



## For The Soul

Worship and Word ~ March 3, 2019

### OPEN

In ***Soul Shaping: Taking Care of Your Spiritual Life*** Douglas J. Rumford suggests the believer's life should be like the design of the Paris Opera House. This famous building has a subterranean lake which provides support for the weight of huge scenes that are raised or lowered on the stage.

Do you have an inner reserve? Spiritual disciplines help to develop an inner reservoir of spiritual strength for the believer. They also help us fight against **soul neglect** of which Rumford notes some symptoms such as low grade "depression fever", being busy but bored, developing a hard heart or a diminished resistance to temptation.

Sometimes proactively preparing us, sometimes restoring us, spiritual practices are very important for the growth of the Christian.

### DIG

#### Read Psalm 63:1-8

Worship is not about ultimately about place and posture but about connecting with God in Spirit and Truth (see John 4:16-26).

How does David express the fact that God is **essential** to his life in verse 1?

Is your worship mechanical or do you actually long for and thirst after God?

How worship must **exclusively** about God, according to verses 2-5?

Is your worship **exceptional**? Read verses 6-9 and notice that David's worship was just as real in the difficult times, not just "in the sanctuary".

Exceptional worship takes place in the believer in spite of pain, problems, or even prison (see Acts 16:22-25).

Dallas Willard helps us see that the worship, as a discipline, is not about harsh duty but rather a delight in the Lord. He wrote, "The spirit of the disciplines is nothing but the love of Jesus, with its resolute will to be like him whom we love."

How does Romans 12:1-2 explain that worship is far more than music and is really about a total life response to the transforming power of God?

William Temple wrote that worship is "...to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open up the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God."

#### Read Psalm 19:7-11

George Marshall stated, "We must stop setting our sights by the light of each passing ship; instead we must set our course by the stars." Are you living your life based on the fads, trends, and ideas of this world? Or do you set your course based upon the Word of God?

Scripture invites our exploration, meditation, reflection, and application. The Word is not an academic exercise, but it is rooted in our relationship with God.

Can you relate to Jeremiah? "When I discovered your words, I devoured them. They are my joy and my heart's delight." (Jeremiah 15:16)

Notice the way that the Word of God is extolled for all of its benefits to the obedient reader, according to verses 7-9.

In verses 10-11 we are told that the Word of God provides three specific outcomes in the life of the believer - nurture, warning, reward

We are to crave the truth of the Bible because it is in fact, the very Word of God. Consider what our Cornerstone Statement of Faith says about the Bible:

We believe the Bible to be the complete Word of God; that the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament in the original manuscripts, were written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and were entirely free from error. Further, we believe that the Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21

Eugene Peterson suggests we should read Scripture four ways...

☒ slowly    ☒ imaginatively    ☒ prayerfully    ☒ obediently

### REFLECT

Do you **idolize** God's Word or worship? We should highly value worship and the Word of God. But if we are not careful, we get hooked on an experience or a subject matter, rather than God Himself.

Do you **optionalize** God's Word or worship? Both aspects of our interaction with God are vital. Worship informs the Word and the Word informs worship!

Some further reading about worship and word...

***Worship Is A Verb*** by Robert E. Webber (Hendrickson, 2004)

***Living By The Book*** by H. Hendricks & W. Hendricks (Moody Press, 1993)

"Joy is the keynote of all the disciplines. The purpose of the disciplines is liberation from the stifling slavery to self-interest and fear." (Richard Foster)