking to Abraham to go sacrifice Isaac, his son between the flesh between Abraham and Sarah.

That was the promise that God had made, that they would have this child. And yes, Abraham and his son, Ishmael, between Hagar himself, but that was not the promised child.

The promised child was Isaac. So here God had said to him, take your promised child Isaac and go sacrifice him on a mountain that I'll show you.

So they travel, right? And it's about maybe 13 years that Isaac has been growing up. And so they're heading in direction, they get and they see the mountain.

And now this is what comes out of Abraham's mouth. He says, you guys wait here, we're going to go worship.

Now this is the first time worship is mentioned in Scripture. It's the first encounter of this word. And the Hebrew word worship means to bow.

bow down, fall down, stoop, crouch, prostate oneself, and reverence. Okay. So what do we learn from this? What does worship entail?

Based on this story? Yeah, Rodney.

Erin Ashcraft

I wanted to add something right there, and it goes right along with your question and what you're saying. So coming from the point of view as a worship leader and a worshiper, you know, what I just got out of what you said moments ago was that for me, this is what I get out of it.

There's those people, whether it's in a church setting or out of church setting in, and wherever, whatever, some choose to sit there idly as the rest of them go to wherever to engage and full blown worship.

So what I get out of that, another word for that idleness, and I preached the sermon, on this is fire extinguishers.

Fire extinguishers. You're either a fire starter or you're an extinguisher.

Rick Stephenson

There's no way between. That's what I kind of got. Yeah, that's a good point. Thank you. So in this particular story, what do we learn is an reverence.

Yeah, you both do. Do you agree that you pointed out reverence and obedience. The key in Abraham's particular story is obedience and obedience should lead to reverence.

And what is reverence? It's respect. It's honoring. So the first thing is we learn worship should be done through obedience.

We need to be obedient to something. Well, we've talked about the commandments of God, right? The Ten Commandments. We need to be obedient.

Chase

lead into that they don't have the reality of it and he says have nothing to do with them. They're deceiving themselves.

All that worth going on day and night, you know, radio stations, churches, contemporary music. And yet Jesus says in the last days church, you're good for nothing.

You're poor. Your miserable naked blind wretched. I'm going to vomit you out of my mouth. You see, that's scary.

Rick Stephenson

That is scary. It's a scripture you're referring to. Paul says, they have a form of godliness but deny the power.

thereof. And so there's something about the power, there's power in worship. So we need to understand, you know, what are the ingredients of worship?

So we connect to that power, right? And to really make our worship count.

Chase

Because there's a difference between my question is, though, how do you know he's not speaking about you, bro, personally, and your church?

We all have to know, because we read, we read what he said about the last day's church. And we, what we all knowledge that there's worship going on everywhere, constantly, all these churches.

Why does he still say you're poor, know, you're wretched, miserable, you're blind, you're good for nothing. Why doesn't that scare you to think, okay, okay, what does he really mean?

I worshiped too, every Sunday, every Sunday. And yet he still says, the last day's church will be characterized by being good for nothing.

Rick Stephenson

Doesn't that scare you? scares me.

Chase

Yeah, it should. It made me dig into the scriptures. I started fearing the Lord. It's like, Lord, man, I want to know what you mean.

I don't care what this pastor or this church. or says or this man teaches, I'ma go into your word like a burrion and see exactly what you mean.

And it's frightening because people walk around like zombies even Sunday Christians. You people don't think about worship. God doesn't care about your worship if you're not being obedient to him.

You see what I'm saying? That's all lip service.

Rick Stephenson

I do. That's exactly what we're talking about today. That's exactly right. And so I want to help us stay a little bit on track here and get through the understanding what are the components of worship so we can make sure our worship is meaningful, right?

And so we can be pleasing to God. And so the first ingredient that we talked about is obedience, exactly.

And so we have to be self-assessing. have to assess are we living the word of God? Do we know the word of God for ourselves?

We've talked about that a lot through our studies. And so let's go to the next scripture. The Exodus chapter 34 verse 14.

Alicia

You know that you skipped one, right?

Rick Stephenson

Well, did I? Genesis 24, 26. Genesis 24. Thank you. I appreciate that. Genesis 24, verse 26. And Kat, would you mind reading that for us, please?

You might need to come off mute. Hey, Kat, we'll come back to you, Brian. Do you mind reading?

Owner’s iPhone

I'm trying, but you said, Genesis what? I'm on 22. So, Genesis 24, Genesis 24, and verse 26. Okay. couldn't have was confused with where we were at.

Rick Stephenson

Okay.

Owner’s iPhone

and the man bowed down his head and worshiped the Lord.

Rick Stephenson

Hey, go ahead. I'm sorry.

Owner’s iPhone

And he said, blessed be the Lord God of my master. I pray. And who has not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth.

