



Three Dollars Worth of God

Introduction: How well do you think you know God? Have you settled for knowing less about God than He really wants you to know? Is your relationship on a superficial level? Did the words penned by Wilbur Reese we just quoted describe you? The church, the body of believers called out of the world is only as strong as it's relationship to God. (Rev. 2) If you feel that your faith as a believer is not what it should be, chances are that your problem is that you are not taking time to cultivate your relationship with the God who gave you life.

I. In _____

- A) I am afraid we are far too removed from any emotions in worship.
- B) We have formalized and intellectualized it so much that we miss the point of Jesus in John 4:24.
- C) Worship is to be *"in spirit and in truth"*. It engages emotion and intellect, your heart and your mind.
- D) It is not based on mere externals (John 4:20-21; Acts 17:24; Matthew 18:20).

II. In _____

- A) If a Bible teacher requires us to have our lesson done ahead of time that is just being too harsh.
- D) Problem is we don't know the Word (Hosea 4:6); because we don't read and meditate (Ps. 1:1-2); since we don't meditate we are not filled with the Spirit (i.e. word of Christ richly dwelling within us) (Eph. 5:18; Col. 3:16); without being filled with the Spirit we miss the way of escape lack strength in temptation (1 Cor. 10:13); and of course we could not possibly be ready to give an answer to those who ask (1 Pet. 3:15) because they probably do not see anything different in us since we have never sanctified Christ as Lord in our hearts!

III. In _____

- A) This mind set denies 1 Thessalonians 5:17, *"pray without ceasing"*.
- B) I saw a church sign which read, *"If God seems far away, who moved?"*
- C) I must confess that too many times in my life I would rather have had just three dollars worth of God when it comes to my prayer life. You see it's easier that way.
- D) Because lack of communication destroys a relationship or will prevent it from ever becoming forged or close.

IV. In My _____

- A) Be honest, what is the center of your home?
- B) Activities, sports, school, TV, recreation, work? It is definable if we will be honest.
- C) Is the sentiment, *"but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD"* really yours or does it just make a nice rug or wall hanging?
- D) Fathers, are we ready to step up to the challenge (Eph. 6:4)?

V. In _____

- A) I'll put my three dollars in, let the "professional teachers" take care of it.
- B) Matt. 28:19-20; 2 Tim. 2:2
- C) Acts 8:1,4; 18:24-26a

VI. In _____

- A) Matthew 22:37-39
- B) Matthew 7:12

Conclusion: We are on the whole too concerned and busy being, Saints instead of Seekers; Consumers rather than Contributors; Members not Ministers; Audience and never an Army; The task to move from self-centered consumerism to servant-hearted Christian is an awesome imperative. But...would we rather simply have "Three Dollars Worth of God"?

Speaker:
Shannon Shaffer

"I would like to buy three dollars worth of God, please. Not enough to explode my soul with joy or disturb my sleep during worship, but just enough of Him to equal a cup of warm milk or a snooze in the sunshine. I don't want enough of Him to make me love Bible study or open communication in prayer. I don't like too much of Him in my home. I would rather not evangelize because that would mean I'd have to love my neighbor. I want ecstasy, not transformation. I want the warmth of the womb, not a new birth. I want a pound of the Eternal in a paper sack, please. I would like to buy three dollars worth of God, please."
-Wilbur Reese-

Answers:
Worship, Bible study,
prayer, home, evangelism,
loving others.

