

Guard your steps as you go to the house of God and draw near to listen rather than to offer the sacrifice of fools; for they do not know they are doing evil. Do not be hasty in word or impulsive in thought to bring up a matter in the presence of God. For God is in heaven and you are on the earth; therefore let your words be few. For the dream comes through much effort and the voice of a fool through many words.

When you make a vow to God, do not be late in paying it; for He takes no delight in fools. Pay what you vow! It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay. Do not let your speech cause you to sin and do not say in the presence of the messenger of God that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry on account of your voice and destroy the work of your hands? For in many dreams and in many words there is hebel. Rather, fear God.

Main Point

Knowing the One we worship will move us to *care*fully commit ourselves to *care*ful worship.

Carefully Commit to Careful Worship

Prepare for careful worship.

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Background

Exodus 30:19-20

Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet...when they enter the tent of meeting, they shall wash with water, so that they will not die...

So they shall wash their hands and their feet, so that they will not die.

John 13:5

Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

The Lord is not concerned about the cleanliness of your feet but the cleanliness of your life. Preparing for worship begins by purifying your walk.

Psalm 39:1
I said, "I will guard my ways
That I may not sin with my tongue;
I will guard my mouth as with a muzzle
While the wicked are in my presence."



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In our age of self-will, we are intent upon worshipping according to our own imaginations and devices, and don't even consider that we are disregarding our Lord.

Sacrifice and meal offering
You have not desired;
My ears You have opened;
Burnt offering and sin offering
You have not required.

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The Lord does not want mere action; He wants our attention.

Sacrifice and meal offering You have not desired;

My ears You have opened,

Burnt offering and sin offering You have not required.

Sacrifice and meal offering You have not desired;

My ears You have dug out;

Burnt offering and sin offering You have not required.



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Practice careful worship.



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Ecclesiastes 5:4-6

When you make a vow to God, do not be late in paying it; for He takes no delight in fools.

Pay what you vow! It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.

Do not let your speech cause you to sin and do not say in the presence of the messenger of God that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry on account of your voice and destroy the work of your hands?

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The Lord is not pleased by rash promises made in the haste of momentary passions. He desires careful, truthful worship.

John 4:23

But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.



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The fool fills his worship with empty words thinking wordiness is the way to be heard.

Matthew 6:7

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Practicing careful worship means practicing careful wordship.



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Deuteronomy 23:21-22

When you make a vow to the LORD your God, you shall not delay to pay it, for it would be sin in you, and the LORD your God will surely require it of you.

However, if you refrain from vowing, it would not be sin in you.

Matthew 5:37

"But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; anything beyond these is of evil."

"No" is sometimes the right answer! Tardiness to the "yes" may indicate carelessness toward the addressed. What are the "yeses" of our worship that should lead to timeliness?

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Know the One you worship.

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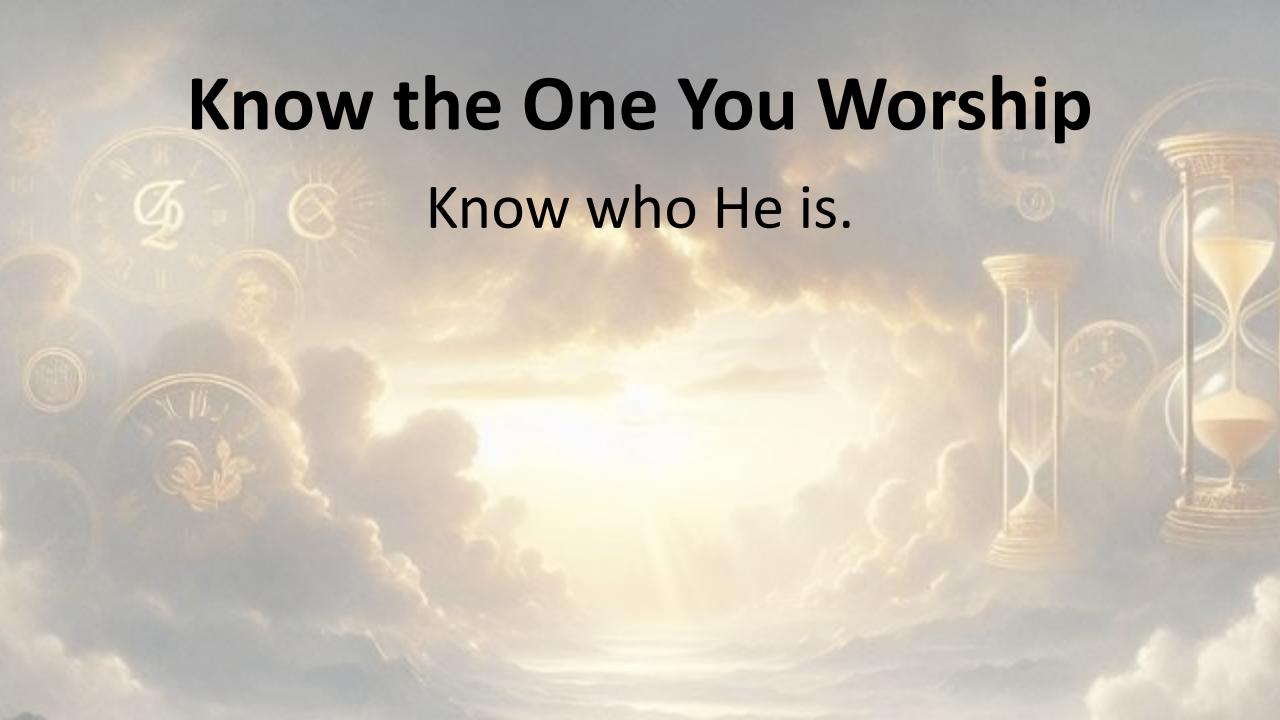
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Our engagement in worship is governed and shaped by the One we worship!

