

INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT WORSHIP

God's Word:

I Timothy 2:1-6; 3:14-16

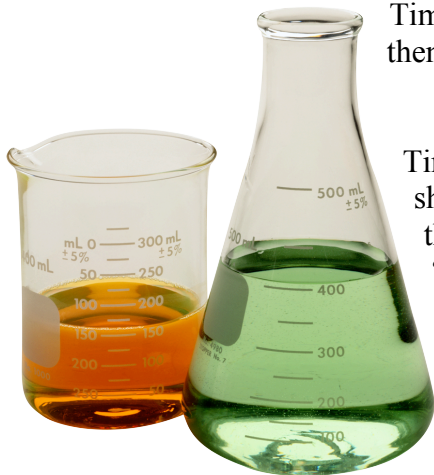
Key Verse:

"FOR THERE IS ONE GOD, AND ONE MEDIATOR ALSO BETWEEN GOD AND MEN, THE MAN CHRIST JESUS"

I TIMOTHY 2:5

Breaking It Down:

The theme for this quarter's Truth for Youth is "We Worship God" and begins with four lessons from I Timothy. The apostle Paul wrote this book as a letter (epistle) to Timothy, a young man he had mentored in the Christian faith and then left at Ephesus to serve as pastor of the church there.



In the middle of this letter, Paul states his purpose. I Timothy 3:14-15 says he's writing so people will know how they should behave "in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth." The "household of God" and God's "church" are not a building; they are the people of God. They represent God, not only when assembled for services, but also in every facet of their lives. As God's household, believers are the "pillar and support" of truth, meaning that God's word is faithfully preached and taught in the house of worship, and that God's people are living out the Gospel for all to see. (Next week's lesson will explore that further.)

I Timothy 2:1-6 gives us two of God's priorities: prayer (verse 2) and salvation (verse 4). At verse 2, Paul says, "I urge, then, that requests, prayers, intercession and

thanksgiving be made for everyone.” (NIV) Paul is exhorting people to go before the Lord on behalf of others (intercede), lift up their needs to God (the chief being salvation), and continually give thanks for what God has already done and who He is.

Verses 5 and 6 tell us Who we worship and why: “For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony borne at the proper time.” We worship the one, true, living God and we worship the Son He sent to earth to pay the penalty for our sins. Jesus is our mediator, bridging the gap between sinful mankind and our holy God. As the great high priest, Jesus offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice on our behalf, Calvary serving as the ultimate Day of Atonement. That day, Christ--as our ransom--gave His blood and His life, paying the price for our sins so that we could have a relationship with God.

Christ came to earth to meet our greatest need, interceding for us who were dead in our sins and bound for eternal destruction. This passage tells us that God’s desire is that we would pray for all people, that He desires for them to be saved, and that He wants us and others to know the truth. That truth is found in John 14:6 where Jesus says: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me”

The God who crafted that divine plan is the One worthy of our worship.

Living It:

We live such hectic lives, bombarded by information and technology, that it’s easy to lose the big picture. This week’s lesson helps us overcome that tendency, taking us back to the fundamentals. What is worship about? It’s about God, remembering that Christianity is about acknowledging Him, serving Him, getting to know Him and rejoicing in our Savior who enabled us to be in relationship with Him. Out of that love for God, should flow a concern for others and a desire to act on their behalf.

A few years ago, I started a list of people whose salvation I pray for each day. I add to that list as God leads. I remember the story Jesus told about the man who responded as a result of the persistence of his neighbor at his door. That man knocking was seeking to address the need of another and took steps to meet that need. I figure I’ll keep knocking until God moves in the hearts of the people on my list. I know God’s desire is that none be lost so I trust Him to move in their lives. I praise Him and worship Him because I understand that about Him. Then, when I do see the prayer



answered in one of those lives, it provides an additional opportunity to praise, thank and worship Him.

How about your worship? Are you focused on God, seeking to honor Him in every aspect of your life? Are you focusing on His priorities of salvation and prayer for all people, or have you become distracted by other things, even as you attend church and church activities?

Understanding It:

1. What is the purpose of the book of I Timothy?
2. What two priorities of God are stated in Chapter 2?
3. Look up the definition of mediator. Write a statement about what it means for Christ to be your mediator and why you need Him in that role.
4. Look up the definition of intercede. Make a list of at least three people you know who do not yet have a relationship with the Lord and begin interceding for them.

Doing It!

This week, take time to reflect on your view of worship and your prayer life. On a sheet of paper or in your computer, create a list of changes you can make in your daily life that will demonstrate that you worship God and Christ and want to spend each day as a pillar of truth. Then start doing those things and begin interceding daily on behalf of the people you listed in Question 4.

