

## EPHIPHANY 1

(MANIFESTATION OF CHRIST TO THE GENTILES)

### THE COLLECT

**O LORD, we beseech thee mercifully to receive the prayers of thy people who call upon thee; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**



1. Why do we beseech God mercifully to receive the prayers of his people?  
A. Read 1 John 5:14: And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything \_\_\_\_\_ to his \_\_\_\_\_ he \_\_\_\_\_ us.
2. What do we pray we may both perceive and know?  
A. What things we ought to \_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 25:45)
3. What do we require to enable us faithfully to fulfill the same?  
A. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 12:28)

### INTRODUCTION.

What is this Sunday called? So we have now entered on the season of Epiphany. What does “Epiphany” mean? “Showing forth.” What do we thank God for at this time? That Christ was shown forth to Gentiles. Who were the first Gentiles to whom He was shown? the wise men. How did they know about Him? They were guided by God. Now what do we pray in today’s Collect? “That we may both perceive and know,” &c. Let us see then how God showed all this to the wise men, and how they responded to God’s guidance.

### I. DIRECTION THEY RECEIVED.

1. **By Providence**, i.e. God caused something to happen in their lives, to call their attention, the appearance of the Star. They studied the stars, so this remarkable appearance was noticed by them. God’s guidance came in the course of their daily work, just as it came to the shepherds while they kept watch over their flocks.

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2. **By Inward Prompting.** God make them feel that the star meant something, and had not appeared by chance.

3. **The Holy Scriptures.** They probably knew the prophecies of Daniel (7:13-14, 9:25-26, 12:3), and almost certainly knew the prophecy of Balaam (Numbers 24:17).

## II. WE HAVE THE SAME THREEFOLD GUIDANCE.

1. **God's Providence.** These are events which happen around us, and in our own lives, by which God calls our attention. They can be simple things found in daily work, or large things such as illness or a sudden change of work or place..
2. **Conscience.** By which God makes us feel that the events which happen are not by chance, and are meant to teach us something.
3. **Holy Scripture.** By which God teaches us what they mean, and what He wants us to learn from them.

## III. DISCOVERY THEY MADE.

1. **Following these steps of God's guidance, they were led to Jesus.** But they did not find what they expected.



They *expected* to find a little prince born in the king's palace, at Jerusalem— the capital

They *found* a poor little baby, the child of a poor mother, living in a little cottage in a small country town, with no kingly glory or riches.

It was hard to believe that this little baby could be the King of the Jews, but when they remembered the star and the words of the prophets, they knew that after all they were right.

2. **So it is still.** God's guidance of our lives is meant to lead us to Jesus. When we have come to Him, it is not always what we expected, but if we look back over all they way God has led us, we know that we are right after all.



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