

The Church is a Body of Worshipers

“One day a wife was busy frying eggs, when her husband came home. But as soon as he walked into the kitchen, he immediately started yelling,

‘CAREFUL HONEY!!! CAREFUL!!! USE MORE OIL!!! TURN THEM!!! TURN THOSE EGGS NOW!!! WE NEED MORE OIL!!! HONEY THEY’RE GOING TO STICK!!! CAREFUL!!! CAREFUL!!! TURN THEM!!! TURN THEM!!! HURRY UP!!! ARE YOU CRAZY!!!! THE OIL IS GOING TO SPILL!!! THE SALT!!! THE SALT!!! USE MORE SALT!!! USE THE SALT!!!!’

Well at this, the wife got completely outraged and said, ‘What in the world is wrong with you? Don’t you think I don’t know how to fry an egg?’

And the husband calmly replied, ‘Well, of course, but now you know how I feel when you ride next to me in the car!’”

Now, how many of you guys can identify with that story? Oh, come on you chickens! But that’s right! For you brave folks out there the point is this. Backseat drivers are pretty annoying, aren’t they? But folks, believe it or not, did you know I’ve discovered something even more annoying than back seat drivers? Uh huh, I really have. And can anybody guess what it is? That’s right! It’s called backsliding Christians walking around acting like they’ve got **practical amnesia**! Talk about annoying behavior!

Oh, we say we know who we are as the Church, but half the time, with our lips and with our lives, we act like we’ve forgotten who we are. And it’s not only detrimental in our walk with Christ. It keeps others from

believing in Christ. Therefore, to avoid this **atrocious** of Christian's living like they got practical amnesia by not knowing who they are, we're going to continue our study from the Word of God on the people of God entitled, "**Will the REAL Church Please Stand Up?**" And we've already seen the **first thing** we need to know about the Church if we're going to stop acting like we've got practical amnesia is that the Church is the **Body of Christ**. The **second thing** we need to know is that the Church is a **Body of Brides**. The **third thing** we need to know is that the Church is a **Body of One**. The **fourth thing** we need to know is that the Church is a **Body of Hope**. The **fifth thing** we need to know is that the Church is a **Body of Joy**. The **sixth thing** we need to know is that the Church is a **Body of Love**. The **seventh thing** we need to know is that the Church is a **Body of Peace**. The **eighth thing** we need to know is that the Church is a **Body of Strangers**. The **ninth thing** we need to know is that the Church is a **Body of Disciples**. The **tenth thing** we need to know is that the Church is a **Body of Servants**. And last time we saw the **eleventh thing** we need to know is that the Church is a **Body of Rebels**. And there we saw that even though the Bible says we were supposed to be rebelling against this world system, the American Church is conforming to this world system! **Why?** Because we've not only **lost our saltiness**, we've **lost our brightness**. And because of that, we're not only

ceasing to be a Body of Rebels, we're actually turning into a Body of **saltless dark conformists of man**. And I don't think that's the kind of Church Jesus came to die for, how about you?

But people, believe it or not, did you know that's not the only thing we need to know about the Church if we're going to stop acting like we got practical amnesia? The **twelfth thing** we need to know is **The Church is a Body of Worshippers**. But hey, don't take my word for it. Let's listen to God's.

Matthew 22:34-39 "Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law? Jesus replied: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Now folks, according to our text, the Bible is clear. The greatest way we can show our love to God is how? It's to **keep** the greatest commandment, right? Which was what? To love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and all your mind, right? And notice it wasn't **loving or worshipping God** whenever we feel like it, or whenever we get around to it or whenever it's convenient, or whenever it's popular. No folks! What did it say? It's with everything we got, right?

And here's my point. Surely, we all know this, right? I mean, surely every Christian who's ever lived knows that the Church is to be a **Body of Worshippers**, where people look at us and say, "Wow! Look at those people! They've got to be followers of Christ! The proof is in the pudding! They worship God day in day out with every ounce of their being no matter what happens and no matter the cost!" **Surely we know that, right?** Well, you'd think so, but we've got some problems. **Why?** Because if you look at most Churches it doesn't look like we're **Worshipping the One and Only God**. Are you kidding! It looks like we're **worshipping anything and everything but God!**

So why in the world do we do this? Why do we Christians **who are supposed to be** worshippers of God, are actually looking like we've **stopped** worshipping God? Hey, great question. I'm glad you asked. It's pretty simple. The **first reason** why we've stopped worshipping God is because **We've Started Worshipping Our Things**.

Romans 1:21,24-25 "For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator – who is forever praised. Amen."

Now folks, according to our text, the Bible is clear. One of the reasons why mankind has such foolish and darkened hearts is because of what? They refuse to glorify or **worship God**, right? And what was the evidence of it? They made a **deliberate choice** to worship created things instead of the Creator. Therefore, what did God do? He gave them over to their sinful desires and things got worse and worse from there on out, right?

