

## True Worshipers!

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*Father, this evening, we just come to You. I speak Your peace into every heart. My peace I leave with You," is what You said, Lord. The Psalmist says, "Be still and know that I am God." I pray, tonight, we put aside everything else, all the concerns of life, all the worries of life, everything at Your feet. Teach us to be still in Your presence that we might hear Your voice, what You have for us tonight, O Lord. For the entrance of Your Word brings light and Your Word is life. We come for life and we have come for light. Speak to us this evening. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

For those of you who weren't there, I hope you manage to listen to the message on the net. We continue from where we stopped on Sunday. I'll just give you a brief recap on what we looked at on Sunday morning is how, like tomorrow is an event for which two young people were preparing for years. We prepare for so many events in life – from marriage to child birth, to jobs, to a new home, for all kind of things we prepare but none of those things are certain. There is no guarantee you could get married. There is no guarantee that if you get married, you could have kids. There is no guarantee you could have a job and hold on to a job. There is no guarantee if you have a job, you could earn enough to buy a home. There are no guarantees. But there is one event that is guaranteed by God – one event. It is not something negative; it is something for God's children very positive. In *Hebrews 9:27*, it says,

### **Hebrews 9:27**

**<sup>27</sup> And as it is appointed** (It's an appointment no one can miss unless you are there when He actually comes. No one can miss – from Adam down to the last man. It's an appointment no one can miss. It's appointed) ***for men to die once, but after this the judgment,***

So, there goes every other idea about rebirth and migration of souls and all. We all die once and straight away the next phase is judgment. So, technically speaking, God is very clear – nobody can prepare for death because nobody knows when it comes. And all the preparations people make for death is actually for those who are alive. The one who is dead doesn't care where he is buried, what clothes he wears, what is the nature of the coffin, how many people where there for the procession. He doesn't care. It is the living who cares for all this. So, you cannot actually prepare for death but you can actually prepare for what follows death. It is judgment and the entire purpose of the Church for those people who are saved in Christ is to prepare for the judgment that will follow death. Amos to Israel will say, "Prepare to meet your maker. O Israel, prepare to meet your maker." One of the ways we prepare to meet our Maker is to know the Judge. It is not the same in the world. In the world, we need to know the law. Nobody cares who the judge is but in the Kingdom of God, knowing the law is not enough because the law and the Law Giver are one. In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word was God. So, it is not enough to know the Word of God, we also need to know the God of the Word. In *Romans 14:11-12*, Scripture says,

### **Romans 14:11-12**

**<sup>11</sup> For it is written: "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God."** **<sup>12</sup> So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.**

Everybody, individually, personally will give an account to God. In the Gospel according to John, Jesus says this in *John 5:22*; He says,

### **John 5:22**

**<sup>22</sup> For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,**

He won't judge anyone. All judgment has been committed to the Son. The Father, in His wisdom, has committed all judgment to the Son. The only one who was Man and who was God. He has committed it to the Son. We also know from Jesus, He says on that day, He says, "I will not judge you; the word you have heard will judge you." That's why God says, ignorance is a terrible thing. He says actually through the prophet Hosea, "*My people perish because of lack of knowledge.*" One of the fundamental things when we gather in God's house, the teaching of the Word is so that we acquire knowledge because we need knowledge to know how on that day, we will all stand before God and we can stand with clean hands and

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with a work that will come through fire but knowledge alone is not enough. We need understanding because we don't understand the Scripture, then we cannot apply it. Scripture talks about knowledge, it talks about understanding and with understanding we need how to apply it in daily situations which is called 'wisdom'. So, these three put together, we reach the truth about any situation and Jesus said, "*I am the truth.*" Every situation, people will have many opinions but there is only one truth and that truth is Jesus. Jesus said, "I am the truth." That is the only power that can set is free in any situation. Jesus said, "The truth will set you free." In *John 17:17*, Jesus will pray and He will pray over us and His disciple, saying,

### **John 17:17**

<sup>17</sup> ***Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.***

Sanctify means set apart for a holy use. All God's children are positionally set apart for a holy use and God says, "Sanctify them by Your truth, Your Word is truth." In *John 16:13*, He says,

### **John 16:13**

<sup>13</sup> ***However, when He, the Spirit of truth, (That is the Holy Spirit. He's called the Spirit of Truth. when he) has come, He will guide you into all truth;***

Now, the Holy Spirit here is called the Spirit of truth. So, there is the Word of truth and there is the Spirit of truth. Why is this important, because the reason is Paul will say in the letter to the Corinthians, in *2 Corinthians 3:6*, he says,

### **2 Corinthians 3:6**

<sup>6</sup> ***who also made us sufficient as ministers of the New Covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.***

The letter kills but the Spirit gives life. We need both. Without the letter, the Spirit won't operate but if you only have the letter if the law, it will kill. That's what happened when Moses comes. When Moses brings the law, it is the letter of the law and it kills but when Jesus comes, He comes with grace and with truth. The Spirit comes which gives life. We don't want the letter alone. So, *John 1:17* says,

### **John 1:17**

<sup>17</sup> ***For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.***

That's the power of the Holy Spirit, that's where the Spirit comes, and truth came through Jesus Christ. So, we need both. So, if we don't know the letter of the law, the Spirit cannot help us in our situations.

