

WONDER AND WORSHIP

ADRIAN ROGERS



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Wonder & Worship

Adrian Rogers

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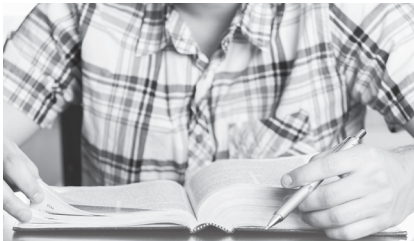
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Guide to Studying Your Bible

FIVE SIMPLE STEPS FROM
PASTOR ADRIAN ROGERS

PRAY OVER IT

Begin with prayer. Ask for God's cleansing and the ability to receive what He wants to teach you.

PONDER IT

What did it mean **then**?
What does it mean **now**?
What does it mean **to me**?

PUT IT IN WRITING

Write down what **the Holy Spirit is revealing** to you.

PRACTICE IT

Find ways you can **incorporate the truths** you've just been shown into your own life.

PROCLAIM IT

Contemplate ways to **share the knowledge** God has given you.

6 QUESTIONS

TO ASK YOURSELF
WHILE READING SCRIPTURE

Is there a
promise to claim?

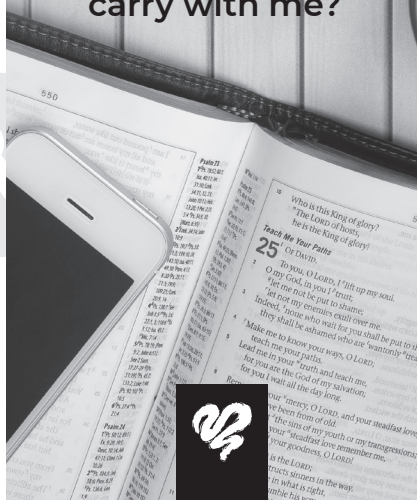
Is there a
lesson to learn?

Is there a
blessing to enjoy?

Is there a
command to obey?

Is there a
sin to avoid?

Is there a
new thought to
carry with me?



May we never come to the
place where the joy and
wonder go out of our worship.
We are to worship God with
enthusiasm, not weariness.
In fact, the word *enthusiasm* has
the word *Theos* (God) at its root.

We should be excited—
enthousiasmos—about serving
the Lord Jesus Christ. Every day
should become sweeter.

May our praise rise to
Heaven like sweet incense, an
offering worthy of our God—
the Great King.

ADRIAN ROGERS

Why “Wonder & Worship”?

Our highest privilege as Christians is to know and enjoy God's presence. Pastor Adrian Rogers taught that we are best able to enjoy this privilege when we recognize God's nature, reverence His name, and respect His nobility.

When we recognize Him as our Father, we honor Him, give Him weight in our thinking, and take Him seriously. When we realize He is our master, we “fear” Him appropriately—not a sick trepidation but, as Pastor Rogers said, “love on its knees.”

We reverence the name of God because His name represents His character. Reverence means more than refusing to use swear words. “Profanity,” Pastor Rogers said, “is when you use the name of God and you don't mean it. You sing His name and you're thinking about something else. It's an insult to Almighty God.” Instead we are to bring our whole hearts—the very best of who we are—to worship Him.

Respecting the nobility of God will help us recognize His presence in our worship. “If we knew that the President or an earthly king planned to visit,” Pastor Rogers mused, we would: “make sure to be there, sing with more feeling, engage mentally, and focus on our honored guest.” There would be “a buzz of excitement in the air.”

We hope that's where this book takes you. We've gathered some of Pastor Rogers' best thoughts about getting right with God so we can rediscover the true wonder of worship. God is present in our worship whether we are alone in quiet time, with a group, or at a large church gathering.

The King of kings is in our midst.

Lord, speak to my heart as I read today and show me how to know you more.

1

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

PSALM 19:1-4

Did you know that you can know God personally? You don't have to guess about Him. And that's so very important. Truly, to know Him is to trust Him, to trust Him is to obey Him, and to obey Him is to be blessed.

How can you know God? Well, the nineteenth Psalm gives us some ways in which God speaks to us. And we don't have to guess about it. There can be no stutter, no stammer, no apology, and no equivocation. You can know God personally, intimately, assuredly.

To begin with, God speaks to us through the convincing Word of God in the heavens. In Psalm 19, we are told that God's convincing Word is in the heavens. As you look up into the starry night, as you see the vast Universe that Almighty God has created, you can know that there is a God. Someone formed and fashioned all of those planets, stars, and skies.

How long has it been since you looked up at night to see the starry skies? We get so busy and forget to look up. However, to look up and see the millions and billions of stars is to be reminded that we have a Creator. Looking up into the heavens will strengthen our faith and encourage us that we have a Heavenly Father who loves us and wants to have a personal relationship with us.

Take a few minutes and look up today, because "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows His handiwork."

APPLICATION

When was the last time you went out at night and looked up at the stars? Why not try looking up tonight or on the next clear night? How do you think this might encourage your faith?

How does creation remind you of your Creator? Which parts of creation most encourage your faith in God—the ocean, the mountains, the stars, a quiet stream?

Would you like to grow closer to the Lord right now? Why not write out a prayer about your desire for God, sharing your heart in the space below?

As I study today, teach me more about Your power and might!

2

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

PSALM 19:1-4

Someone once said, “God stepped from behind the curtain of nowhere and stood upon the platform of nothing and spoke a world into existence.” (author unknown)

Did you know that a person can't create anything? No man has ever created a single thing. We talk about human beings with creativity. Indeed, all you can do is rearrange what God has already created. God created in one great act everything. God is the one who is behind all things.

