

Studies in Christianity Private Worship #4

S#1.

Using the Word in My Worship?

S#2.

Text : **I Cor. 2: 6-3:3 ; Phil. 1: 8-11**

A. I have been enjoying preparing these lessons on personal worship.

S#3.

1. It is an area in which all of us can improve and can profit from encouragement.
2. Though it is essential to our spiritual health, it is one that is often neglected.
3. We spent some lessons on prayer and one on meditation. (*focusing our minds*)

B. With our last lesson we feasted on fasting as worship. We saw that :

S#4.

1. We saw that fasting is NOT a command to be obeyed, **but** God expects we will fast.
 2. Fasting is neither a meritorious act nor a ritual to be performed.
 3. Fasting is the expression of a humbled heart.
 4. Fasting is the practice of self-denial. (*Done in differing ways and for varying lengthy.*)
 5. The idea is for one to afflict his soul, **not** just his body
- Joel 2: 13** – “And rend your heart and not your garments.”
6. Fasting must be done in secret unless it’s a group activity.
 7. Fasting must be accompanied by prayer, **but** prayer does not necessitate fasting.

S#5.

C. This lesson we will traverse down four broad lanes of study.

S#6.

1. Reading scripture in private worship is different.
2. Daily worship expresses one’s heart to God.
3. God wants to meet us where we are.
4. Why should bible reading be part of our personal worship?

I. Reading scripture in one’s personal worship is different :

S#7.

A. It is different from daily bible reading.

S#8.

1. It has a different function, **i.e.**, daily bible reading is to profit the reader.
2. The organization of daily bible reading is not conducive to a worship setting.

B. It is different from bible study.

1. One’s bible study tends to follow a fixed pattern.

2. The motivation for daily bible study is to mature the Christian.

I Pet. 2:2 – ... like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word,
so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

S#9.

3. Bible study takes more time than most people a lot for their worship.

C. Reading the scriptures in private worship is different than public worship.

1. The reading of scripture in one's private worship is not the text for a lesson.
 - a. Normally, there is no sermon in one's private worship.
 - b. The sermon is replaced by one's own private meditations.
2. Only infant Christians use recorded sermons and printed scripts for their worship.
 - a. Some get devotional books and just read one each day.
 - b. These days many are watching various podcasts as a worship "tool."

- * 3. Neither of the above is inherently wrong, but they are problematic in three ways.
- a. Both make the "worshiper" a passive participant ... an audience member.
 - b. Second, they take away the worshipper's opportunity to grow.
 - c. Third, they tend to become an act to preform rather than expressing one's heart.

**** By all means start where you can, but progress from milk to meat. ****

S#10.

II. Daily worship expresses one's heart to God. (Not that of podcast or book)

S#11.

A. Relationships don't just happen; they are built one interaction at a time. S#12.

1. Daily worship is how we develop our devotion to God.
 - a. The first step in becoming devoted to God is to make a commitment.
 - b. Commitment must then be turned into action.
 - c. Action must then be developed into a consistent habit.
2. Daily worship is one of the first actions stemming from one's commitment.
 - a. Private worship is an ideal way to learn to talk with God.
 - b. There is no social pressure involved; it's just between the worshipper and God.
 - c. It's comparable to the dating process, where being alone, a couple learns to talk.

- * 3. ***Spending time with God each day is essential to the normal development of the Christian.***

S#13.

B. New Christians often don't like to speak before the assembly.

1. It's easy to get used to verbalizing spiritual things when alone.

2. Archie, the husband of my father's older sister was very shy.
 - a. When he was dating my aunt Elizabeth he would come in, set and read the paper.
 - b. When he retired he bought a guitar and began to secretly learn to play.
 - c. He became very skilled, but no one knew until my aunt found a practice tape.
 - d. The first time she played one of his tapes he was irritated to be found out.
3. As Archie would never have played in the hearing of another before he became skilled, many will not speak in church before developing a comfort zone in private.

C. One's comfort zone will continually expand until he is as comfortable talking to God as he is talking to a friend.

1. As one feels increasingly comfortable talking to God he begins to feel closer to him.
2. It becomes a cyclical thing .. comfort creates closeness which creates comfort which
3. One writer poetically wrote, "Personal worship is God working in us."