When we were classroom teachers before we came into ministry, one of the fundamental things which we tell student but students don't do, on how to prepare for exam, is know your text but kids don't do the text. They study the guides. So, if they see a question in the exam, they see a question paper and the words in it was never in the guide, they don't know what the answer is. The reason is, they never knew their text. So, if the Spirit has to give us light into any situation, we need to know the text. Every other book is fine but this is The Book and millions upon millions of Christians just wade through life without realizing there is an appointment and at the end of the appointment is that there is an incredible judgment and the judgment will be based upon how we allow the Spirit to operate on this text which we heard and without the text the Spirit will not operate. That's what you've seen. *Jesus came with grace and truth.* This is important because in comparison with eternity, our life, the young man and the young lady who are getting ready to get married, they may think like Jacob, years were just like few days but this entire life in terms of eternity is like a few moments. That's what Paul says, Momentary. James will say we are like vapor, here today; gone tomorrow in the light of eternity and eternity is what matters and everything in life is a preparation for that day and for that life and in eternity, there is no time. So, we need to understand from Scripture, what is that, the God of all flesh looking for from us, His children. The judgment for the people and the judgement for the Church is different. The first thing is Scripture says, "Books are opened!" When we stand before Jesus, Scripture says, "Books are opened," and then, there is another book called 'the admission register' – the Book of life, the Lamb's Book of life. If our name is in the Lamb's Book of life, that judgment is different. If your name is not there in the Lamb's Book of life, that judgment is different. It is a judgment of condemnation. If your name is in the Book of life, then

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your judgment is for rewards or no rewards. So, Books are opened. So, the first thing is to see that our name is in the Lamb's Book of life.

And two, we saw on Sunday if it is there, to see that it is not blotted out. To one Church, Jesus says, "If you overcome, I will see your name is not blotted out." Meaning – do not take your salvation for granted, never. That's why Paul will say, "Work out your salvation with fear and with trembling." So, we look at this Judge. What is this Judge looking for? Because we are not looking at the law, we are also looking at the Judge. When we stand before God, what were you looking for in me, in life. That's why Jesus said, Jesus puts it in different ways. In one place, He will say, "*Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.*" He says, "This is the most important." In another place, Paul will say, we saw on Sunday, in *Galatians 5:6*,

### **Galatians 5:6**

***<sup>6</sup> For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.***

So, when you put all these things together, we understand what is the priority for God, for us in the Kingdom of God. Three times in the New Covenant, God will say, "*My righteous shall live by faith.*" And in *Hebrews 11:6*, Scripture will say, "It is impossible to please God without faith." I'm just going through fundamentals before we get into the word and then, Scripture says, "*Faith comes from hearing and hearing from the Word of God.*" So, all these things are important because we need to please God. It is only possible through faith.

Then, the scary verse we saw on Sunday from *1 Corinthians 13:1-3* incredibly scary for those who know God's power in their lives.

### **1 Corinthians 13:1-3**

***<sup>1</sup> Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.***

You are empty!

***<sup>2</sup> And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.***

Now, ministry of power. God says, "You are nothing if you have no love." Then He says, "Sacrifice!"

***<sup>3</sup> And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned,[a] but have not love, it profits me nothing.***

Meaning – you can do all these things without love and God says, "On the day of judgment, it will mean nothing. All your works will be burnt up by fire on that judgment day." You will come in just with your salvation alone. That's why I said, "The way you prepare is by knowing." What does God seek from us? So, we need to find out – how do I please this God? How do I please this Judge? We seek to know Him, we seek to know His will so that we can do it which we know involves surrender each day.

That is the battle we face but tonight, we are looking at another concept. These are primary concepts that will define all our eternity. Whether you are in the Book of life or not. Let us look at those whose name are in the Book of life and I pray all our names are in the Book of life. Only if our names are there in the Book of life, when we read this, either from *Genesis to Malachi* or from *Romans to Revelation*, it will make sense, Otherwise, it is just information for it is written for those who are in the Kingdom. So, we will see on a very hot, probably hot summer afternoon, a very tired savior and an ostracized woman cast out from her society is having a very animated conversation sitting beside a well in Samaria. We all know the story of a Samaritan woman but the savior and this woman having a very interesting conversation and of all topics, they are talking about worship and you will see in that conversation, Jesus defines worship, actually redefines what worship is. In *John 4:20-24*,

### **John 4:20-24**

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<sup>20</sup> *Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.*  
<sup>21</sup> *Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup> God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*

