

## Sermon Notes – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January

### ‘True Worship’

St Paul defines ‘Spiritual worship’ as the offering of our ‘bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God’ (Romans 12:1).

- What do you think he means by this?
- If true worship is the ‘valuing or treasuring of something (God perhaps?) above all things’ how do people demonstrate this?

Read Matthew 15:8,9.

Is Jesus suggesting that we can busy ourselves doing many good deeds, (a bit like Martha in Luke 10:38) being religious in our church attendance and give an appearance of being committed but if our hearts are not in it, then this counts for nothing?

John Piper says; **‘All true worship is in essence, a matter of the heart. It is more, but it is not less’**. In the light of this how do you measure up?

Read Mathew 2:1-12 and the account of the Magi.

- Knowing how far they travelled (modern day Iraq) and how long it took them, what was their motivation for undertaking such an arduous and potentially dangerous journey?
- In contrast the local religious people knew their scriptures but had no desire or motivation to make the short 7 mile journey to find out for themselves. What does this suggest about their heart?

Websters dictionary defines worship as; **‘to honour with extravagant love and extreme submission’** and therefore suggests true worship is defined by who God is in our lives and where God sits on our list of priorities.

At the start of this new year, do you feel you need to realign your focus so as to give more space to your relationship with God and place him front and centre of the choices you make? Share together how you could do this.

Pray for one another that you may have a renewed desire to be so filled with his Holy Spirit so as to place the honour of God as first in your life.

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