

Today we'll learn lessons from the wise men that will help us to put Christ first in the coming year!

1. Put Christ First Every Day (Matthew 2:1-2, 10).

- a. Seeking the Messiah was the top priority of the wise men.
 - i. They were students of the Scriptures.
 1. It is very possible that the magi were aware of Balaam's prophecy in Numbers 24:17.
 2. If they were aware of Daniel's prophecy of 70 weeks, they could have very likely been counting down the years and scanning the heavens for the star.
 - ii. They took an amazing step of faith according to the Scriptures.
 1. They likely traveled over 900 miles from Persia at great cost and risk.
 2. They were intent upon seeking and worshipping Christ no matter what the cost.
- b. Application: Each of us should follow the example of the Magi by seeking God as our top priority every day.
 - i. Psalm 63:1 "O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is;"
 - ii. Mark 1:35 "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed."
 - iii. Make prayer and Bible reading the first thing you do every day!
 - iv. Act upon what you read!

2. Put Christ First Every Week (Matthew 2:2, 9-10).

- a. Worshipping Christ was the main goal of the wise men (2).
 - i. Worship is treasuring Christ.
 - ii. Worshipping Christ valuing Christ above all else.
 - iii. When the wise men saw the star they rejoiced with an overabundance of joy (9-10).
 - iv. Worship is not just an action; worship is from the heart.
- b. Application: Each of us should follow the example of the Magi by setting aside the first day of every week to worship God!
 - i. Acts 20:7 "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them..."
 - ii. Hebrews 10:25 "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."
 - iii. Set aside the first day of the week for corporate worship!
 - iv. What you do first sets the tone for the rest of the week!

3. Put Christ First Every Month (Matthew 2:11-12).

- a. Giving tangible gifts to God was the culmination of the wise men's worship.
 - i. The wise men chose gifts that were of great value in that day.
 - ii. The wise men's gifts likely financed Joseph and Mary's flight into Egypt.
 1. God uses the gifts of His people to further the ministry of the Gospel.
 2. When God's people give, the work of God flourishes.
 3. When God's people withhold their treasures, God's work is jeopardized.
- b. Application: Each of us should follow the example of the Magi by offering the firstfruits of our treasure to the Savior.
 - i. Leviticus 27:30 "And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's: it is holy unto the LORD."
 - ii. Some would say, "If I were to start tithing, I'd have to reorder my entire life." And that is precisely the point of tithing, ordering our lives around God's priorities.
 - iii. Matthew 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."