So, Jesus tells us something over there. The Father is seeking for a set of people. The primary purpose of salvation is – God is seeking for a set of people who will worship Him. He's seeking worshippers. The primary call of a believer is to be a true worshipper. We will see the Samaritan woman confused worship with a place. Like we will say, "Where are you going?" "I'm going to the mid-week worship service." He says, "You worship something which you do not know," He said. How do we understand worship? Jesus said, "True worshippers will worship in spirit." Worship is one of the most misunderstood words in the Church, not in the Bible. If you study the Bible, you will get what it, what it means but in the Church, worship is one of the most misunderstood word. Worship come from an ancient English Word called worth-ship where we are proclaiming God's worth, His dignity, His honor. One of the tricks of the devil is not to replace the best with bad but to replace the best with something that is good, so that we don't understand the difference. That's what He is telling the woman, "You have restricted worship to a place." So, we prepare for Sunday Worship, we prepare for all kinds of worship and we call the Church also Sunday worship service. Jesus said, "Worship is a lifestyle, it is not restricted to two hours in Church." It is a life. The first time 'worship' is used in the Bible, it is used by Abraham when he takes his son to mount Moriah to offer him as a sacrifice. He tells the servants, "*Stay here at the bottom of the mountain, I and my son will go up, worship the Lord and come back.*" The next time you hear about worship is before a wedding. When Eliezer has gone all the way to look bride for Isaac, he prays and then exactly according to his prayer, the girl comes out then he asks this question, it is according to his prayer, then he goes and ask the family, they also answer. So, three times Scripture will say that, "When he finds he's successful in finding a girl, he worshipped." We confuse worship with something which is actually not what the world talks about, worship involves an entire life and Scripture says, "God is seeking worshippers." The last mention of worship is in the final chapter of the Bible in *Revelation 22*, when the Lord says, "I come quickly!" John falls at his feet and he says, "No, please. I am just like you another creature, worship only God." That's the last time worship is used in the Bible and the only place worship is used with singing is only once in the Bible in a Psalm. Nowhere else in the Bible is worship and singing used together. Okay, we confuse worship with singing though singing is part of worship. So, remember the two laws that govern everything. When a lawyer asks Jesus, "What are the great laws?" And Jesus asked him, "What do you say?" He said, "Love your God with all your heart, all your mind and all your strength. And love your neighbor as yourself." We call it as the two hinges on which the door of the law hangs. Jesus says, "The entire law and the prophets hang on these two – love God with all your heart, and love your neighbor as yourself." The first law is worship. The second law is fellowship. But your worship should govern your fellowship, not your fellowship your worship." The first law, love God with all your heart, should always determine law number two. But in so many Christians' lives, law number two determines law number one. "Why do you go to that Church?" "Because all my friends go there." "Why do you go to this Church?" "Because it's so close to my house." We don't realize often we make our choices about how to worship God by law number two and not law number one. That's where truth comes in.. But truth alone is not enough.

We look at worship tonight. Even a bad attitude will be unacceptable in worship. Scripture, if you study carefully, says, "Worship is anything that we do that gives God pleasure." Anything you do if God is pleased, He is happy, that is worship. Anything you and I do bring God glory, that is worship. And the truth worshipper, the one absolute true worshipper who walked on earth all the days of his life, that was Jesus. Look at how Jesus describes His walk. In *John 8:29*, He says,

### John 8:29

<sup>29</sup> *And He who sent Me is with Me.* (Reason:) *The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.*

Lot of people say, "I never feel the presence of God." Simple thing – do the things that please God. You will always feel His presence. He says, "Father has never left Me." Why? "I choose to do the things that please Him." So, Jesus pleased God. That was His act of worship. Everything He did, He pleased God.

Second thing He says towards the end,

**John 17:4**

***<sup>4</sup> I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.***

"I've not only pleased You in My work, I've also brought you glory by the way I have worked." That's the true worshipper. He brings God pleasure. He brings God glory. It is to that we are called. God's children are called to bring God pleasure and God glory. Jesus had an unbroken fellowship with the Father. Like I said, this should be the objective in our life. That's the reason we come to the Church to study. That's why about Enoch nothing is mentioned. The second person mentioned, *Hebrews 11*, nothing is mentioned in the Bible other than the fact that He walked with God. He walked. His work is not mentioned at all. What did he do? We don't know. But we know this man brought glory and pleasure to God. In *Genesis 5* Scripture says,

**Genesis 5:24**

***<sup>24</sup> And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.***

He was a true worshipper. He walked with God. He pleased God. He brought God glory and God said, "I'm taking you." In *Hebrews 11: 5-6*, it explains to us.

**Hebrews 11:5-6**

***<sup>5</sup> By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for (Reason) before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. <sup>6</sup> But without faith it is impossible to please Him...***

For everybody who is waiting for rapture or rather capture, let me tell you, the first one was taken alive was Enoch. The reason he was taken alive, because he pleased God. He was a worshipper all the days of his life from the time he knew God. He walked with Him and he pleased Him. And God took him alive.

***...for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.***

Scripture does not say, everybody will be raptured. He was the seventh from Adam and he was the only one taken. The other one was taken alive was Elijah. You will realize, Elijah was separated from Elisha by fire. Chariots of fire and horses of fire. Fire separated them and took. So, Enoch walked with God and pleased God. Our lives ultimately have to please God and bring Him glory. Tomorrow, we will not talk about worship. Today is worship. We will talk about the closest relationship you have on earth – it is a man and his wife – it's fellowship. But today, it's about worship. On earth, the closest relationship is marriage. But in the New Covenant, because God is raising true worshippers, even marriage should arise out of worship and should not deflect worship. All married couples, marriage should not deflect worship. Marriage is basically about fellowship. It should not deflect. Marriage is rule number two, not rule number one. Therefore, in *1 Corinthians 7*, Paul says,

**1 Corinthians 7:32-34**

***<sup>32</sup> But I want you to be without care. He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord—how he may please the Lord. <sup>33</sup> But he who is married cares about the things of the world—how he may please his wife.***