I being in the way, the Lord led me to the house of my master's brethren.

Rick Stephenson

Thank you. So that was 26 and 27. So in 26 here, this is the next mention of worship and scripture.

And again, that root word means to bow down, fall down, worship, right? And so what we learn is that there's something about the connection between Abraham, what he did to go worship and of this worship.

So the next ingredient we find after obedience is humility. When you bow your head, when you bow down, when you stoop, when you sweat

Right? We can't be know-it-alls before God. We have to realize there's something we need to learn from God that He wants to impart to us.

So we need to be obedient and we need to be humble. Now let's go to Exodus chapter 34. Exodus 34 verse 14.

And Brian, would you mind reading that for us, please?

Brian

Certainly. 14?

Rick Stephenson

Yes, please.

Brian

For you shall worship no other God, the Lord God, whose name is jealous, is a jealous God.

Rick Stephenson

Thank you. He's jealous over us, right? Why do you think He's jealous over us? Why is it He's jealous over us wanting to worship Him?

Because we're His creation. He's the one who created us. We're not some other God's creation, even if there was any other God.

We are He is we are his workmanship, right? He designed us he fashioned us he put purpose in us He put the energy and strength within our bones.

He's the one that deserves our worship So again, we've learned obedience Humility and now focus because we're to focus on him, right?

Let's go to 2nd Kings chapter 17 2nd Kings 17 Verse 36 Verse 36 2nd Kings 17 verse 36 Rosemary, would you mind reading that for us?

Rosemary’s iPad

I'm sorry 26 or 36 36, please But the Lord who brought you up from the land of Egypt with great power and an outstretched arm He you shall fear him you shall worship and do him you shall offer sacrifice

Rick Stephenson

Okay. And before I talk about that one, let's also go to First Corinthians. work together here.

Rosemary’s iPad

Our first chronicles part of me. First chronicles.

Rick Stephenson

Chapter 16. Good morning, Victoria. Thank you for joining us. First chronicles 16. We're going read verse 29. And John, are you still on?

If you mind reading that for us?

ajoedyfoundation@gmail.com

So, my internet should close to open my electronic mobile, my body is low. it might delay so pass please.

Rick Stephenson

Okay, no problem. So, Luke, come back over to you if you don't mind. First chronicles 16. Verse 29. Maybe Luke had to step away.

We'll go to Julie. We'll come back to you, Julie. Describe to the Lord that the Lord drew his name, bring an offering and come before him.

Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness. Okay, so these two verses, one rosemary red and one Julie just red.

They have something in common here, and the beauty of holiness. Right? When you try to give God glory, and as this one says, because it's due his name, right?

It's due him. He deserves it because simply who he is. But how do we show that? What do we learn from these two scriptures is another ingredient of worship.

We talked about obedience, humility, even focus. Could we not say reverence? Could we not say respect? Between those two verses, when you revere or fear, that means to show respect, to stand in awe of worship.

What else did both of these scriptures mention? One mention you shall do sacrifice, the only one said, bring an offering.

worship also includes some kind of sacrifice. All right. So we have obedience, humility, focus, respect, and sacrifice. Let's go to second Chronicles, chapter 32.

We're going to read verse 12. And Alicia, would you mind reading that, please?

Alicia

Sure. Did not his kaya himself remove this God's hand? I place and alters saying to Judah and Jerusalem, you must worship before one alter and burn sacrifice on it.

Rick Stephenson

Okay. Now, notice the word and right and means you need to do both. So worship and do what? Sacrifice.

But what what's kind of sacrifice? Burn, wasn't a particular animal. What are they burning? In sense. What does incense represent?

Well, we don't have to guess. Scripture tells us. Revelation chapter five. Let's go there. Revelation five and verse eight.

Aaron, would you mind reading that for us?

Erin Ashcraft

And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the lamb, having every one of them, harps and golden vials.

Rick Stephenson

Spill of odors, which are the prayers of the saints. Okay, and those vials or odors is incense incense is prayers So worship includes prayer What is prayer?

It's communication with God. You simply talk with God you communicate with them So worship has to be obedience humility respect Respect can be the same thing as focus right because you're focusing on the one you respect so respect And prayer and sacrifice right sometimes you don't feel like praying sometimes you don't feel like worshiping That in itself can be a sacrifice when you do it you regardless of how you feel That's why scripture is referred to it sometimes as a sacrifice of praise You may not feel like it, but you do it anyway Because you are offering sacrifice and you communicate with God and and that communication arises to him.

hears it. He hears every word Let's go to Matthew chapter 2 and verse 2. Matthew 2 and 2. And Luke, if you're back, do you mind reading that for us?

Give me a second. And let's go to Rodney if you don't mind then. We'll keep trying you.

Erin Ashcraft

All right.

Rick Stephenson

2 and 2, you said? Yes, please.

