

Advent Latin word meaning "coming" or "arrival"

Projected holiday spending in 2018:

\$885 for the average adult

33% expect to spend at least \$1000 on gifts
22% expect to spend between \$500 and \$999
29% expect to spend between \$100 and \$499
3% plan to spend less than \$100

Holiday sales are projected to be in 2018:

\$720.89 billion



Advent begins and ends with Jesus.

1 Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

3 For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

4 In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

5 The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

7 For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Today, if you hear his voice,

8 do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

9 when your fathers put me to the test and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

10 For forty years I loathed that generation and said, "They are a people who go astray in their heart, and they have not known my ways."

11 Therefore I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter my rest."

Psalm 95 (ESV)

Worship is...

the act of ascribing ultimate value to someone or something that engages your entire being and transforms your life.

Worship is a human experience.

We all worship something or someone.

Pay attention to what you react to and that will show you what you worship.

Your reactions are a window to view your desires. This will show you what is capturing the affections of your heart. Worship calls for...

an acceptable response because of who God is in himself - his character.

We are motived to respond in worship because God is the *owner of Creation* and the CREATOR.

We are motived to respond in worship because God is the source of our *identity.*

When we worship anything other than God it distorts our life.

You are always attaching your identity, your meaning, well-being, and sense of purpose – to something or someone. And where a worshiper finds his or her identity, there they'll find practical ways to worship. - Paul D. Tripp

Worship is transformational – it has the power to transform you in Christlikeness, or it can distort your identity. Worship is transformational – it has the power to transform you in Christlikeness, or it can distort your identity.

Worship invites us...

to fully experience the Gospel of Jesus.

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Worship invites us to experience Gospel rest.

6 Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, 7 again he appoints a certain day, "Today," saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, "Today, if you hear his voice,

- do not harden your hearts."
- 8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on.
- 9 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God,
- **10** for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.
- **11** Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.

- Hebrews 4:6-11 (ESV)

Without Gospel rest the call to worship becomes another duty.

The call to worship is a life transformative encounter with the living God - in and through the person of Jesus!