He says, "You see, be very careful! Marriage can deflect your worship from pleasing God to pleasing man." So, your marriage should be defined by your worship if you believe I marry this person and that person is going to take me further away from God. God says, "Be careful! On that day, you will be asked how did you worship Me?" To the woman, he says,

***<sup>34</sup> There is a difference between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman cares about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But she who is married cares about the things of the world—how she may please her husband.***

Even in marriage, worship should define fellowship. That's why God says, "Do not be unequally yoked with an unbeliever because it will affect your worship, not fellowship. If doesn't affect your fellowship. It affects your worship. Jesus puts it this way. He puts it in a different way. In *Matthew 19:10-12*, He says,

**Matthew 19:10-12**

<sup>10</sup> *His disciples said to Him, "If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry.* (Eric this is not for you. Okay. Don't get upset okay? Chill.) <sup>11</sup> *But He said to them, "All cannot accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given:* (And then what does He say?) <sup>12</sup> *For there are eunuchs who were born thus from their mother's womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men (forcibly), and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake.* (They spiritually decided, "I am a eunuch, set apart for God. I'm not going to let anything deflect me from my worship.) *He who is able to accept it, let him accept it.*

So even here, fellowship is put on the altar of worship. Paul will say through the spirit about worship. Paul will put it this way.

**1 Corinthians 10:31**

<sup>31</sup> *Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, (Suddenly people are thinking, now how do I go home and eat.) do all to the glory of God.*

Eat or drink – such common denominators. Eat and drink. But did we see that as an act of worship? Did we see that as an act of fellowship? The two laws – love God and love your neighbor. Did we see eating and drinking as an act of worship? does this bring glory? Do we glorify God through this? We know from the *Book of Daniel* and *Daniel 1:8*, the first decision he makes, is about eating.

**Daniel 1:8**

<sup>8</sup> *Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank;*

The first thing was an act of worship – I will not defile my body with what I eat or drink, because it will affect my relationship with God. And what about fellowship?

In *Romans 14:19-21*, Scripture says,

**Romans 14:19-21**

<sup>19</sup> *Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.* <sup>20</sup> *Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are pure, but it is evil for the man who eats with offense.* <sup>21</sup> *It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak.*

He says, "Don't let your eating or drinking not affect your worship or fellowship." So worship or fellowship is more than conversation. It is more than singing. It is a life. When it comes to work, work is not worship. But work is an act of worship. How you prepare to do it and how you do it. In *Ephesians 6:5*, this is what Paul says,

**Ephesians 6:5-7**

<sup>5</sup> *Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;*

All of you, tomorrow may be not, but Friday everybody will go to work. God says, "How do you go to work? Do you see this is your real boss that when you go to work it is an act of worship."

<sup>6</sup> *not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart* (He says, it's the way you work and the attitude of your heart) <sup>7</sup> *with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men* <sup>8</sup> *knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.*

God is our real employer. He says, "Did you see your work as an act of worship?" We don't need supervisors. We don't need cameras. We don't need people to watch over us, because we should know whom we are serving. And it doesn't matter Jesus could serve anybody to whom His Father sent Him. It could be a Samaritan woman, a crippled man lying beside a pool

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for thirty eight years, a rich ruler, a demon-possessed man. It didn't matter who it was. For Him, His work was an act of worship. Joseph didn't need supervisors in Egypt. That's why Scripture says, God was with Him, because of the way he worked. We want God to intervene in our workplaces when there is trouble. But we don't actually want God to be with us at our workplace because then, he will convict us of all the coffee breaks we take and the conversations we have. But Scripture says, at both his workplaces – Potiphar's palace and the prison, God was with him. Both his supervisors and owners, Potiphar and the jail warden, said, "We don't need to supervise." Because he looked at his work as an act of worship to God. Another thing, it's not just how you work. Scripture will talk about being excellent in what is good. Everybody goes to workplace, you do one thing – God says, "Try to be the best in what you do."

To preachers Paul will tell through Timothy in 2 *Timothy* 2:15,

### **2 Timothy 2:15**

**<sup>15</sup> Be diligent (Timothy) to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

Why is there so much confusion in Churches? Because we have incredibly sloppy men of God who don't work on the work. They pick all their stuff from all the books and the Internet and not from the text, the teacher – the Spirit of God. You can use all of these people but they are not the primary text. Paul is telling Timothy, "Be excellent. You need to be approved of God, not to man. Man will say what a wonderful preacher. He made me feel so good." Paul says, "That's not the point. You need to be approved of God. He is the final judge. Be the best you can be in the way you work and in the way you can excel in your work." Because so many Christians, sadly, we have the word in Hindi. We have a lot of Hindi speaking people today – Kamchors. Honestly, it's a shame the way we work. It's a shame to Christ, because we do not see that our work is an act of worship. Even if it is something small that you do in the Kingdom of God. It doesn't matter what your profession God has chosen for you like we heard on Sunday, education is just a tool. Just a tool. This is the core text. Result is not in your hand. Effort is in our hand. Our problem is – we want results without efforts. Results without effort. There are no menial chores in heaven. "Whatever you do," Scripture says, "do it for the glory of God." Martin Luther said, "A handmaiden can milk cows to God's glory." And we would never think about milking cows as something great. That's what Martin Luther said who began reformation. A maid can milk cows for God's glory. We know about Brother Laurens who wrote that incredible classic. He was just a monk. All he did was wash dishes. But he found his joy in worshiping God in washing the dishes. That was his job. And from those experiences he wrote a book and four hundred years later, still thousands and thousands of men read and find closeness with God. He said this – "We ought not to be weary of doing little things for the love of God who regards not the greatness of the work, but the love with which it is performed. Be excellent. Do it because you love Him. Do it in love." That's where the next thing comes. The next thing Jesus tells the woman in *John 4* is, God is Spirit. We need to worship Him in spirit. Now it's not capital 'S', it is small 's'. God is Spirit and we have to worship in spirit. That's very important what Jesus is saying. In the spirit, meaning, God says, "Your attitude matters. You may be an excellent worker in your workplace but your attitude might stink." God says, "The spirit with which you work", because why? *Hebrews 4:12-13* says this.