And people, **the point is this**. Surely the American Church knows this, right? I mean, surely we know that a **true worshipper of Jesus Christ** is never going to fall for the trap of worshipping created things instead of our Creator, right? I mean, surely we know if we do that our lives will get worse and worse, right? People are you kidding? Let's be honest! We don't worship the One and Only God Who has made everything! We worship everything the One and Only God has made! **Why?** Because we've been tricked and seduced **just like the Romans** to worship created things instead of our Creator!

People, correct me if I'm wrong, but are we not told day in and day out that life is about getting a good job to get enough money to buy things we don't need to impress people we don't know who in the end are people who don't even care? Isn't that what they say life is all about? Does not our whole American Economy depend upon you and I becoming unrestrained

consumers of things? Stop and think about it! And yeah, it might be real good for the American economy, but I'm here to tell you folks it's nothing more than **old-fashioned idolatry!** And for those of you who don't believe me, let's get reacquainted with the definition of idolatry.

"D. Martin Lloyd-Jones states, 'A man's god is that for which he lives, for which he is prepared to give his time, his energy, his money, that which stimulates, rouses, excites, and enthuses him.'"

Now folks, I don't know about you, but I'd say if we're spending the majority of our **time** chasing after **things** instead the Creator of things, then by that definition alone, **those things** have just become what? An idol, right? And people, hello, idolatry is not only sinful, it's detrimental. There's a heavy price to pay! **Why?** Because stop and think about it! It takes a lot of what? It takes a lot of **time to commit idolatry** and buy these things that nobody needs to impress people who don't even care. Therefore, your relationship with God, gets the short end of the stick! And that's right! For those of you who still don't believe me that we actually do this to God, let's see just how much **time we actually give to God.**

If we live 75 years, this is how we would spend it...

Activity	Percentage of your time
23 years sleeping	31%
19 years working	25%
9 years watching TV or other amusements	12%

7.5 years in dressing and personal care	10%
6 years eating	8%
6 years traveling	8%
.5 year worshipping and praying	.07%

Now folks, I don't know about you, but I'd say God's getting the short end of the stick here, you know what I'm saying? I mean, gee whiz, if He's that low of a priority in life, then maybe it's because **there's an idol in our life. Therefore, the point is this.** If we're guilty of spending more time with things instead of God, how in the world can we call ourselves worshippers of God? I mean, do we really think God doesn't notice?

Oh, but that's not all. The **second reason** why we've stopped worshipping God is because **We've Started Worshipping Our Titillation.**

Luke 4:1-8 "Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry. The devil said to him, If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread. Jesus answered, It is written: Man does not live on bread alone.

The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours. Jesus answered, It is written: Worship the Lord your God and serve him only."

Now folks, according to our text, the Bible is clear. The devil's ultimate goal in tempting Jesus wasn't just getting him to sin. It was to what? It was to get him to fall down and worship him, right? **And here's my**

point. Notice what the devil used to try to get Jesus to do it. It wasn't just fame and fortune, it was what? It was about turning stones to bread, making yourself feel better, it was about **personal satisfaction**, right?

And people, **the point is this.** Surely the American Church knows this, right? I mean, surely we know that a **true worshipper of Jesus Christ** is never going to fall for the trap of seeking personal satisfaction over the God of creation, right? People are you kidding? Let's be honest! We don't get all excited over the God of Creation! We get all excited over entertaining titillation. **Why? Because of idolatry!** People stop and think about it! Think about the **devolving process** with the Romans. Once they headed down the road of idolatry, what happened? Things got worse and worse, right? And people, I'm telling you it's the same thing today. Once you start worshipping created things instead of the Creator, it not only consumes your time, it consumes your **energy**.

For instance, by the end of the week when we've run ourselves completely ragged in the rat race of idolatry, I mean consumerism, just so we can buy these things nobody needs in order to give them to people who already have everything, we're what? We're emotionally and physically wiped out, right? **And so here's the point!** Instead of spending what time we have left with God to stay spiritually strong, what do we do? We spend it

entertaining ourselves all weekend long. We don't seek a recharge from the God of Salvation. No! We seek a recharge in cable television! And we wonder why things get worse and worse! Do you see the devolving process? And that's right! For those of you who still don't think we live like this, let's just see how much energy we give to entertainment over God.