Light travels at 186,282 miles per second. How fast is that? If you were to hijack a light beam and go to the moon, you could be there in about two seconds. At the speed of light, you would have to travel four and one-half years to get to the nearest star. To travel out to the rim of our known Universe, traveling at the speed of light, you would have to travel for ten billion years. Who made all of this? God did!

Also, we can consider the intricacies of God's creation. The smallest unit of human life is the cell. There are approximately three billion cells in your body. Some have described our cells as being more complicated than a huge metropolitan city.

Whether you look inward or whether you look outward, you see the vastness or the minuteness of His creation. It is true that “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows His handiwork.”

APPLICATION

When you think about the speed of light and the way God created the planets, how does this impact you? How great is God to you?

As you consider the intricacies of God's creation, what are your thoughts? Are you encouraged knowing that God has a great interest in the tiny details of our lives?

Why not write out a prayer to God as you close your devotional time today? Share your thoughts with the Lord below.

Open my heart to see and understand more of Your goodness and glory.

3

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

PSALM 19:1-4

Did you know that creation not only displays God's glory and God's greatness but also shows us His goodness? God is good. And He is good to us.

There is a fixed order in the Universe. Night and day. Day and night. It is God who daily loads us with benefits. Indeed, His mercies are new every single morning. Every day, every human has the opportunity to see God call the sun to rise, cross the skies, and set in the evenings.

It's our privilege to enjoy the breezes blowing through the trees, to feel the warmth of the sun on our skin, and to hear the rain splashing to the Earth. Summer, fall, winter, and spring—we all get to relish the amazing seasons that God has created. To stroll through the woods or walk about the ocean shore is to enjoy God's goodness.

Each time God sends rain to water our flowers or gardens, we can savor His goodness. As trees grow and offer shade, we are also reminded of His kindness to us.

This is the handiwork of Almighty God. Therefore, a person has no excuse whatsoever for not believing in God. God's Word says it clearly and crisply. Romans 1:19-20 says, "Because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse."

APPLICATION

What about you? How have you experienced the goodness of God through His creation?

Which is your favorite season of the year? What do you love about it?

Take a minute and write out a prayer to God, thanking Him for His goodness in your life.

As I read today, teach me more about the importance of rest.

4

But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates..

EXODUS 20:10

The Chinese have a legend. They tell of the man who went to the marketplace one day and he had a string of seven coins. He saw a beggar and he gave the beggar six of those coins and placed the seventh in his pocket, but the beggar, who was also a pickpocket, lifted the seventh coin and took that for himself also. I'm afraid that's a parable of our modern day.

Our Lord has given us six days to do our work. But so many people take the six days and steal the seventh to use for themselves. Today's Scripture reminds us that there is one day a week when we are to honor the Lord with our time. We are to spend our six days working, and then give Him the seventh.

In the Old Testament, the Jewish Sabbath is the seventh day. Notice the verse, "But the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God." As New Testament Christians we do not worship on the seventh day, we worship on the first day. The seventh day is Saturday; the first day is Sunday. The seventh day is given to the Jew and is from the Old Testament. The first day is the Lord's Day and is given to the Christian from the New Testament.

The Early Church met for worship upon the first day of the week. We discover this in Acts 20:6-7. Collections were taken and received for the work of the Lord and the comfort of the saints upon the first day of the week. In 1 Corinthians 16:2, we read these instructions, "On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come."

APPLICATION

In your opinion, why does it matter that Christians meet on the first day of the week to worship together? Are you involved regularly with a community of believers?

Why do you think that resting one day a week is so important? Have you been able to rest one day per week?

Write out a prayer to the Lord in response to what you have read today.

Lord, show me the importance of Sunday rest and Sunday worship.

5

And God spoke all these words, saying: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me."

EXODUS 20:1-3

Why has our Lord ordained that we should worship? It is because of the nature of Man. Man is a spiritual being, and there are reasons for a day of rest in worship. First, worship gives you the chance to replenish your spirit. You can run down spiritually just like a battery can run down. God has given us a day to recharge, to replenish, to renew our spirits. Worship is meant to recharge our batteries.

A man in Philadelphia was passing a coal mine in the days when they used mules to pull the coal wagons through the mines. He noticed that one man had his mules in the pasture every Sunday. When asked why the mules were put out in the pastures on Sundays, the mule owner explained that the mules would go blind if they stayed in the coal mines all the time. They needed sunlight. To have one day a week grazing in the sunlight restored their vision and kept them working longer.

Similarly, some people work and live without ever taking a day off to rest and worship. We need to refresh our spirits, to reinvigorate our spirits, and to replenish our spirits. Also, God has given us a special day of worship that we might refresh our souls. Without this refreshing we become nervous, unstrung, anxious, taut, and tense.

Americans consume millions of pills to deal with anxiety and chaos. Our world is noisy and busy. And, we have invented so many new things. In reality, we have just added more noise and more speed. God says we had better slow down. We had better refresh our souls. Sundays give us a day to gain perspective, refocus, and refresh. Weekly worship assists with all of these endeavors.

APPLICATION

So, what does your typical Sunday look like? How do you like to spend your day?

Is worship a regular part of your Sunday schedule? If so, how has worship refreshed your soul and replenished your spirit?

Take a few moments to talk to the Lord about Sundays and worship. Use the space below to write out your prayer.