### **Hebrews 4:12-13**

**<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. <sup>13</sup> And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.**

Everything is laid bare. Your supervisor, or your teacher or your prof is only able to see your outside work. But God is watching your spirit, the attitude with which we work. He sees all that we can hide from man, what cannot be hidden from God. God says, "If you have to worship Me, you have to worship Me in your spirit." That hidden part has to be right; meaning – if someone is bitter, or angry or stubborn or rebellious and we can add many, you cannot worship God in the spirit. It is unacceptable. That's why the first question after an act of worship God asks outside the Garden is, "Why are you angry?" Here, you are worshipping and you are angry. Did Abel see he was angry? No. Abel thought Anna is standing here. Bhaiyya, is standing here. He had no clue. He must have been even smiling. But Jesus looks into Cain's heart and says, "Why are you angry?" God says, "Your attitude stinks. It's not acceptable in worship." It can be completely hidden from the eyes of man. May be successfully for years together like Ahithophel did in Jerusalem. He successfully hid. Nobody had a clue what he had in his heart but his work was excellent to the point where people thought when he gave counsel God was speaking.

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But his heart, nobody saw. God said, "You cannot worship Me like that. Your spirit matters." Listen to what Paul tells the *Colossians'* Church. He says,

### **Colossians 3:22**

<sup>22</sup> ***Bondservants,***(like he called the Ephesians ) ***obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart,*** (Your employer doesn't see your heart. He only sees your work. But God is looking at your heart,) ***fearing God.*** <sup>23</sup> ***And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men***

Let it come from your heart. Do it heartily. Do it cheerfully. God doesn't like grumpy people in workplaces because it's not worship. It mars worship. Let there be singleness, because you're working unto the Lord and not to men.

<sup>24</sup> ***knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.***

Because on that day, you will say, "Lord, I did all this." He will say, "Yeah, but you had such a terrible attitude in your workplace. So, I cannot reward you." Lord, I did all this. I have all my resumes and all the trophies, my company gave. God says, "You already got your reward on earth. That was eyeservice, but I'm going to judge your heart. Your heart was not right." Our spirit has to be right. So, it doesn't matter what we may go through in life. Our work is towards God. And God is always good. We says in Church, "God is good." Everybody says, "All the time." Then, why are you grumpy? "No. My husband is not good." But I thought you were serving God and not your husband. "No, my boss." I thought you were serving God and not your boss. Suddenly, we realize whom we were serving and their attitude affected us when God says, "Worship is serving God in all situations because He's always good." And He's always worthy to be praised. Because we are people who have read the end of the book. We know how the story ends. That's why the words of Habakkuk are so powerful. In Habakkuk's time, everything was looking bleak and depressing. In American English, Habakkuk would say, "Life sucks." But look at what he actually says,

### **Habakkuk 3:17-18**

<sup>17</sup> ***Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls—*** <sup>18</sup> ***Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.***

Everything has failed. That doesn't mean I need to have a nasty attitude. I'm still going to rejoice. I still am going to sing. I still am going to glorify God. It's not going to affect my spirit. That's why those who are the GTC WhatsApp group, you get the daily readings from the underground persecuted Churches around the world and you see their attitude. Their attitude does not attitude. They are in chains. They are put in containers. They're in underground prisons, but you will see them serving God cheerfully where finally their captors, prison wardens, security guards, ultimately, come to know Christ by just seeing the way these people work for them. It was worshipping Christ. And they are okay with it. Not only okay with it, they do it heartily. That's why about David God says, "That man guarded his spirit. Always guarded his spirit." You know Saul chased David for ten years at least. Ten years. But he never let that affect his spirit. When it talks about love, I will tell you. This is connected with this. Most of us do not even know what love is, because for us love is picked up from songs, music, movies, books, Millis and Boon, Barbara Cartland and all that. That's not love. Love is defined by what God is, because God is love. And love is shown by God.

1 *Corinthians* 13:4 (only the first one) Scripture says,

### **1 Corinthians 13:4**

<sup>4</sup> ***Love suffers long and is kind;***

You don't see that in movies. Love suffers long and is kind. It's an incredibly unjust world we live in and it will only get worse as each day passes by and we will suffer if we choose to love. But God says, "Be kind." We don't understand this what Jesus is actually talking about. Listen to what Jesus says.

