

7. REVERENCE AND WORSHIP DUE TO GOD

1. The infinite greatness and holiness of God should inspire our hearts with an attitude of sacred awe and reverence. Reverence is honor, respect, difference, manifested or felt. "True reverence for God is inspired by a sense of His infinite greatness and a realization of His presence." Education" page 242.

Hebrews 12:28,29. Acceptable worship of God is to be given, "with reverence and awe." (R.S.V.)

Psalms 89:6,7. God's infinite greatness calls for reverence.

Revelation 14:7. All men are called to fear God and give glory to Him.

The expression "fear God" is used frequently in the Scriptures. It means to regard God with sacred awe and reverence. One who thinks of God as his life-giver, the God of righteousness who hates sin, will fear to do anything that would grieve or displease Him. Thus true reverence calls for repentance of sin. (Proverbs 3:7; 8:13.)

2. Especially are we to manifest reverence of deportment when coming into the presence of God.

Exodus 3: 1-6. Moses at the burning bush.

Joshua 5: 13-15. Joshua in the presence of God.

Exodus 19: 10-13. Israel at Sinai.

Isaiah 6: 1-3. Angels in the presence of God.

Leviticus 10: 1-11. Irreverence punished.

3. In prayer it is fitting to kneel whenever possible.

Psalms 95: 6, 7. Let us kneel before our Maker.

2 Chronicles 6: 13. Solomon knelt in public prayer.

Daniel 6: 10. Daniel knelt in private prayer.

Luke 22: 41. Jesus knelt in Gethsemane.

Acts 9: 40 (Peter), 21: 5 (Paul), 1 Kings 18: 42 (Elijah), Ezra 9: 5 (Ezra).

1 Kings 8: 54. After kneeling in prayer Solomon stood to bless the congregation.

"To bow down when in prayer to God is the proper attitude to occupy." Note Book Leaflets from the Elmshaven Library, Methods No. 7.

"Both in public prayer and private worship it is our duty to bow down upon our knees before God when we offer our petitions to Him. This act shows our dependence upon God." - Ibid.

4. All that Pertains to God and His service is to be regarded reverently.

God's name. Psalms 111:9; Malachi 1:11.

God's Book. 2 Timothy 3:15; Romans 1:2.

God's house. Leviticus 19:30; Habakkuk 2:20; Ecclesiastes 5:1; Isaiah 56:7.

God's day. Exodus 20: 8-11; Ezekiel 20:20.

God's money. Leviticus 27:30-33; Malachi 3:8,9.

God's consecrated things. Leviticus 27:28; Daniel 5:1-3,22,23.

5. True reverence is a grace that will mark the attitude of the Christian not only in acts of worship but in all the affairs of life.

Colossians 2: 6. We are to walk in Christ, i.e., conduct ourselves as Christ did.

Genesis 5: 24. Enoch walked with God "in all the duties of his daily life."

Patriarchs and Prophets, page 85.

Revelation 14: 7. "Fear God and give glory to Him."

6. The cultivation of a reverent spirit will bring great blessings into our lives.

Proverbs 1:7. Reverence for God is the beginning of wisdom.

Psalms 15:4. God honors those who reverence Him.

Psalms 25:14. God's presence is promised to those who reverence Him.

Psalms 34:7. God's protection assured to those who fear Him.

Psalms 103:117. God's mercy given.

Bible Doctrines

MEMORIZE: Psalm 89: 6, 7.

Questions on the Lesson,

1. What is reverence? How is it produced?
2. How are we to worship God acceptably?
3. What message calls all the world to reverence God?
4. Explain the expression "Fear God"
5. Describe the experience of Moses at the burning bush; of Joshua on the plains of Jericho.
Of Israel in the presence of God at Sinai.
6. Describe Isaiah's vision of God.
7. What was irreverent in the service of Nadab and Abihu?
8. What should be our attitude in prayer? Give some examples.
9. Explain the teaching of Scripture as to our attitude towards God's name, the Bible, the church.
The Sabbath, the tithe, the vessels of service in God's house.
10. How is the Christian to conduct himself in ordinary life?

For Further Study

1. What conditions in the world today make the message of Revelation 14: 7 a timely one?
2. Study Psalm 95 on how to approach God.
3. Write out some leading thoughts on the subject of reverence from the book "Education" pages 242-245.