Erin Ashcraft

All righty then. We're saying, where is he that is born king of the Jews? We have seen his star in the east and are come to worship him.

Rick Stephenson

Thank you. Perfect scripture for this time because we just had Christmas, right? But again, there's a word there. right?

They came and, right? They've seen something and they're keen to worship. So, the Greek word worship here means to kiss the

hand towards the one in token of reverence, like a dog licking its master's hand. That's the emphasis of the word here worship.

To fall upon the knees and to touch the ground with the forehead. Now this is the first mention of worship in the New Testament.

Okay, so it shows us that worship entails recognizing God for who he is. Isn't that what the wise men did?

They recognize God for who he is. Respect. Isn't that respect? So it hasn't changed from the Old Testament to the New Testament, right?

Worship doesn't change over time. Worship is the same, has the same consistency, but it takes something from us. It means we have to initiate it.

They saw, they came, and they worship. We have to initiate worship. Okay? John chapter 4 verse 4. Let's go there.

John 4 verse 4. And Brian, everybody switched on my screen here since we lost Chase here. But Brian, you're up next.

you mind reading John 4 verse 24? John 4 verse 24. Did I say born for?

Brian

apologize. For 24.

Rick Stephenson

spent on my head.

Brian

Final answer. God is Spirit and those who worship Him must be worshiped in Spirit and truth.

Rick Stephenson

Thank you. Notice that little word in there again and right? So worship takes two things, Spirit and truth. Now notice the first word, Spirit and the second word Spirit.

One capitalized, one not. But you know what? They're the same root word. They're the exact same word. And that word means Holy Spirit or the vital.

principle by which the body is animated. It's the rational spirit, which is the power by which human beings feel, think, and decide.

In other words, it's the soul, or it's a movement of air like wind or breath. That's all what the word means.

So if the capital S is spirit God, and the small S is the same root word, and it takes that for us to truly worship Him in truth, then what does that mean?

What is it alluding to? It's alluding to the fact that we need God's spirit in us in order to truly worship Him correctly, right?

Because if we don't have God's spirit, how can we truly understand who He is? How can we truly understand how to worship Him then, right?

So we need His spirit in us to help them reveal within us who He really is, and why we should even bother to worship Him.

We can't truly know Him without hurting. But you know what? is true. So we need Him in us to know Him and to know truth.

You can't worship without one or the other. It takes obedience. We're going to do this because God told us to.

It takes humility to realize, you know what? It's going to take something of me and I'm going to have to subject myself to God.

I'm going to have to humble myself in order to do this. It takes a focus. Okay? I'm going to set my mind on doing this because if I don't, my mind is full of other stuff.

We've already talked about that, right? And what happens when the mind is not focused on God? It gets distracted.

It gets pulled into other areas that actually are offensive to God. So focus. I'm going to reverence God. going to respect Him because He's the one who made me.

He's the one who created me, right? He deserves it. Excuse me. And I'm going to initiate it. I'm going to come to Him and going to fight Him to fill me with His.

Spirit so that I can genuinely worship him and know who he is know him as truth know myself and know him That's when things are really truthful when I know who I am in him and who I am because of him Matthew chapter 15 verse 9 is this making sense to everybody give me a thumbs up if it is Okay Matthew chapter 15 and verse 9 And cat would you mind reading that for us?

Owner’s iPhone

Matthew 15 verse 9 Hang on, um, trying to get it.

Rick Stephenson

Sir, no problem

Owner’s iPhone

But in vain they do worship me, teaching or doctrine the commandments of men.

Rick Stephenson

Thank you. This is the very scripture that even Chase alluded to. But sometimes we have to take things step by step, as Isaiah said, line upon line, precept upon precept, in order to learn and to grow.

Sometimes it takes a forceful hit for people to wake up and to shake off the cobwebs and to really get their focus on.

Sometimes you need to hit them to wake them up. But all that's going to do is alert them to something that they need to change.

But how do they know how to change? They have to learn. And learning is a process. And in a process, that's what this Bible study is about.

It's trying to help you learn, trying to help you process. So that's why I'm not trying to constantly hit with, you should do this, you should do that.

We need to repent. We need to do those things. But we need to go slowly sometimes because we need to build.

line upon line, precept upon precepts, so we know how to change. So we know how to make the difference.

That's why I'm trying to build this idea of what worship is. Obedience, humility, focus, reverence, initiation on our part, spirit and truth.

If I just come out and try to hit you with all of that at once, you're not going to absorb it.

It's going to bounce off of you. But if I can help you understand little bits and little pieces along the way, you can grasp those things and you can build a foundation for which you can then change.

And so back to this verse in vain, they do worship me. Why is it in vain? Because they don't understand it.

They don't understand what worship means. They don't understand the reasons for following God's commandments. They need to be taught.