### **Matthew 5:43-45**

<sup>43</sup> *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,<sup>45</sup> that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.*

It's actually till verse 48. Here it talks about a different kind of a love. Can I have the next few verses please?

**Matthew 5:46-48**

<sup>46</sup> *For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? <sup>48</sup> Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.*

Especially in India, let me explain to you. When we think about our enemies, God says, "Love your enemies." When we think about enemies, "Oh! enemies are those who are burning our Churches and persecuting Christians." No. Do you know them? Do you recognize any face? Do you know their names? No. They are not our enemies. Now, when you think about an enemy. The first face that comes – the person you don't like. The person you don't actually like. May be in your office or your family. That's your enemy. God says, "Love them." They are the only ones who have the capacity to make you suffer. The fellow who puts a saffron flag on some Church in North India doesn't make you suffer. The fellow who is in your house every day or in your office has the capacity to make you suffer. And God says, "Be kind. Be kind to them. That's the test." The ones whom we actually dislike. God didn't say you have to like everybody. He says, "You have to love everybody." The one you cannot stand. God says, "Can you be kind to them?" David was to Saul. Saul didn't like David. Saul chased David all the days of his life. But every opportunity David got to harm Saul, he was kind. He suffered long under Saul but he was always kind to Saul. And he was kind even after Saul's death. Once he was king and in control of everything, one of his first statements are – is anybody left from Saul's house to whom I can show some kindness? That's what God is talking about. Can you be kind to your maidservants, all the ammas here? Those who come late. "O! My maid! Every day, she makes me suffer. Every day, I'm late." God says, "Can you be kind? Because you don't know her story." You can deal with issues without being unkind. God is always kind. That's what Scripture says, "He makes the rain to fall on the just as righteous as the unrighteous." He doesn't kill the wicked. He doesn't say, "Rain fall only where the believers are staying, okay? Only their paddy fields should be green." No. He doesn't say that. He's kind to everybody. God says, "Can we be kind?" He was even kind to Absalom his son who overthrew him and humiliated him. No king will take someone like that who rebels and chases him out of the city and takes over the throne. Look at his words.

**2 Samuel 18:5**

<sup>5</sup> *Now the king had commanded Joab, Abishai, and Ittai, saying, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom." And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains orders concerning Absalom.*

Very kind. He's taken my throne. He's taken my city. He's humiliated me by taking ten of my wives. Be kind to him for my sake. See, there are many many excellent workers in the Kingdom of God and in the world. Many of them have a very bad temperament. Their spirit is not right. That's why in *1 Peter 3*, Scripture says, what is of incredible value in God's sight,

**1 Peter 3:4**

<sup>4</sup> *rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.*

Very precious. That's why it says, true worshippers have to worship God in spirit, not just truth alone. In spirit. Cain was angry. Naomi was bitter. King Saul was stubborn. Absalom was rebellious. See, all these people, all this was in their spirit. Absalom was a rebel who covered it up very well. As such, he had incredible looks and a flawless complexion. Unbelievable hair. There were no advertisements those days. Otherwise, he would have been model number one. His heart nobody saw. Do you know how he did it?

**2 Samuel 15:5-6**

**<sup>5</sup> And so it was, whenever anyone came near to bow down to him, that he would put out his hand and take him and kiss him. <sup>6</sup> In this manner Absalom acted toward all Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.**

As it is, he is a good-looking dude. On top of that, he is so nice with everybody – the king's son and he stole their hearts; but in his heart, he doesn't care for any one of them. All he wants is the throne. Outward actions are fantastic; heart is the different matter; God says, "You have to worship Me in your spirit. If your spirit is not right, then it is not acceptable. God didn't receive any one of these people." Cain was angry. Therefore, he wandered all his life and went into darkness. Naomi was bitter. So, who was the kinsman redeemer?" Boaz was the kinsman redeemer. Her kinsman redeemer; because she was bitter, God overlooked her and picked a Moabite girl who had a meek and a gentle spirit. The kingdom was stripped from Saul because he was stubborn and his end – is stubborn head was hanged on a Gentile wall. Absalom's end – he was hanging there between heaven and earth; his head is caught in the tree; or rather, his hair is caught in the tree; Matthew Henry, very poetically, says this, "He hung between heaven and earth, unworthy of either; earth would not keep him, heaven would not take him. Hell, therefore, opened her mouth to receive him because spirit was not right." And God says, "True worshippers worship Me in spirit." Watch your spirit. Whatever the job you do, whatever it is, God says, "Watch you spirit, because I am watching your spirit."

