

“Him Only Shall You Serve”

Our culture seems to pride itself on “multi-tasking”, but for spiritual well being I need a single focus.

Him “Only” Shall You Serve

- Matthew 4:8-10 – Jesus in time of temptation
- “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.” (Matt. 6:24)
- Seeing “4-letter words” in the Bible?
 (“O-N-L-Y”) – A “four letter” concept

Let's Play Fill In The Blank....

- Him “at times” shall you serve?
- Him “as well” shall you serve?
- Him “when in Rome” shall you serve?
- **ONLY (rules out...)**
 - **personal desires**
 - **cultural opinion**
- Society doesn't like “absolutes”, but contradicts its own remedy: *“Are you sure there are no absolutes? Absolutely!”*

Why Serve Him Only?

- **Authority** – which is reasonable by...
 - His Power: Job 38:4
 - His Love: John 3:16
 - His Judgment: 2 Corinthians 5:10
- **Profit** – God knows our nature
 - “My yoke is easy...” (Luke 11)
 - “His commands not burdensome” (1 Jn.)
- **Gratitude** - for God’s grace

Understanding Grace

- **What does real gratitude and understanding of “Amazing Grace” look like?**
 1. Needed! (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1-2)
 2. Doesn't lower my bar! (“constrains me”)
 3. Understands obedience possible (“grace to help in time of need” Heb. 4:16)
- **Question:** Did you die on your birthday?

Challenges To Serving Him

- An example from David's battle (I Samuel 17)
 - battling (serving) without intent
 - battling (serving) without support
- Encouragements
 - battle (serve) without shame
 - battle (serve) all the way (finish)

Profitable Amnesia in Service

- **To continue to serve Him only you will need to “forget” some things:**
 - your setbacks in earlier attempts
(Peter) (Barnabas w/ John Mark)
 - your slights
 - your successes (no reliance on accrued balances)
- “O to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be!”**

Finding Your Service?

- Passages – “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105)
- People – “Body” (Ephesians 2; Romans 12)
 - Wonderfully imperfect!
- Prayer (John 17’s “thermal” example)

