

**RESTORING THE REVERENCE  
BY REPENTANCE  
Hebrews 12:28-29**

**INTRODUCTION**

- A. Idolatry occurs with a redesigning of God.
  - 1. A god that fits our concepts and beliefs of how God should act.
  - 2. The God of the Bible is not denied, just revised.
  - 3. He is welcomed as a gentle, permissive friend – not as the sovereign, omnipotent Creator.
  - 4. Consequently, religion has become a convenience.
  - 5. Instead of a faith that brings us to our knees, we have created gods that neatly fit into our personal understanding, supporting our cause and comfort, our pursuit of our success.
- B. How can we recover what has been lost?
  - 1. How can we restore reverence?
  - 2. Two critical points will help us restore the reverence and awe for our Holy God:
    - a. Repentance which calls us back to reverence.
    - b. A guide offering infallible and authoritative instruction.
- C. Repentance:
  - 1. Repentance is an ongoing, daily process, 2 Corinthians 10:5.
  - 2. It is understanding sin and then turning from that sin, 1 John 1:6-10.
  - 3. It is developing attitudes to conform to God's Word, Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Pet. 1:5-11.

**I. REMEMBER – Who God Is.**

- A. We have a tendency to forget.
  - 1. 2 Peter 3:1-2
  - 2. 1 Cor. 4:17 (14)
- B. Never forget the greatness of God.
  - 1. Who God is.
  - 2. What He expects from each of us.
  - 3. How we approach His throne of grace.
  - 4. We Bow Down (#577).
    - a. God of Creation, Lord of my life,  
Lord of the land and the sea.  
Lord of the heavens before there was time,  
Lord of all lords You will be!
- C. Spend our days thinking [meditating] on God.
  - 1. Psalm 1:2
  - 2. Genesis 39:9, I.e., Joseph, "How can I sin..."

**II. FOCUS – Upon the Almighty.**

- A. Our Focus Especially in Worship.
  - 1. Casual or convenient worship leads to a casual or convenient life for God.
  - 2. Questions: Was I inspired? Was the sermon to MY liking? Were MY needs met?
    - a. *"Each of us will see God differently, and seek to worship Him differently ..."*

*God has given to each of us a personality type that seeks to worship Him differently ... Our God enjoys spontaneous, loving, heart-felt responses of any nature as long as they are authentic."*

- b. License to do anything as long as authentic.
- 3. Contradiction: We are instructed to all speak the same, 1 Cor. 1:10; 11:17.
  - a. The Corinthian church was in chaos with worship.
  - b. The focus has been taken off God and placed on the worshipper:
    - i. *"Our services are to aid each worshipper to express in an individual personal fashion the thanksgiving and praise they need ... all of us are unique and with special gifts by which we can best express ourselves."*
    - ii. It has become all about ME and God is pushed aside.
- B. Repentance leads us to restore the focus of worship – it is FOR God, not man.
  - 1. Worship designed FOR man is idolatry, Ex. 20:3.
  - 2. Worship that unseats God as its primary focus is sin, 2 Tim. 3:2; 4:3-4.
- C. We are "at home" in worship ONLY when we focus solely upon God.
  - 1. Psalm 84:1-2, 4, 10-12

### **III. STRUCTURE!**

- A. God has revealed to us the structure of worship He desires.
  - 1. Idolatry seeks to redesign this structure. 1 Cor. 11:17
  - 2. Idolatry worships comfort.
  - 3. God is uncomfortable when His commands are not followed.
    - a. Ps. 7:11; Mal. 2:17; Rev. 2:14; 2:20; 3:16
  - 4. Faithful Christians should be uncomfortable when confronted by those who do not follow God's commands, Ephesians 5:3-11.
  - 5. The pattern to follow, John 4:24.
- B. Exodus 19:10-14
  - 1. Realization that the Lord is present, Ex. 19:10.
  - 2. Consecration, 2 Cor. 6:17.
  - 3. Willing obedience, Ex. 19:10.
  - 4. Appointed time, Ex. 19:11.
  - 5. Transforming power, Ex. 34:29.
    - a. Moses's face shown after time with God.
    - b. Transformed when we worship according to God's plan!

### **CLOSING**

- A. Reverence can be restored, but...
  - 1. Must repent, refocus and follow God's structure,
  - 2. Refocus
  - 3. Follow God's structure, Ps. 51:12.