Then, worship in truth. You know what it means? If somebody were to come and tell me, "Pastor James is the best cricketer I have met in the world," should I get flattered? Is that true? It's not true. Sorry; you don't have to be sorry, it is true. Okay, when you say, "Jesus is the Lord of my life," is it true? Is that true? God says, "You have to worship Me in spirit, good attitude and also, in truth." So, can you really be honest before God and say, "You know, Lord, I wanted You to be Lord of my life; most of my life, I am not letting You in." God says, "When you come and sing and all these incredible songs, 'I surrender all'," God says, "Is this true? You are worshiping, but is it true?" So, is our worship true? God is not saying, we all become that in one day; but God is saying, "Be true. Be honest." That's why He is looking at two people who is praying and one is a man who is giving God his testimony, "I am not like him." The other guy who doesn't even lift his head, he says, "I am like this." God says, "You know what? That guy is true. Yet, he has nothing, not one good thing to say about himself." God says, "He is true." We think when we come to God, it's like we going to a marriage or an office, "Sir, I did this." This is the way we go to God, God says, "No, you are not true. Just be true. So many, sadly, around the world, struggle with this. Look into what Jesus said, in *Matthew 15*,

#### **Matthew 15:7-9**

**<sup>7</sup> Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: <sup>8</sup> 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honour Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. <sup>9</sup> And in vain they worship Me, (their worship, their worship is vain, it's not true; why?) teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'**

So many things so many Churches follow has got nothing to do with the Word of God. And they use those commands to worship God. God says, "Your worship is vain." It's not true. There are many worship leaders here. So many worship leaders here today. Worship leaders, when they worship, they say a lot of things – is it true? Does it stand on Word of God?

God is not looking for perfection; God is looking for honesty, He is looking for honest people. And that man, the tax-collector was very honest; God says, "You go in peace. You are justified." Because I am looking for people who are true. Because what I am looking for? I am looking for people who will worship me, true worshippers in their work place; true worshippers at home; true worshippers at Church; every place in their spirit and when it comes to the Word, they are true. Many of the things which we believe, are they true? Because the problem is so many things, the problem with today's believers, the past fifty years' believers, the Christians, I am talking about believers, their faith is generated from books other than the Bible. Fifty years back there were no books; hardly anything available. And if it were available, they were really good, because they were written by men of God. But today, it is so much available. Most people have no clue who these people are. When you read Watchman Nee, when you read Martin Lloyd Jones, when you reach C.S. Lewis, when you read all these greats; you know who they are. When you read, you know this man and his book, they are one. Today, we don't know, and we do not test it with the Word, and we take it and we believe, it is true. And God says, "It is not true." Everything has to be tested. Test is what the *Thessalonians 5:21*; he will say,

#### **Thessalonians 5:21**

<sup>21</sup> ***Test all things;***

Everything has to be tested. Everything. Anything you hear has to be tested with this, and for that to be tested, you need to know your text very well. That's what Scripture says. Those who are interested in the text, what does John say? The anointing will teach you. Those who are not interested in the text, anointing doesn't teach you. The anointing is not for the interpretation of 'Your Best Life Now' written by Joel Osteen. No, the anointing is for the Bible; Yes, it's for the Bible. The anointing is for those truly searching the Word to find the God of the Word. The anointing is for them. There, Scripture says, the anointing will teach and you can be confident; you don't have to be ashamed. On the Day of Judgement, you can be absolutely sure, because you have been taught and your spirit was right. The anointing is not for the other stuff. So, when we hear stuff, we need to test it with this. Because only thing over and over Jesus warns in the last days is about deception. And deception comes and people are deceived only because they do not know the truth. Those who know the truth cannot be deceived. The only way you can guard your heart against deception is not by studying what is false, but by studying what is true. You see a two-thousand rupee note; I see a two-thousand rupee note; they look the same; but the banker who was sitting over there; when he is counting he suddenly stops and he takes it out. Why did he? Because he is being counting all his life, when one doesn't feel like the others he knows it is fake. He has experienced the true one for years and years together. When one fake thing touches his skin, he is able to know the difference. Then he picks the ultra-violate and says, "This is gone." And your money is gone because he doesn't give it back. We know. We guard ourselves by studying the truth over and over and over again so, that God teaches it to us so that when the fake comes, it doesn't matter how close it is to the truth; it is written. The devil told to Jesus, "It is written 'jump and you shall...'" And Jesus says, "You know what? It is also written." Most of us, if the devil; we wouldn't even know it was devil, when we hear him say, "It is written," we say, "Halleluiah, Lord. I got my Word for today." God would say, "Halleluiah, son, you did not know My word today?" You wouldn't even know because we don't know the text. Why is this important? Because this life is just like a vapour; one day, eternity begins and we don't realize all of us carrying one text that will define eternity for all of us. This is the book that will define.