They need to be shown and then they need to be taught. Go ahead, Rodney.

Erin Ashcraft

So I guess it wouldn't be fair to say then. know this is going to sound strong. And I'm saying this because I've been told this in my journey, my faith during before because backing up to John 4 and 20, it was 4 and 24, go to 4 and 23.

And it says the hour come now that when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth.

I've been told in my journey, quote unquote, because I've come out of different denominations in my journey that I had a false conversion and I wasn't a true worshipper back then.

But looking at these scriptures right here, I beg to say, maybe they were somewhat right. They might not have been right in the way they told me that.

But maybe there's a meet here saying there is a truth to worship. worshiping. So, but everybody's on a journey.

Exactly. know what I'm saying? So line upon line. Exactly. There is a significant thing. When you it's different when you're worshiping in truth.

And I say this from my own personal experience, not anybody else's. But there is a difference.

Rick Stephenson

Yes, I agree. And I know we're getting close to the hour. And if you have to jump, I understand, but we're going to continue.

So please stick with us if you can. We only have maybe another half dozen scriptures. But as Rodney is pointing out, we are on a journey.

We're learning. And the truth comes in the sense when you get hit with something that you realize is contradictory to your life.

If you're going to be truthful and say, I haven't been doing that or I haven't been living that way, if you're going to be truthful, then you're going to want to change.

And to change, like I'm saying, you have to learn. You have to grow. You have to be able. to incorporate.

Now, what got you that far, hopefully, to that point is a right heart. We're going to talk about this at the very end, right?

It's nobody knows your heart, but you and God, and even you don't know what this world is. God does because a heart's deceptive, it's wicked, right?

Scripture tells us who can know it? Only God, only God really knows your heart. You're the second closest one to know it because it's within you, right?

Those outside of you, they may have some inkling, but they don't truly know unless you reveal it, right? And so, if you're doing your best up to this point, right, you're doing your best to love God to worship God, God's going out of that by showing you how what the next steps are, how to continually grow in Him.

If you aren't living for God, He's not going to bother to show you how to do step Z without first showing you step A.

If you're at the place where your life is messed up and He's going to show you first step A, take first step A.

When you're willing to take step A, then He's going to lead you to step B. He's not going to take you from A.

a disease immediately. So the intent is you must have the right motivation, you must have the right heart to want to live for God, to want to honor him.

That's why these things of worship are so important. If you want to be obedient, if you want to be humble, if you want to reverence God, if you want to come to him, if you want to worship him in the Spirit of truth, he will guide you there.

He will honor that because he's not going to go against his word. Okay. So from Matthew 15 verse 9, what we really learn is the next ingredient of worship is integrity.

That's what we're talking about right here right now. So it was a perfect segue Rodney. It takes integrity, being honest with yourself, in truthful, am I willing to grow?

Am I willing to keep moving forward with God? chapter 14 verse 10. Luke chapter 14 and verse 10. And I think I'm up to Rosemary.

Rosemary’s iPad

Would you mind reading that? First please. Okay. But when you are invited, go and sit down in the lowest place so that when he who invited you comes, he may say to you, friend, go up higher.

Then you will have glory in the presence of those who sit at the table with you.

Rick Stephenson

Thank you. In your version, you use the word glory. My version used the word worship. And that same root word means true respect, showing honor and giving praise.

So if we can use that example where Jesus says, look, you were invited to a feast or wedding or someplace and you thought you were nobody, right?

And even though maybe you're the city mayor or councilman or whatever, you got some respect, but you think in your mind, you're humble enough to go to the very lowest place, the end of the table, the lowest of the

And the guest who's throwing, the host who's throwing the party comes to you and says, look, don't belong. Now you belong in the seat of honor.

Come up front, right? You come set up here. Then it says you have worship. But I thought we were only supposed to worship God.

But see, here's the connection. worship. Worship is showing honor or true respect. So it's the act. The worship is the act, right?

It's the result of what happens. It's both. It's the act and the result of what happens because that person is moved.

There's an act to move them and it's the result of moving that they have worship. So think about it in your own life.

God has moved. You learn who he is. You respect that, right? Because he changed your life. There is the act.

He did something. He changed your life. He sacrificed himself for your sin. There was the act. Now what happens?

The result. You're willing to worship. See, when you connect the act with the result you're willing to worship. John chapter 9 verse 31.

John chapter 9 verse 31. And I think I'm back up to Julie. I mean, I think God does not listen to sinners.

He listens to the godly man who does his will. Hmm. Obedience and worship are connected. In other words, they're inseparable.

We talked about obedience being an ingredient of God. But in reality, it's inseparable from worship. We talked about if you're, if you're way over here in your life is messed up.

