

# Why Do You Worship?

Exodus 25, 29

## I. Affirming the Lord's Presence. Ex. 25:8-9

Several months I came across a Rubik's Cube that had been stored for several years. I started to try and solve it but got nowhere. So I dug out a booklet of instructions and tried again. The Rubik's Cube is solved one layer at a time and I soon learned to solve the top layer. Then I followed the instructions and the diagrams showing how to move the cubes for the middle layer. I would almost have it corrected when the colors would get messed up. I figured the instructions must be wrong for I had followed them very closely. This happened several times with each time I would get further along before it would be messed up again. Finally I had the top and middle layers corrected and felt good about getting that far along.

The Problem: Then I followed the instructions to correct the last layer. As I turned the cubes this way and that, closely following the instructions, the layers would again get messed up and I had to start over again from the beginning. Very frustrating! This went on for several weeks.

One thing I learned was I could not follow the instructions while carrying on a conversation. I had to concentrate to prevent mistakes. But the main thing I learned was I had to follow the instructions WITH UNDERSTANDING. The Rubik's Cube is a complicated toy and the instructions are also complicated. After I understood the instructions I was able to place all the cubes in their right places.

Problem Solved: Our Christian life is the same. The Bible is our instruction book for how to live on this earth. If we fail to follow its instructions and apply them to our lives we will have to answer for it and receive God's discipline. The accounts in the Old Testament are written for our example. A couple of those examples are about men who messed up because God's instructions were not followed. And because they did not follow the instructions with understanding they were harshly disciplined.

### OUR INSTRUCTION BOOK:

The Bible is our book of instructions for all parts of our life. If we would follow the instructions, God gives us in His Book, we will be successful in all our endeavors. This includes marriage, parenting, sex, business, old age, finances, worship, and all other areas of our life. If we will follow the instructions WITH UNDERSTANDING of God's purpose for life on earth, we will avoid many mistakes, other people make, and live a life that is worth living. It is sad how many Christians come to the end of their life and have not accomplished much that is worth while and lasting.

## II. Hearing the Lord's Message. Ex. 25:17-22

Writer Charles Swindoll once found himself with too many commitments in too few days. He got nervous and tense about it. "I was snapping at my wife and our children, choking down my food at mealtimes, and feeling irritated at those unexpected interruptions through the day," he recalled in his book *Stress Fractures*. "Before long, things around our home started reflecting the patter of my hurry-up style. It was becoming unbearable.

"I distinctly remember after supper one evening, the words of our younger daughter, Colleen. She wanted to tell me something important that had happened to her at school that day. She began hurriedly, 'Daddy, I wanna tell you somethin' and I'll tell you really fast.'

"Suddenly realizing her frustration, I answered, 'Honey, you can tell me -- and you don't have to tell me really fast. Say it slowly.'" "I'll never forget her answer: 'Then listen slowly.'"

*Bits & Pieces*, June 24, 1993, pp. 13-14.

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How good a listener are you?

- 1) Since you think about four times faster than a person usually talks, do you use this time to think about other things while you're keeping track of the conversation?
- 2) Do you listen primarily for facts rather than ideas when someone is speaking?
- 3) Do you avoid listening to things you feel will be too difficult to understand?
- 4) Can you tell from a person's appearance and delivery that there won't be anything worthwhile said?
- 5) When someone is talking to you do you appear to be paying attention when you're not?
- 6) Do certain words and phrases prejudice you so you cannot listen objectively?
- 7) When listening are you distracted by outside sights and sounds?

*Leadership*, Vol.1, No. 4, p. 99.

### III. Giving the Lord Offerings. Ex. 29:38-42

I thought these words by Ray Boltz would be really good in this section. Ray has had some major struggles in his life lately, but his words still reach out to me.

#### *Thank You For Giving To The Lord*

I dreamed I went to Heaven, you were there with me.  
We walked upon the streets of gold beside the Crystal Sea.  
We heard the angels singing, then someone called your name.  
You turned and saw this young man, and he was smiling as he came.

He said, "Friend you may not know me now," and then he said, "But wait -  
You used to teach my Sunday School, when I was only eight.  
And every week you would say a prayer before the class would start.  
And one day when you said that prayer,  
I asked Jesus in my heart."

Then another man stood before you, he said "Remember the time,  
A missionary came to your church, His pictures made you cry.  
You didn't have much money but you gave it anyway.  
Jesus took that gift you gave  
And that's why I'm in Heaven today"

One by one they came, far as your eyes could see.  
Each life somehow touched by your generosity.  
Little things that you had done, sacrifices that you made,  
They were unnoticed on this earth  
In Heaven now proclaimed.

And I know up in Heaven you're not supposed to cry  
But I am almost sure there were tears in your eyes  
As Jesus took your hand and you stood before the Lord  
He said "My child look around you,  
Great is your reward."

#### Chorus

Thank you for giving to the Lord,  
I am a life that was changed.  
Thank you for giving to the Lord,  
I am so glad you gave,  
I am so glad you gave.

### IV. Acknowledging the Lord's Greatness. Ex. 29:43-46

He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names. Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.

(Psalm 147:4,5)

In 1715 King Louis XIV of France died after a reign of 72 years. He had called himself "the Great," and was the monarch who made the famous statement, "I am the state!" His court was the most magnificent in Europe, and his funeral was equally spectacular. As his body lay in state in a golden coffin, orders were given that the cathedral should be very dimly lit with only a special candle set above his coffin, to dramatize his greatness. At the memorial, thousands waited in hushed silence. Then Bishop Massillon began to speak; slowly reaching down, he snuffed out the candle and said, "Only God is great."

*Today in the Word*, April, 1989, p. 24.