## **NO OTHER GOD**

Key highlights from a message by Prof. Ezra Sabiiti Suruma at St. Francis Chapel, Makerere University, On Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021, As captured by Samuel A. Bakutana



**MESSAGE ROADMAP:** 

WHAT must be done?

WHY must it be

done?

HOW can it be done?

Main texts: Exo. 20:1-3; Matt. 4:8-11; and James 1:2-12

#### (1) WHAT MUST BE DONE?

Worship God and Him only.

- Worship: feeling or expression of reverence and adoration to a deity.
- Revere: Honour and admire profoundly and respectfully.
- Adore: Love and respect someone deeply.
- The first commandment is about loving Him with all our heart and mind...

### WHY MUST IT BE DONE?

Because God is taking us out of bondage to set us free from slavery.

> Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. Hebrews 2:14-15

Transformation Quote: "When you are being tested, you are about to be promoted to the next level."

– Prof. Ezra Suruma

God says, "I am the Lord who liberated you from slavery in Egypt..." He did this with *mighty power*. Therefore, worshipping Him is the right response to the liberation from this bondage. So, do you prefer freedom or remain in bondage? Ask yourself, "What is enslaving me? Who is my Pharaoh?" Remember what God has done for you that deserves your loyalty and worship. (See: Hebrews 2:14-15.) No other God has broken this bondage. This is why He deserves our love and worship.



We must be transformed from what we worship, from the patterns of the world, and from our culture. Romans 12:1-2 (The Message version) says:

"So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walkingaround life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you."

As you can see, we are talking about our ordinary daily life, not speaking in lofty terms. What is controlling you as you about your ordinary life? Is it your boss, money or fear? Whatever is controlling you is what you are worshipping. When you embrace with gratitude what God has done for you, that becomes your worship. When you fix your attention on God, you'll be transformed, that is, "changed from the inside out."

Transformation Quote:

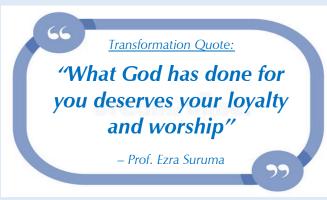
"Life is not about doing great things; it is about doing God's will."

– Prof. Ezra Suruma

#### Ephesians 4:1 – Pay attention to what you are



called to do/be. What is <u>your</u> standard (not what everybody else is doing)? Do not make yourself, your business or your career your God. It is not about you; it is about your Creator who put you here for a purpose. John 6:63 – Only the Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. We are here today; we are gone tomorrow; only the Spirit gives eternal life. The body will die but the spirit is eternal. Be born again of God, of the Spirit, and become a part of Him. Be changed from inside out. Do you believe this, that in Christ, even if you die you will be alive?



We have to have a change of character and attitude. James 1:5 reminds us to ask God for wisdom. It is not about doing great things but being in God's will. Life is not about doing great things; it is about doing God's will. No matter how much you worry, you will still die! You can't worry yourself to eternal life. By faith we can change; Christ is able to make us new creatures.

In the midst of all, remember joy and hope. On every dark cloud, there is a silver lining. When you are being tested, you are about to be promoted to the next level. If you fail, try again until you pass. Real wisdom is knowing what God wants you to do.

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#### CONCLUSION:

Our God is a mighty God; worthy of our praise and worship because He has broken our bondage to the slavery and fear of death. Go from fear to praise and worship. Worship God only; no other God.

"Our God reigns." Full message can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D4Nj6vacjfA