He's not going to take you from A to Z, right? Obedience is what brings you along the journey. That's why I said when, when you might learn something here today and you're going, hmm, I didn't quite know that.

that I didn't quite see it that way or I'm not doing it that way. Are you willing to change?

That's the obedience. When we got points out something to you and says, look, I'm showing you this. Are you willing to make the change?

That is the expression of obedience when you say, yes, God, I am. And I'm going to try this, right?

Philippians chapter three, verse three. Philippians three, verse three. Alicia, Alicia, you mind reading Philippians three, verse three?

Alicia

Philippians three, verse three, for it is we who are the circumcision, who we, who serve God by his spirit, who boasts in Christ Jesus and who put on confidence in the flesh.

Rick Stephenson

We worship God in spirit. need his spirit in us so that we realize when we don't have confidence in this flesh We realize we can have confidence in God That's that's how we make that shift if we've been having confidence in ourselves But we want to make the change we need to invite God in If we're going to go from fully trusting only ourselves to fully trusting God, what do we got to do to bridge that gap?

We got to have God enter in we've got to invite him in All right, so now let's make the connection like like Luke had been pointing out before and it looks like we lost him Why do things become idols IDOL?

because It's we became idle IDLE Things become idols IDOL because we became idle IDLE Isaiah chapter 2 verse 8 we only have two more scriptures Isaiah 2 verse 8

And Aaron, would you read that for us, please? Thank you. Okay.

Erin Ashcraft

Hey.

Rick Stephenson

Isaiah two.

Erin Ashcraft

Sorry, I was lost for a minute.

Rick Stephenson

No problem.

Erin Ashcraft

I had another scripture pop in my head. was looking up their land also is full of idols. They worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made.

Rick Stephenson

Okay. Now that scripture clearly points out the reason they're worshiping idols is because they made them with their own hands.

Right? And what do we say we do with our hands? If we aren't worshipping God, we are idol, idol, ness, needs to idol worship.

You get it? Idol-ness leads to idol worship because we think we're all self-sustained, we build things of our own creation, and therefore we worship them.

And look at what the society does, right? We think what we made great technology, and we did it ourselves, and so they worship technology.

In fact, even the person, high person from Google, has left Google to start a church, the church of technology, to worship technology.

You see, idol-ness leads to idol worship. We need to worship God in spirit and truth. And we've learned that worship includes obedience, humility, respect, sacrifice, prayer.

It must come from a sincere honesty within ourselves without carnality, without relying on this flesh. We must make the initiation, right?

All of that. So let's read a story that includes all of it. And this will be the last scripture we'll read today, but it's a long one.

We're going to to Matthew 2. Matthew chapter 20. Matthew chapter 20. And for sake of time, I'm going to go ahead and just read it for you guys.

Okay. I was going start at verse 1 through 16. And when they drew, whoops, I'm in the wrong verse, see, happens to me too.

Chapter 20 verse 1. For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is a householder, which went out early in the morning to hire laborers into his vineyard.

And when he agreed with the laborers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about the third hour and saw others standing idle in the marketplace.

And some of them go, he also into the vineyard. And whatsoever is right, I will give you. And they went their way.

Again, he went out about the sixth and ninth hour and did likewise. And about the 11th hour, he went out and found others standing idle.

and saith unto them, why stand ye here all the day idle? They sent unto him because no man had hired us.

He sent unto them, go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right that ye shall receive. So even when evening was come, the Lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, call the laborers and give them the hire, beginning from the last unto the first.

And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. But when the first came they supposed that they should have received more, and they likewise received every man a penny.

And when they had received it, they murmured against the good man of the house, saying these last have wrought but one hour, and that was made then equal unto us, which had borne the burden and the heat of the day.

But he answered one of them and said, friend, I do thee no wrong. Didst not thou agree with me for a penny?

Take that as thine, and go thy way. I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. Is it not lawful for me to do whatever I will with my own?

Is thine eye evil because I am and good. So should the last be first and the first last, for many be called but few chosen.

Okay, I know you're probably saying Rick, how does that relate to worship? Right? I mean, I've heard that scripture talked about in so many other ways about like, you know, being sure you don't get jealous, petty with others, right?

Because of God's fairness and generosity. But think about this. What is the kingdom of heaven like? He's saying this is what heaven is like.

And he talks about laborers. Hasn't God called us to be laborers? If you're not laboring for God, if you're not worshiping God, if you're not leading others into worship, because that is part of the work of God is to teach others how to worship by example, that's how you teach mostly is by example, because people will listen to your words, but they will really observe your life.

And they will compare the two and if they're not congruent, they will toss your words away Because they will lean more on your actions.

That's why the phrases action speak louder than words Right, but when the two are congruent your words line up with your actions People will believe you the truth and they'll see your spirit the God moving in you because that's the only way congruence happens Is when God is in you the spirit of truth, right?

