



Raising our Reverence Pt 5: Acceptable Worship 2020!

March 27, 2020

March Theme: *Hebrews 12:28-29 (KJV)* *Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: 29 For our God is a consuming fire.*

If there was ever a day for God's people to reset, refocus, and ask God for renewal, revival, and restoration, it's today! **How we have been shaken! How the LORD has reminded us of His great power and mercy! Oh how desperately do we need the LORD Jesus for EVERYTHING!**

And beloved, how should desire to honor and reverence Him!

May we be awakened to the greatness of our God, His sovereign power and unmatched love for us in Christ Jesus.

He is worthy to be honored and served with godly fear!

Now, I'm not sure how we can raise our reverence and walk in willful disobedience at the same time. In my devotions this week, I was reading though Deuteronomy 9-10. God called His people "stiff-necked."

Deuteronomy 10:16-17 (KJV) *Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiff-necked. 17 For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward:*

This is the opposite of what we want. Great and terrible is our God! Godly fear is a good thing!

Therefore, here are some verses burning in my soul:

- ***2 Timothy 1:13-14 (KJV)*** *Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. 14 That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.*
- ***Matthew 7:24-27 (KJV)*** *Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. 26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*
- ***1 Timothy 3:14-16 (KJV)*** *These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: 15 But if I tarry long, **that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.** 16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

- **1 Corinthians 14:33 (KJV)** *For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.*
- **1 Corinthians 14:40 (KJV)** *Let all things be done decently and in order.*

Proposition: Acceptable Worship manifests in two areas:

1. The **Heart** and **Attitudes** of the *Inner Man* (roughly speaking, our orthodoxy, or what we believe)
2. The **Posture** and **Actions** of the *Outer Man* (*our orthopraxy, what we do based on those beliefs*)

Although many focus on one or the other, the truth is BOTH are necessary if we are to consistently please our “consumer fire” God.

Please know that none of these things that we are working on mitigates God's grace! In all we do we count upon His grace because all we do is ultimately imperfect. But that precious truth should not stop us from attempting to give Christ our very best in His worship!

Acceptable Worship of the “Inner Man”:

1. Brokenness

- **Psalms 34:18 (KJV)** *The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.*
- **James 4:6 (KJV)** *But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.*
- **1 Peter 5:1-5 (KJV)** *The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: **2** Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; **3** Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. **4** And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. **5** Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.*

2. Faith

- **Colossians 1:23 (KJV)** *If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;*
- **Colossians 2:6-7 (KJV)** *As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: **7** Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.*
- **Hebrews 11:6 (KJV)** *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

3. Love

- **Matthew 22:37-40 (KJV)** *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. **38** This is the first and great*

commandment. **39** And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. **40** On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

- **Ephesians 4:1-2 (KJV)** I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, **2** With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;
- **1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 (KJV)** Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you. **12** And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: **13** To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

4. Unity

- **Acts 2:1 (KJV)** And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.
- **Ephesians 4:1-6 (KJV)** I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, **2** With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; **3** Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **4** There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; **5** One Lord, one faith, one baptism, **6** One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.
- **Philippians 2:2 (KJV)** Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

5. Service

- **Galatians 5:13 (KJV)** For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.
- **Galatians 6:2 (KJV)** Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Acceptable Worship of the "Outer Man"

1. Prayer

- **Acts 1:14 (KJV)** These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.
- **1 Timothy 2:8 (KJV)** I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.
- **Ephesians 6:18 (KJV)** Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

2. Praise

- **Hebrews 13:15 (KJV)** By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.
- **Ephesians 5:18-20 (KJV)** And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; **19** Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; **20** Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

3. Preaching

- **1 Timothy 4:13 (KJV)** *Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.*
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV)** *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.*
- **2 Timothy 4:2-4 (KJV)** *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*

4. Practices

- **Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV)** *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*
- **Acts 20:7 (KJV)** *And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.*
- **1 Timothy 2:9 (KJV)** *In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;*
- **2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (KJV)** *But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

5. Priority (Show up!)

- **Hebrews 10:25 (KJV)** *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.*
- **1 Corinthians 16:2 (KJV)** *Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.*

Final thoughts:

May our worship always be in Spirit (right heart before God) and in Truth (right practices before God)...

John 4:23-24 (KJV) *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

...and centered around the **Gospel of Jesus Christ!**

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 (KJV) Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; **2** By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. **3** For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; **4** And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

Amen!