Jesus said, "On that day, I will not judge you." Let's say Peter; Peter, you are just an example. Peter is standing before the God about to give an account suddenly, among all the books, his Bible will also land there. That Bible will open and that is very new. "Peter, how many years did you have it?" Twenty years. "Some pages haven't been open at all. Do you have any defence, your book is speaking?" Suddenly, he realizes that this book has a voice and that book speaks. "Yes, Lord. I was with him all these years. He never opened it. He brought it beautifully to Church every year to show everybody else but when he went home he never opened me. He never read me. He never asked you, "Lord, what this means?" He never asked you, "Lord. Read me, Lord." Critics say the Word of God is a mirror where you really see who you are. It shows you. "Never did any of those things Lord" That is what *Revelations 20* says, "*Books will be opened.*" You could do the absolutely good things with a wrong spirit; it's not worship. That is why Jesus told about the Pharisees, "Learn from them but do not be like them." Learn from them. They are fantastic teachers of the Word but the spirit is totally messed up. Don't be like them. Naomi's spirit is absolutely bitter but she knew the Word, Ruth learns from her. "Mummy, what should I do" "Do this, do this, do this ..." but she did not take her spirit. Listen to her Word. God redeemed her. You could do the exact right thing and your spirit could be wrong. It's not acceptable to God. Your spirit could be absolutely right and you could do the wrong thing because you did not know the Word. Absolutely! "Look at David. Oh man! This guy loves God. All the *Psalms 70, 76*, half of them written by this worshipper and he is now king and he has got one desire to bring the ark to the city. He has a gala celebration. He and thirty thousand soldiers – new cart, oxen and everything. The Ark is coming in a great procession in the city of Jerusalem. People are singing and dancing. Everybody is happy except God. Is there anything wrong with the spirit? No! Absolutely clear spirit. Then Scripture says that the oxen stumble, the ark slipped, Uzzah put forward his hand and he is dead. David doesn't know what happened. Then, he enquires and found out that is not the way to take the Ark. God has said very clearly in the word, "My Ark shall be carried on the shoulders of the anointed priests and nobody else". His spirit was good but his ways were not according to the Word. Therefore, his worship was not acceptable. Are we getting the picture? God says, "Put this true." God is looking for a set of true worshippers who will worship God in spirit and in truth. So, test everything like we saw in Thessalonians. Test everything! In *Acts 17:11*, this is who? The Bereans. If you need to understand how good the Bereans were, you need to read 1 Thessalonians to understand how great they were. Paul will wax eloquently about the Thessalonians. "Oh my God, What a Church!" and then, he says that Bereans were better than them. Why?

**Acts 17:11**

<sup>11</sup> ***These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, (not only that) and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.***

Think about it. Paul is going to Berea preaching the Gospel and the Bereans sitting over there are Jews. They don't have the New Covenant. It's not even been given. They have only the Old Covenant or Testament. Nobody has personal copies like we have so many personal copies that we don't even open. Nobody has. The synagogue may have a scroll, one or two rich people has a scroll but Scripture says daily, they heard the message and they gathered, came back, looked at the Old Testament saying, "He is preaching the New Covenant. Does it tally with the Old Covenant?" They searched before they received it and he said, "You know what? They are fair minded, they tested." They tested everything. Do we? Whichever Church you are from or go to, did you test what you heard on Sunday? Did you take down your notes and go back and say, "Pastor preached this on Sunday. Let me test if it is right before I receive it." Did you? He says, "They are wonderful." Find out whether these things were so. Did we? Why? We are not preparing for that day because the purpose of redemption is to make true worshippers of us in Spirit and in truth. That is what the Church is all about. A set of people who heard the gospels were cut to their heart, repented, separated, baptized and Scripture says that they gathered daily.

John, in one of his final letters, writes this and is the last verse for today.

## **2 John 1:4-6**

***<sup>4</sup> I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children (what?) walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father. <sup>5</sup> And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we love one another. <sup>6</sup> This is love that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.***

He says, "I've got a set of people here who are walking in truth and walking in love." He says, "Fantastic. They are true worshippers." The spirit is right and their Word is right and they are ready. If they were to fall dead today, they would be translated there to receive their rewards. They have nothing to fear because they are walking right with God. They are living their lives before God. That's what God is saying. We are only in the middle of the week. You've got another three days of work left. Tomorrow, when you go back to work, you go back to school, when you go back to your offices, how will we work? When we go back home, how will we work? How do we deal with the people? Is our heart and our words the same? Is it the same? Does it tally? Does it agree? That's what God is saying. Does it agree? That's why we keep saying – the greatest gift God has given the believer is the gift of repentance where we put right and start fresh with God. Because God is looking for true worshippers. That's the purpose of salvation – those who will worship in spirit and truth for God is Spirit; God is truth. Amen? Shall we pray?

## **Closing Prayer:**

*Father, this evening, I just thank You, Lord. I thank You for all Your children who have come from so many different places but above all, Lord, we are in Your house tonight. I pray, Father, if You come tonight, I pray, everyone would be ready. If You tarry to come, we would still walk in that readiness, allowing Your Spirit to search our hearts and our hearts to search Your Word that our lives, our thoughts, our intentions, our attitudes, our words and our works would align with Your Spirit and with Your truth. Teach us, Lord. Teach us and change us. In ourselves, this is not possible. Only You can do it in us and through us. All we can do daily is just come to You and surrender, Lord, and confess – Lord, I was not true today. I was false. I was not true. I was a man-pleaser today. I was pretending today. I was not true. That's all we can do, Lord. Change me, Father. Change us daily for we do not want to be men-pleasers. We want to please You so that we can know You are with us; for Your Word says, "The Father never left You because You always did those things that please the Father." And You brought glory to the Father by what You did. We also want to please You. We also want to bring glory to You. I commit everyone in the Church today into Thy hands. May Your hand rest upon them and may Your voice speak to them. Everything that needs to be put right in Your sight – hidden from man but nothing is hidden from You, I pray, they will have the courage and the conviction to put it right and start fresh with You. And I pray for the young couple, Lord, that You would be with them. In twenty-four hours' time, life will change for them and I pray, they would allow their worship to define their fellowship. Help them. Help us, Lord. We just commit everything into Thy hands. You brought us all safely into Your house today. I pray, Lord, You will reach us all back home safely. Thank You, Lord. We praise You. We worship You. We glorify You. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*