Then they will acknowledge and learn you'll go moon. Maybe I should be more like that So being a laborer means truly doing the work of God.

What does God call this to do? He's called us to worship him Right as we worship him if we're not worshiping him.

We're standing around the marketplace idol Right didn't he find those who were idle and he said look go into the vineyard.

What's the vineyard? The vineyard is a place where grapes grow isn't it? What do you make from grapes? grapes, wine, fermented or unfermented.

That's not the point. The point is make wine from grapes, right? And what does wine represent in the Bible?

represents the Holy Spirit, the flow of the Holy Spirit. We are called into sharing God's Spirit with others through our worship, right?

We talked about how to truly worship God, you need God in you. You need to show that to other people, right?

If you aren't showing that to other people, what's going to happen? You're going to become jealous. You're going to become petty.

You're going to become idle, right? Isn't that the end of the story? When they started comparing, hey, that guy got paid a penny.

I should get more, right? No. Your worship is not contingent upon what you get. Your worship is contingent upon what you give.

You give because you recognize who God is. So jealousy and all that falls away. That's leaning on the flesh, right?

We have to realize God is the one worthy to be worshiped. We have to do it from a heart that is willing and wanting only to know Him, not based on what we get out of it, only to know Him and draw closer.

We talked about, I'm going to wrap it up with this, we talked about Proverbs 16, the two things that can become idle, the hands, the lips, right?

When we worship, we use our hands, we use our lips. There's a connection, our eyes, where do our eyes go?

Our hands will go wherever our eyes go. Our words will follow, right? we're gazing on, whatever we're looking on, because we try to describe it.

So there's those three connection points in worship, our eyes, our words, our hands. And what brings it all together?

The heart. We talked about it, right? The motivation, the heart. If you have all four of those pieces lined up and genuinely worshiping God.

Then you're doing it correctly Right because only you know what's in your heart What's in your heart will lead to you?

Rosemary’s iPad

Focus will lead to you speaking will lead to you worshiping flying your hands to the work Amen Questions thoughts comments anybody Yeah rosemary You were talking about The scripture from John worshiping in spirit and truth Yes, and almost feel bad that chase isn't here because I Was leading a prayer roof and it was a lot of people from various denominations and they had different beliefs And I it was moms praying for their their kids and families and I said God help me To focus this and he brought me to that scripture and then he should

with me through other scripture that the Word of God is spirit and the Word of God is truth. So as I led that prayer group, I had us pray the Word.

And from that, people had those sincere hearts you're talking about and they were seeking after God and the Word transforms us.

And I think five different people got the Holy Spirit through that prayer group. So God took that heart and took that Word and worked with it.

And so I just don't think we should give up on wherever anybody's coming from. think an old thought has to be replaced with the new thought before you can move on.

Rick Stephenson

Yes, that's excellent. Thank you, Rosemary. I totally agree. The Gospel of John says in the Word, and the Word was God.

They're inseparable. God is the Word. So so The Spirit is the Word. Totally agree with you. And we, how do we get the Spirit within us?

We got to know this, right? The more of this we get in us, the more of God can get in us, right?

And it can become evident outwardly as He speaks through us language. We didn't know on our own, right? That's the evidence that is coming out because words come out.

Well, how do we know it came in? This has got to be this. Excellent. Thank you. And we have to have some discernment, right?

have to be able, this Bible study, focused Bible studies, meant for anybody, any place anywhere at their journey, right?

Because we're all, as Rodney pointed out, at different places in our journey. And it's, as I say, said, line upon line, priest upon priest, we're all taking those steps forward, hopefully we're moving forward to grow in relationship with them.

But we have to have discernment to know where somebody's at along their journey, right? Or what their motivation might be.

Because... I sense the spirit of confrontation this morning that we need to be very careful of, right? It's good to have discussion, but it's it's another thing to take lead that discussion and confrontation Right sometimes there's a time and a place and a purpose for confrontation But not when people are all in a different level of growth and we're just trying to learn in a Manner that brings everybody along Yeah Something that I had the Lord speak to me about a year ago is just having that balance of spirit and truth Like we can be overly spiritual But lacking in truth and that can lead us to some very false places, but we also need the truth and the word That but if we're too heavy on the word we become Legalistic so one thing that God showed me is we need the we need the word to ground us and the spirit to guide us I'm putting those two together and having that balance

Yeah, I like that. Very good. Yeah, Rodney.

Erin Ashcraft

So I had a scripture come to me because, and you hear it. And being respected to the denominational thing, you hear it in every denomination.

So that scripture is first Timothy two and eight where it says, I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands without wrath and doubting.

I've heard it so many times. Oh, just lift up your hands because it's your reasonable service. No, I disagree with that.

I disagree with that every time I hear somebody say that scripture. It's way bigger than that. That's the least I can do is raise my, I go right back to Paul and Silas.