III. God wants to meet us where we are.

S#14.

A. God is with us when we are working out problems.

S#15.

1. **Matt. 18: 20** – For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.
2. Jesus did not say that He would be with us all the time except in worship?
Matt.28: 20 – Lo, I am with you always. even to the end of the age."

B. God wants to meet us where He has our undivided attention.

S#16.

1. The assembly is great and we need what it provides.
 - a. It encourages us in very special ways.
 - b. It reminds us that we are not alone in our struggle against sin.
 - c. The communion reminds us of God's love and our sin.
2. In the assembly there are a lot of distractions.
 - a. Sights, sounds, happening.
 - b. Technical glitches , people singing off key
 - c. There is a temptation to be a spectator.
3. In personal worship the worshipper is able to control most distractions.

C. In private, personal worship there is no social pressure.

1. The worshipper does not have to impress anyone.

2. The worshipper does not have to be embarrassed by anything he says or does.
3. There are no customs or rules that the worshipper must follow. (*can't error*)

IV. Why should one read the bible as part of his daily worship.

S#17.

A. There are other times each day when the bible should be read.

S#18.

1. Separate from his worship, every Christian should have a reading time.
 - a. Bible reading is done deliberately for the purpose of gaining overall knowledge.
 - b. One does not read the bible like reading a novel.
 - c. Each time one reads through the bible he become more familiar with the contexts.
 - d. Each time one reads through the bible he recognizes verse that harmonize.
 - e. *Each time one reads the bible he knows God better. ONLY place He is reveals ...*
2. Each day each Christian should have a time when he/she studies the scriptures.
 - a. In daily bible reading, some may erroneously ask, "*What does that mean to me ?*"
(*This results in everyone having his/her own truth and belittles God's.*)
 - b. Study is a time when one drills down to find the message God has sent to man.
 - c. In study one develops "*real knowledge and discernment.*"

Phil. 1: 9 – And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more **S#19.**
in real knowledge and all discernment, **10** so that you may approve
 the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless
 until the day of Christ;

- d. The teaching of Jesus implies that the man who seeks eternal life studies.

Matt. 4: 4 – But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on **S#20.**
 bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.'

B. Reading in one's personal worship loads his mind with a verse/s for that day's meditation.

S#21.

1. I prefer to worship early in the day's activities.
 - a. It sets the direction of my thinking for the day.
 - b. The day is more productive when I start off positive.
2. The reading selected should support the theme of one's worship.
 - a. Personally, I often choose a verse from my reading because it's fresh in mind.
 - b. **I Pet. 1: 16** – because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."
 - c. Worship God honoring Him for His holiness.
 - d. Meditation what it means to be holy AND how one can practice personal holiness.

CONCLUSION : What have we learned from this study ?

S#22.

A. Reading scripture in private worship is different.

1. Different from reading in the public assembly or
2. From our daily reading.
3. It's different from one's bible study.
4. **Typically**, readings in daily worship are rather short.

B. Daily worship expresses one's heart to God.

1. Daily worship is one-on-one time with God, **not** applied to anyone else.
2. Relationships don't just happen, they are built one interaction at a time.
3. It teaches one to feel comfortable talking to and about God.
4. Daily worship is key to learning evangelistic skills.

C. God wants to meet us where we are.

1. God is always with us.
2. In private wo0rship God has our undivided attention.
3. There is no social pressure when one participates in his own private worship.

D. Why should bible reading be part of our personal worship?

1. There are other times when then the bible should be read. (*daily*)
2. Reading in one's worship loads his mind for meditation.

*** E. Indeed, daily worship is fundamental to spiritual development.**

S#23.

INVITATION :

Lesson Text :**I Corinthians 2: 6 – 3:3**

6 Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; **7** but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; **8** the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; **9** but just as it is written,

"Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him."

10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. **11** For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. **12** Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, **13** which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

14 But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. **15** But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. **16** For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. **2** I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, **3** for you are still fleshly. For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

Philippians 1: 8-11

8 For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. **9** And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, **10** so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; **11** having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. -