1. The average household combined watches almost **seven hours a day** of television.
2. On the average, a child spends 1,680 minutes a week watching television. Compare that with the 38.5 minutes a week that he or she talks one-on-one with a parent.
3. By the time they reach kindergarten, the average American child has seen between 6,000 and 8,000 hours of television—approximately one-third of their total pre-school waking hours.
4. At maturity, they will have spent more time in front of a television than in any classroom.
5. By the age of ten, most children can name more brands of beer than Presidents.
6. The average American child or teenager views 10,000 murders, rapes, and aggravated assaults per year on television.
7. Children born today will witness 200,000 acts of violence on television by the time they are eighteen.
8. By the time today's children reach age seventy, they will have spent seven to ten years of their lives watching television.
9. Americans spend over 100 billion hours and over 100 billion dollars on legal forms of entertainment each year.

10. And don't forget... **every package from hell comes disguised in ecstasy.**

Now folks, I don't know about you, but I'd say God's getting the short end of the stick again, you know what I'm saying? And people living for titillation is not only another form of idolatry, **it's one of satan's greatest trickery's**, like this story reveals.

"One day the devil called a worldwide convention of his evil demons and said this. 'We can't keep the Christians from going to heaven, but we can keep them from forming an intimate relationship in Christ. If they gain that connection with Jesus, our power over them is broken. So here's what we do

Let's steal their time, so they can't gain any strength in Jesus Christ. Let's distract them by keeping them busy in the nonessentials of life and invent unnumbered schemes to occupy their minds. We'll over stimulate their minds so that they cannot hear that still small voice.

We'll entice them to play the radio or cassette player whenever they drive, to keep the TV, the VCR, and their CD's going constantly in their homes. And we'll see to it that every store and restaurant in the world plays music constantly jamming their minds to break that union with Christ.

We'll fill their coffee tables with magazines and newspapers and pound their minds with the news twenty-four hours a day. We'll invade their driving moments with billboards and flood their mailboxes with junk mail, sweepstakes, mail order catalogues and every kind of newsletter and promotional offering promising false hopes.

We'll even get them to be excessive in their entertainment or recreation and send them to amusement parks, sporting events, concerts, and movies so they'll return exhausted, disquieted and unprepared for the coming week.

And even when they meet for spiritual fellowship, we'll involve them in gossip and small talk so that they leave with troubled consciences and unsettled emotion. Why, we'll crowd their lives with **so many things** that they have no time or energy to seek power from Christ.

It was quite a convention in the end. And the demons went away eagerly causing Christians everywhere to get busy, busy, busy and rush here and there. Has the devil been successful at his scheme? You be the judge.”

Now folks, I don't know about you, but I'd say somebody's doing a great job of distracting us from what's really important in life, how about you? And gee whiz folks, could this be one of the reasons why we're so stinkin' spiritually dry week after week? I mean, could it really be something as simple as **we're entertaining ourselves to death**? Makes you wonder, doesn't it? **But not only that**, the bigger point is this. If we spend more time with titillation instead of God, how in the world can we really call ourselves worshippers of God? I mean, do we really think He doesn't notice?

Oh, but that's not all. The **third reason** why we've stopped worshipping God is because **We've Started Worshipping Our Treasure**.

Matthew 6:24 “No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.”

Now folks, according to our text, the Bible is clear. Just like oil and water or chicken and cow, there's just some things in life that do not mix, you know what I'm saying? And folks, that's exactly what Jesus is saying here. He said you cannot mix or serve both God and what? Money, right? **Why?** Because one of them will ultimately become your master, right?

And people, **the point is this**. Surely the American Church knows this, right? I mean, surely we know that a **true worshipper of Jesus Christ** is never going to fall for the trap of worshipping gold above God, right? People are you kidding? Let's be honest! We don't like sharing our treasure for the kingdom of God! We like spending our treasure on the things of man! Just ask these guys.

“One day a \$20 dollar bill ran into a \$1 dollar bill on the conveyor belt at the Federal Reserve Building. And as they were lying there side by side the \$1 dollar bill said to the \$20 dollar bill, ‘Hey mannnnnn, where have you been. I haven't seen you in a long time?’

And the \$20 dollar bill replied, ‘Man I've been having a ball! I've been traveling to distant countries, going to the finest restaurants and seeing tons of movies. In fact, I've been to Europe, a professional NBA game, Rodeo Drive, and I've just returned from all-day retreat spa. Man, I've done it all!’

So the \$20 dollar bill asked the \$1 dollar bill, ‘So what about you? Where have you been.’

And the \$1 dollar bill said, ‘Oh, you know, same old stuff, church, church, church.’

And the \$20 dollar bill replied, ‘Uh, what's a Church?’”

Now folks, that joke would be funny if it weren't so true, right? **And the point is this**. Why is true? Because of idolatry! That's right! Remember the devolving process? Worshipping created things instead of your Creator not only consumes your time and energy, it consumes your **money**. **Why?** Because stop and think about it! It takes **a lot of money** to buy these things

that nobody needs in order to give them to people who already have everything, right? Therefore, God gets the short end of the stick again, right?