They did everything they could do to shut them up and shut them in, but they forgot their mouths. In the darkest time of their lives, they were worshiping in the pits.

You know what I mean? So just to say the least Rodney can do is lift up his hands. No I'm not gonna be a fire extinguisher.

I'm gonna be the radical guy I'm not hanging from the fuse and then we're not breaking out rattlesnakes, but I'm gonna be the guy worshipping You know what I'm saying?

Rick Stephenson

Amen. I do. Thank you Very good Anybody else thought question comment Brian do you some I Don't know I think so No, what what comes to my mind.

Brian

I guess is is the the God works through means and so I Guess you can work through teachers as well as the spirit you get your spirit, but you also Need the team

features to help you understand certain things. I guess spirit will show you everything that you need. Don't get me wrong there.

But it's also nice to have discussions like this and to really dig in deeper than what we've actually been downloaded.

You know what I mean? I don't know if that makes sense or not.

Rick Stephenson

But- Well, I mean, God designed it. If you think about it, he said that he chose the foolishness preaching to save some, right?

We need both. need we need we we we we need fellowshipping together like this, right, to express ideas and thoughts and concerns that we have because the way that you say something could trigger something in somebody else versus the way I say it, right?

The way I say it may just go over their head or, you know, it means nothing to them, but the way you say it could all send and impact them, right?

And so we need each other in that sense. We need teachers. We need the spirit to lead and guide all of it.

He designed it that way.

Brian

a little pretty brain, but it's you know what what strikes me here is is some some see teachers as Religious you know what I'm saying and and that's where I'm kind of Having a rough time with you know, I Don't that's just me It's it's it's not necessarily Is bad as some make it out to be and when they want people they see a teacher and they're like oh religious Yeah, oh, and it's not necessarily true Right, right.

Rick Stephenson

You mean I Think of the the word He's perfected praise on the mouth of babes, right? Babes, so it's the spirit like I Prepare this lesson, but there are things that get said that I never prepared for because it's it when you open up to God And let God speak through us, you know, and we're discerning along the way.

What is it? That's some but he needs or is really needing to hear from God. You just yield to the Spirit and let God speak through you.

never know what he's going to do, right? But there's a need for that preparation so that I always equate it to having something in the wardroom, in the closet, right?

You do your study, your preparation, you put things in the closet so that when it's the right time and the right occasion, you go and pick out the tuxedo when it's time for a dinner affair.

You don't go and grab the workout shorts and the gym equipment to go to the dinner engagement because that's totally inappropriate, right?

But if you don't have them in the closet to begin with and you get the dinner invite and all you gotta work out clothes, you know, you can't go.

You've gotta put things in the closet, you've gotta be prepared, but then you gotta be open to the fact that, oh, I don't know what the invite is, it just come to the party and bring your suitcase because you know, at any moment, God's gonna switch things up and this is not a dinner party all of a sudden, it's a casual get together, you know, and now you get, pull out the sweater.

They're in the genes, you know. I mean, it's like you just got to be sensitive to whatever God is doing at the moment.

And he can use some people who've gone to theological degrees and gotten their doctorials and all that. That's awesome, right?

But sometimes that precludes a person from getting down on somebody else's level and being with relate to them. So God uses all types, right?

He uses anyone and everyone as long as they're willing and open. John, see you have your hand open. John, what do you want to say?

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Thank you. So as the Bible says in the house of the Lord, there is things made of hoo-dang and things made of bronze and so forth and so forth.

What does that one, that what teaches us? It means this. The Bible says that God can choose the people to question the mighty or the wind.

The humble to assume the mighty. which means if the Spirit of the Lord does not take over in whatever we do, we are likely to face off the channel, the flow of the Word of God.

But at the end of the day God is so righteous, it is so good because He says there is no condemnation.

This condemnation means here is that God mold us day by day. He built our salvation day by day. Our foundation of each and every person is molded with a time, with time, with time, with time at a time.

So the people God put around us that the different places that God has put into us, you see, and each and every vessel has some message of God to relay or to display, you see.

So, and God such as our arts, you see most of the time, God such as our arts, how do I see vessel A, how do I see vessel C, do I see my vessel as more cleaner than vessel D, you see.

So, when that is out then if I have that motivation then I'll go back and say God, oh I did this, didn't please you.

And that is why God say non-condemnation, so it gives us a rule for us to come back and to his modesty and then by day by day we learn from our mistakes.

And that is how the spiritual welfare, the warfare in us, we fight day by day never complete at every moment.

We learn by every beat of everything that we say, everything that we see, everything that we learn from our friends.

So when we let the spirit of God take over, the spirit of humility, you see an openness, you see, that one give us more and more and see the diversity of God has put around us and God is a God of diversity and when he gives that diversity, each and every person is a representative of God, you see.

