

RESTORING REVERENCE WITH AUTHORITY

Psalm 16:7-11

INTRODUCTION

- A. We live in times...
 - 1. Where God is respected but not revered.
 - 2. Where people trust in the supernatural but not the supernatural God of Scripture.
 - 3. Where feelings outweigh faith; hope has been usurped by hopelessness.
 - 4. Where religious devotion is practiced more like a picnic than the knee-knocking, heart-pricking, experience of Scripture.
- B. How can we tell?
 - 1. Biblical reverence honors God with dress.
 - a. In Scripture, those approaching God did so in their best, Ex. 28:2, 43.
 - b. Past generations had their “Sunday-go-to-meeting” clothes.
 - c. Common to hear parents, “*Go change for worship and you know better than wearing that.*”
 - d. Many dress better for a school/business/funeral function than for assemblies where the Lord is worshiped!
 - 2. Biblical reverence honors God with speech.
 - a. Addressing the Almighty in terms of respect and fear.
 - b. Prayers offered to “Daddy”, songs designed to make worshipers giddy, preaching that has forgotten the term “sin”, seldom calling for self-denial.
 - 3. Biblical reverence honors God with first fruits.
 - a. We give to the Lord what is leftover, making the priority giving to self.
 - b. We have allowed self to spend us into debt.
 - c. We have allowed self to convince us that there are more important things in life – and they take us away from worship or Bible study.
- C. How did we lose the reverence?
 - 1. The answer – IDOLATRY!
 - 2. We have re-designed and re-vamped God to fit today’s culture.
- D. What is the road to recovery?
 - 1. **First:** Repentance.
 - a. Remembering the majesty of God, Isa. 40:22-23.
 - b. Focusing on God-centered worship and living, 2 Tim. 3:4, “...*lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.*”
 - c. Structuring our worship and lives according to God’s directions, 1 Cor. 15:58.
 - 2. **Second:** A guide offering infallible instructions, Deut. 12:31-32.
 - a. Called to be separate from the nations around them.
 - 3. How do we “hear” God’s Word today?

I. THE WRITTEN WORD – THE SCRIPTURES.

- A. Following God’s Word – turning from idolatry.
 - 1. 1 Thess. 1:9; 2:13
 - 2. One who truly reveres God will cherish reading His Word, Ps. 119:18, 24, 28, 31.
 - 3. One not devoted to God will spend little or no time.
 - 4. For too many Christians, reading God’s Word is drudgery.

5. Yet, we will spend hours on Facebook, magazines, TV shows, etc.
- B. Illiteracy allows idolatry, 2 Tim. 2:15.
 1. Jeremiah 6:10
 2. Romans 1:25

II. THE PROCLAIMED WORD – THE TEACHINGS.

- A. Private teaching, classroom, pulpit.
- B. Reverent awe – standing when God’s Word is read.
 1. Nehemiah 8:5
 2. 2 Peter 3:16-18
- C. The Word proclaimed is a powerful force, Romans 1:16.
- D. The only way for true repentance, which will restore the lost reverence, is for the Word to be proclaimed, 2 Tim. 4:2, 5.
 1. Sadly, for some, Sunday morning worship may be the only time the hear God’s Word.

III. THE PRACTICED WORD – THE OBEDIENCE.

- A. That which is read, understood, and believed becomes practiced.
- B. The power of the Word brings about change, Eph. 5:10, 17-21.
- C. When repentance turns us back to God...
 1. We will once again crucify self (Luke 9:23).
 2. We will refuse to twist the Scriptures, (2 Tim. 2:15, *rightly dividing...*)
 3. We will admit God’s sovereignty over all, 1 Chron. 29:10-13 (*David and temple prep*).
 4. We will experience reverence and awe, (Heb. 12:28-29).
 5. We will worship in joy, knowing that we are doing what our Holy God has commanded, Ps. 119:14-16.

CLOSING

- A. Moses brought Israel out to “meet” God (Exodus 19-20).
 1. Moses knew Israel must reverence the Almighty God and reject her idols.
 2. He brought her information and urged upon her the action that was necessary.
 3. She then decided to reverence and awe God.
- B. Each of us stands where Moses stood.
 1. We know there is no other god but Jehovah God.
 2. Has our reverence and awe of the Almighty been compromised?
 3. Have we redesigned God?
 4. Have we modified God’s commands so they are more “comfortable”?
 5. Have we lessened our proclamation of God’s Word and softened the absolutes of God’s Truth?
- C. 1 Corinthians 1:21-24