And people, please don't misunderstand me. God doesn't want your money, He wants your heart. But one of the ways we find out if money's become our master is whether or not we'll use our money for the needs of the Master, like this guy did.

“One day a Christians doctor was asked by a patient what he'd done during the past week and this was his reply,

‘On Monday I preached the gospel in Brazil. Tuesday I ministered among the Mexicans in southwest Texas. On Wednesday I operated on patients in a hospital in Africa. Thursday, I taught in a mission school in Japan. On Friday I helped to establish a new Church in California. On Saturday, I taught classes in our seminaries and finally on Sunday I distributed Bibles in Korea.’

And the astonished patient replied, “ Well, how in the world can you be in so many places, doing so many different things?”

And the doctor replied, ‘I wasn't. But you see I hold the dollars God enabled me to earn and some of them have been channeled into the places of need I just mentioned.’”

Now folks, I don't know about you, but I'd say that doctor was doing a pretty good job of using his money for God, how about you? And because of that, I'd say it was proof that money **had not become his God**, right?

Therefore, the point is this. If we spend more time storing up treasure on earth instead of treasure in heaven, how in the world can we really call

ourselves worshippers of the God of heaven? I mean, do we really think He doesn't notice?

But you might be thinking, "Hey wait a minute. Here you go again. You're being too harsh! I mean, yeah okay, so maybe I've haven't been giving God a whole lot of my time or my energy or even my money. But so what? That's my decision! It only affects me!" Oh really? Well, I tell you what. I want you to read the following true story and you tell me if the way we worship God doesn't affects other people as well! This man shares what he had to encounter one time while ministering to the orphaned children in Haiti.

"We put an extension on to the school and the orphanage a few years ago to handle extreme cases. We were going to bring in a doctor with vitamin pills with extra food and we were going to take these kids that belonged to nobody and gather them up.

They slept in doorways on the verge of death and probably would be dead in five or six months if they didn't receive instant and immediate care. So we were going to gather them up and bring them to this extension on the orphanage that we had built and care for them and nurse them back to health.

They day came for us to pick them up and I went with my associate in a bus and drove up to the place where these children were to be assembled. We thought there were about fifty in the community. But when we got there, there were three hundred of these kids.

Three hundred kids that belonged to nobody with their swelled stomachs, their emaciated bodies, and their black hair having turn rust color from malnutrition. Three hundred of them. We had room for fifty.

You know what I had to do. You know what I had to do. I had to stand there people, and out of that three hundred, I had to pick fifty to live. And you can't pick fifty to live without simultaneously choosing two hundred and fifty to die.

And I did what I had to do and we loaded those fifty kids on that bus. I stayed behind with the other two hundred and fifty and I tried to cheer them up and tried to talk to them and tried to get them to sing some songs. And foolishly I got them to sing this gospel song. I didn't realize what I was getting them to sing!

They were singing before I realized it that little gospel chorus, 'God is so good, God is so good, God is so good to me.' And I went into the second stanza, 'He loves me so...' these dying kids with their swelled stomachs, with their falling out hair and with their emaciated bodies singing, 'He love me so, He loves me so, God is so good to me.'

And as they were singing that, something inside of me screamed against God and I was saying to my self, 'God, you're not good! God you don't care or else this wouldn't be happening!' And I sure as I am here I sensed God speak to me in the depths of my being and say, 'I am good. And I do care. And you know why this is happening.' And I had to admit that I did know why it was happening.

God in His care and in His love has given to the Church the resources to respond to the needs of the world. And if the world is in need and if in fact the Church is not responding to those needs then it is only because the Church of Jesus Christ is not as faithful as it should be. We're doing a lot but we're not doing near what we should do because God has called us to be that instrument that responds to the needs of the poor and the oppressed."

Now folks, I don't know about you, but I'd say there's a deadly price to pay when we refuse to worship God with all our heart, and soul and mind, how about you? And people, keep in mind, that's just one scenario. Can you imagine how many millions of other people **have already died** and will

keep on dying because the American Church **keeps on refusing** to worship God?

And people, that's why if we can't stop **playing Church** instead of being the Church then maybe it's time to **get out of the Church? Why?** Because being a Christian is not a game. What we say and do literally affects the eternal destiny of people around us. Therefore, it's high time we get rid of our **practical amnesia**. We've got to remember who we are! We're not a bunch of heartless greedy idolaters of man. Are you kidding! We're a bunch of compassionate lovers of God! We're His Body. A **Body of Worshippers!**

To find the way to God, to understand the *truth* of God's Word, and to received the gift of eternal *life*, begin by repentance and faith through a prayer like this:

“Dear God, I understand that I have broken Your Law and sinned against You. Please forgive my sins. Thank You that Jesus suffered on the cross in my place. I now place my trust in Him as My Savior and Lord. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.”