So perhaps I can say this that we learn day by day and by day by day is when we come strong and strong by each and every moment.

So and this can only be there if we become as little children because the Bible says, unless we become the literature and the knowledge.

God it should be very hard for us to see the heavenly seas So thank you.

Rick Stephenson

That is what I hate now. Thank you John. Appreciate you sharing that. Thank you very much Agree God, there is a variety to God.

Erin Ashcraft

We're all made in his image, you know, and we're not all the same So obviously there's a huge variety in God All right, yeah runny I Was just gonna add to or say along with that Concerning the scriptures that we're talking about the true worshipers and every God I hate to even use it but in every building that you may or may not go into The regardless of what's over the door There's true worshipers and people that are not there to worship.

They're just there to gossip murmur complain or whatever They're not worshiping so they're doing something else So I think it's fair to say that Oh It's not a degrading thing say true worshipers are those in the truth

Because there is a truth. There's a truth and there's a true way of doing. Oh, I can't give you that revelation, but the Lord can.

You know, that's all I wanted to say.

Rick Stephenson

I think from what John's saying and what Rodney's saying, there's people all over walks of life in denomination, organizations, non-dominization, whatever you want to say.

There's people all over who are worshiping God because they have a genuine heart for it, right? And have a willing spirit and have the ingredients of worship that we talked about, obedience to God, humility, reverence towards Him, right?

And they come and approach Him, they communicate with Him all of that, and they put it into practice. you can do that anywhere, any place, anytime, right?

And I think that's what the heart of what we've been trying to communicate today. So I know we're an hour half into this.

We probably should wrap up. I'd love to close this with the word of prayer and any prayer requests.

Rachael Bertram

If anybody has any prayer requests. I have one for my mom. Okay. She has had stomach aneurysm for many years and she went in to get it checked again.

She does that yearly and found out she has lung cancer.

Rick Stephenson

Well, I, okay. What is her first name? Judy. Judy. You pray for her lungs for sure. Anybody else? Ronnie?

Erin Ashcraft

Yes, please be in prayer for us here in Cambria. Going into the winter months. Soon, once we all gather and discuss moving forward things that the Lord wants us all to be doing, obviously, but here at the house.

Different things, different people coming every two weeks. There's some that come that is the same. still have a few.

for the most part, God is continuously sending new people our way here. So be praying. Not only for. All avenues of it whether it be financial whatever we want God to totally take control of all this out of our hands Obviously, we have to prep and prepare but we need prayer Not as much for direction.

I think we kind of know the direction we're headed in Kindly but more so on the every two week basis on what we need to do sometimes It's just like it's like that wedding bag with you plan and prepare Sometimes people don't show up at all nobody we've prepared meals and different things of preparation Only to have nobody show up and then the next time we have 30 people and we're like we're under prepared So this direction and how to make that flow sure okay Definitely and I see Victoria's per request for her families and with god to take over in 2024 definitely victoria Anybody else

Rick Stephenson

Okay, let's go ahead and pray. Lord Jesus, I thank You for this time together. thank You for my friends and those who were able to participate.

God, I just pray that You take the word that we've learned today, the things that we've encountered and help us put them into practice.

You've shown us, Lord, what it truly means to worship in obedience, the humility, the reverence to communicate with You, to be willing to approach You, God.

Help us to realize we can do that anywhere, anytime that You deserve it. You deserve the glory. You deserve the honor.

God, we're all on that journey as we've talked about. Help us to grow. Help us to develop, especially in 2024 as we seek You in greater depth and greater purpose.

Bless our families. Bless the Year ahead. Give us direction. Give us insight as Rodney said, Lord, where we need to know what it is.

for the things that you bring our way. Help us to know what to do with the resources you send our way.

And God let there be miracles, signs, and wonders, especially for Judy Lord. We lift her up that you would touch her lungs.

You'd expand them and remove the cancerous cells that you'd eradicate those cells from her body. you'd give her energy and strength and leave her closer to you, God.

that those around her who see the miraculous hand of God upon her would be drawn to you, Jesus, because of your love and your compassion, because of your power, Lord.

God, we're all examples. We all want to be examples, Lord. Help us with our words, help us with our actions, help us with our hearts, to get them all right, to get them in sync with worshiping you.

I pray for a blessing upon all those that are here, that those who are attended, Lord, that they'd be able to take this out into the vineyard, Lord, and be able to sow and be able to draw others to you because of their life and because of their willingness to know you.

Give them words. Give them encouragement, them hope, give them strength. you God for all your blessings, for your Holy Spirit.

We give you glory, we give you praise. We honor you Lord in Jesus' name. Thank you everybody. Have a great rest of the weekend, and we'll see you in two weeks.

Rosemary’s iPad

Thank you.

Rachael Bertram

Thank you. Happy New Year. Happy New Year. Happy New