

CONSUMED WITH HIM -1 WHAT GOD DESIRES MOST

WHAT IS THE ONE THING GOD DESIRES THAT ONLY YOU CAN GIVE?

YOUR WORSHIP.

Jesus said that a time was coming and has now come when the Father was seeking what He called true worshippers, to worship the Father in spirit and in truth.

WHY IS WORSHIP SO IMPORTANT?

1) THERE IS A LITERAL WAR FOR YOUR WORSHIP BEING WAGED.

Way, way, way back in the Old Testament, in the book of Isaiah, we see a picture of where this war began, and it was long before any of us were here. Scripture says that there was an angel that was more beautiful than any other angel. His name was Lucifer.

And many Bible scholars today believe that Lucifer, his role was a worship leader in the throne room of God in Heaven, and he would direct the other angels in giving their worship to the creator of all things. And somewhere along the way, his, his desire and his motive and his intent, it turned darkly inward, and you can, you can totally see this.

He began to desire what only God was worthy of receiving.

Isaiah 14:13-14 *"I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly...I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."*

And there, at that moment in time, the war for your worship began. God cast Lucifer out of heaven with a third of the angels, and we know him today as our spiritual enemy, Satan, and let me just ask this completely theoretical question.

If Satan, today, had a mission statement what do you think it would be? To Steal Kill & Destroy!

The enemy of our souls wants to steal our WORSHIP!

Now You May Say....I don't worship Satan. I've never worshipped Satan. It's not going to happen." **Oh, no, no, no.** He's much too smart for that. You see, he knows that he probably can't get us to worship him directly, but what if, what if he could get us to worship anything other, you see it, other than God? Wouldn't that be just as successful?

We are all worshippers! OF SOMEONE OR SOMETHING!!!!

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|---------------|------------------------|
| 1.) Our image | 4.) Our Toys |
| 2.) Our Job | 5.) Our Tv's |
| 3.) Our kids | 6.) Our Nothing Boxes! |

Let me just throw this definition out. **Worship is giving worth or value to some thing above all else.**

Worship, giving my worth, or giving my heart, giving my value, my priority to something or someone above all else.

When you think about it in that context, the sad reality is, we are all worshipping "something" all the time.

There is a war for our worship, and please hear me. The things that I talked about, and other things, none of those things are wrong in and of themselves. It's when they kind of sneak in, right above God that we become worshippers of those things.

Exodus 20:3-5 *You shall have no other gods before me. "You shall not make for yourself idols... You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God.*

Does anybody remember those amazing little cardboard boxes when we were kids called Cracker Jacks?

Inside the Cracker Jacks box, there was caramel coated popcorn and nuts and stuff like that, but did any of us care about the popcorn and the nuts? Of course not. What did we care about? The prize inside!

The Prize Inside To GOD Is Our Worship! The stars, trees, animals God already all those he wants our Worship!

God says, "I am a jealous God."

So, how could that look in our lives? I see you obsessing over that promotion. "I really want that." That attention, that time, that devotion, that affection that you give that thing, "I crave that. I want what you are giving everywhere else."

That's what jealousy from the eyes of God must look like.

WHAT IN YOUR LIFE DO YOU VALUE THE MOST?

I feel it's only fair that if I am going to ask you these hard questions, that I should ask them of myself, first!

God says you shall not have any other gods, any idols, anything before Me, and so as I was putting this message together, I asked God, "God, show me what in my life do I have a tendency to idolize?"

My idol, what I worship, is, Comfort, doing nothing, if that makes any sense at all.

I have a tendency to come home from work. Stressful day, not stressful day, and I plop myself in front of the TV or some other meaningless mind numbing event, and in run my girls.... Daddy come outside & play with us, lets play a board game, lets spend time together..... And there's always an excuse!, Or a promise of later!

It seems I have the knack of doing nothing! And I do it rather well!

You may be saying, "You know, that's not that big a deal. It's not that, there's anything wrong with loving sports and there's nothing wrong with vegging out. It's no big deal."

But I came to realize that I have squandered opportunities to communicate to my family what matters most, and I gave those opportunities away because I worshipped and idolized "Doing Nothing". Relaxing in other terms!

What is it in your life that if you were really gut-level honest, you allow that thing to take priority over God? You spend infinitely more time thinking about it; you spend infinitely more money on it; you give it your heart, your whole life; it consumes you. What is it?

If there is a war for your worship, who is winning? Is it God? Or, is it everything else?

Worship is so important because.....

2) YOU WERE CREATED TO WORSHIP.

I love this picture because the disciples are just like us. They're messed up in every way, just like us. They're doing their best to raise their families, just like us. They're trying to make a living and provide, just like us, and somewhere along the way, Jesus invades their world.

Luke 19:38-40 *Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."*

One way or the other, God will be worshipped. It will either be by the natural way, those of us that He's created to give Him worship, but if something happens and we by our lips and our lives don't give God the worship that we were created to give Him, the unnatural will happen. The stones will cry out.

The setting of our worship today! You may think that you are the audience and that I am the performer!

But I believe we need our hearts and minds to change on this!

We are the worshippers, who worship an audience of one.

As we worship with the understanding that we worship an audience of one, and our mindset changes, chances are, we won't be late to church, because I'm not the audience. It's not for me. I am the worshipper, and so I will come with a different attitude. I won't come here to receive something from God, although you will.

But rather I'm here to give God my utmost, my heart, my life, my all.... in worship to Him!

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

- **WORSHIP IS A RESPONSE TO WHO GOD IS AND WHAT HE HAS DONE.**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-this is your spiritual act of worship. Romans 12:1

WHO IS GOD AND WHAT HAS HE DONE?

OUR ONLY REASONABLE RESPONSE IS WORSHIP!