Deuteronomy 4:35-36

To you it was shown that you might know that the LORD,
He is God; there is no other besides Him.
Out of the heavens He let you hear His voice to discipline you;
and on earth He let you see His great fire,
and you heard His words from the midst of the fire.

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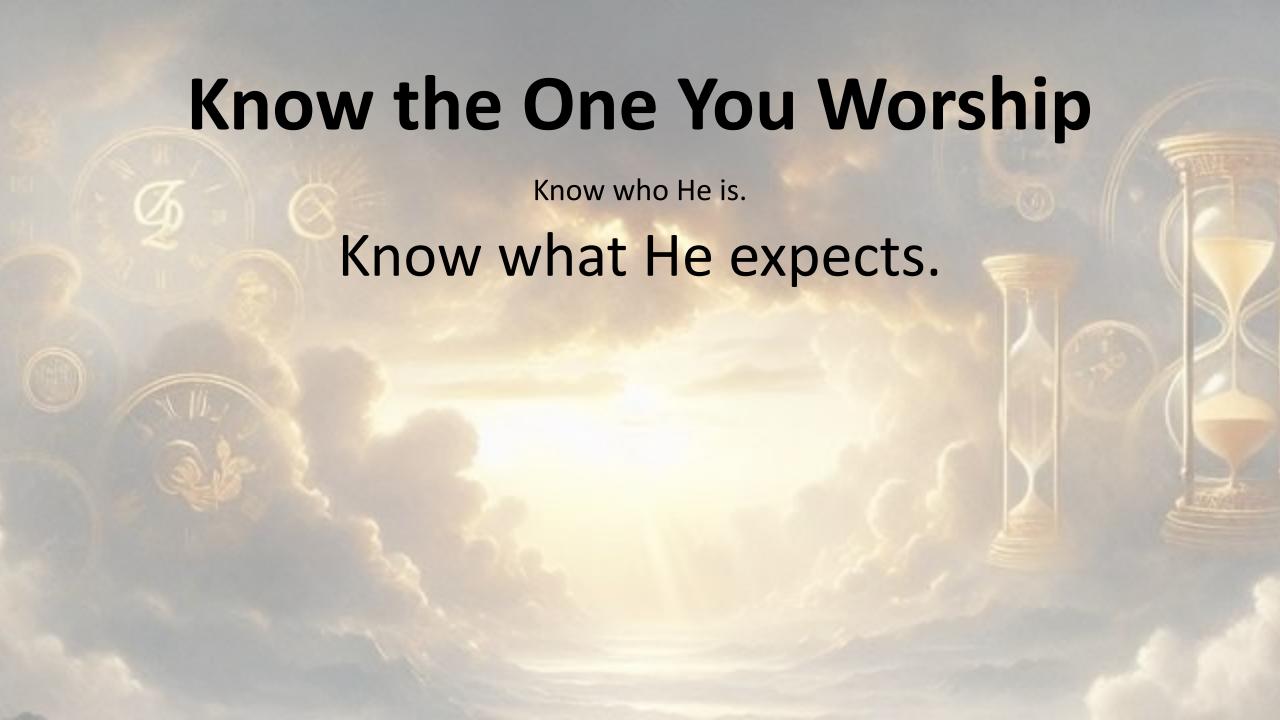
and on earth He let you see His great fire,

and you heard His words from the midst of the fire.

He is the LORD, He is God, He speaks; knowing this we should put our hands over our mouths and listen!

Job 40:3-5

Then Job answered the LORD and said,
"Behold, I am insignificant; what can I reply to You?
I lay my hand on my mouth.
Once I have spoken, and I will not answer;
Even twice, and I will add nothing more."



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Why should God be angry on account of your voice and destroy the work of your hands?

Sincerity is the point!

Psalm 15:1-2

O LORD, who may abide in Your tent?
Who may dwell on Your holy hill?
He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness,
And speaks truth in his heart.

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He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, And speaks truth in his heart.

But who is this, and what can be done?

Hebrews 10:19-22

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

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Preparing to draw near in worship begins by receiving purification by Christ and then remembering that purification whenever we draw near.

Have you been purified by Christ?

Concluding Questions:

Are you preparing yourself for worship?
What practices of worship need
your attention most?

Do you know the One you worship, and are you coming to Him in Christ?