

## KEEPING THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING

JOHN 4:19-24

### I. The Uniqueness of Worship

- *Colossians 1:18; 2:9*

### II. The Nature of Worship

- *Psalms 86:2; 95:6; 100:2*

*We believe that our first priority is to love and worship God the Creator who made himself known in Jesus Christ, and who sent the Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus Christ to the world. As individuals, we want to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. As a church our first purpose for gathering is to reflect on who God is, what he has done, and what he is doing in the world, and to respond in adoration, thanks, confession and reverent obedience. We invite spiritual seekers to gather with us, to ‘taste and see that the Lord is good.’ (Vision 2015)*

*Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of conscience by His holiness; the nourishment of mind with His truth; the purifying of imagination by His beauty; the opening of the heart to His love; the surrender of will to His purpose – and all of this gathered up in adoration, the most selfless emotion of which our nature is capable and therefore the chief remedy for that self-centeredness which is our original sin and the source of all actual sin. (Archbishop Temple)*

### III. The Beginnings of Worship

- *Genesis 4:1-16*

### IV. Debate over Worship – An Example from Jesus (John 4:19-24)

#### A. The woman’s objection

#### B. Jesus’ answer

##### 1. The fundamental defects in Samaritan worship

###### a. obsession with place

- *I Kings 8:27*

###### b. defective view of God

##### 2. The real issue

### V. Distortions of Worship

#### A. Worshiping the Wrong God

- *Romans 1:25*
- *II Corinthians 5:9*

#### B. Worshiping God in the Wrong Way

##### 1. Wrong practices

- *II Samuel 6:1-7*

##### 2. Wrong attitudes

- *Isaiah 29:13; Mark 7:6; Isaiah 58*

##### 3. Wrong focus

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

NOVEMBER 3-9

### Follow-throughs

#### Monday

**Genesis 4:1-16; Proverbs 3:9,10**

In what ways were Cain and Abel’s offerings different from one another? What does this passage reveal about Cain’s attitudes toward God? What encouraging promise does God give in the Proverbs passage to those who offer him their first and their best? What do your own offerings reveal about your heart toward God?

#### Tuesday

**Romans 1:18-32**

Where does the downward spiral described in these verses begin? Where does it end? Pray for our nation today, and for our elections. Pray that millions of our countrymen would return to worship of the true God revealed in Jesus Christ, and that they would honor him as Creator and Savior.

#### Wednesday

**Isaiah 58:1-14**

How did the Israelites see themselves and God? How did God view them? What relationship is there between our observance of God’s commandments, including our treatment of one another in society, and God’s willingness to receive our worship, and to bless our nation? If Isaiah were addressing America today, what might he say?

#### Thursday

**I Kings 8:1-66**

Meditate on this beautiful picture of the glory of God filling the temple at its dedication. What did Solomon’s prayer and his blessing on the people illustrate about his view of God? Worship the Lord for his greatness.

#### Friday

**II Corinthians 5:1-10**

What are some of the benefits and promises of God that Paul lists in these verses? What does he know about the future? Meditate on that phrase: “We make it our goal to please him” (verse 9). What do you hear the Lord calling you to today, in order to please him?

### Warm-ups

#### Saturday

**Psalms 66:1-12**

What are some of the ways in which the nation of Israel experienced the awesome power of God? What are some ways that you have seen God’s power expressed in your own life?

#### Sunday

**Psalms 66:13-20**

Are there any vows you have made to the Lord which you have not fulfilled? Is there any sin which you have been “cherishing in your heart” (verse 18)? On this “Lord’s Day,” why not take the opportunity to make a more complete surrender to the Lord?