

A Profane Thing?

There are many Old Testament warnings against making that which is holy to be profane (common). Worship is holy and not common. This is what the Lord said through His prophet: "Her priests have done violence to my law, and have profaned my holy things: they have made no distinction between the holy and the common, neither have they caused men to discern between the unclean and the clean...and I am profaned among them" (Ezekiel 22.26). Let us consider a few passages that speak to our attitudes and actions, and then make whatever changes necessary to come into harmony with what God thinks about our part in His worship.

"And when forty years were fulfilled, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush. And when Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight: and as he drew near to behold, there came a voice of the Lord, I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob. And Moses trembled, and durst not behold. And the Lord said unto him, Loose the shoes from thy feet: for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground" (Acts 7.30-33). THIS PROPERTY IS NOT HOLY, BUT WHEN WE ARE IN WORSHIP, WE ARE ON "HOLY GROUND" BEFORE GOD.

"And so fearful was the appearance, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake: but ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable hosts of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaketh better than that of Abel. See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not when they refused him that warned them on earth, much more shall not we escape who turn away from him that warneth from heaven: whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more will I make to tremble not the earth only, but also

the heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that have been made, that those things which are not shaken may remain. Wherefore, receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us have grace, whereby we may offer service well-pleasing PLEASING to God with reverence (RESPECT) and awe (FEAR); TAKE CAUTION: for our God is a consuming fire" (Hebrews 12.21-29).

"Who is like unto thee, O Jehovah, among the gods? Who is like thee, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?" (Exodus 15.11) THIS IS WHO GOD IS.

"And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but is shall be for the redeemed: the wayfaring men, yea fools, shall not err therein" (Isaiah 35.8). THIS IS WHO WE ARE.

Old Testament worship was a picture of our worship. The attitude of reverence is to be the same, although the actions differ. We are the priests, Jesus is the High Priest, the temple is the church. Consider these attitudes:

"To grant unto us that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies Should serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him all our days" (Luke 1.74,75). THIS IS OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD ALL WE DO FOR GOD.

"For our glorifying is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and sincerity of God, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we behaved ourselves in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward" (II Corinthians 1.12). IF WE BEHAVE THIS WAY IN THE WORLD, HOW SHALL WE BEHAVE BEFORE GOD IN WORSHIP?

"Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, even Jesus" (Hebrews 3.1) AGAIN, THIS IS WHO WE ARE.

"And put on the new man, that after God hath been created in righteousness

and holiness of truth" (Ephesians 4.24). WE ARE TO WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH, BECAUSE THIS IS WHAT WE ARE NOW.

Worship is a prescribed action. We must follow the prescription with spirit (attitude) and truth (authorized actions). The actions to which I refer that are out of place in the worship setting are: speaking out; parading to the drinking fountain and restrooms; bringing drinks and food items into the auditorium during worship (I do not have in mind things deemed necessary by parents to help keep their children quiet...but this too can get out of hand. At least pick up your trash when you leave the auditorium).

There is ample time between Bible class and worship assembly to see that you and the children have used the restroom(s) and gotten a drink. Surely we can exercise some self control of our thirst for an hour. It is not uncommon to see the same child or children leaving more than once during a single worship hour. From the preacher's vantage point, children can be seen "loafing" in the foyer after having "gone to the restroom." They are not alone in this behavior.

Paul addresses similar things in his Corinthian epistle. Things were getting out of hand and this was his answer to those things: "What, have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God" (I Corinthians 11.22). Do we really need to bring coffee into the auditorium during class or worship? Again, Paul wrote: "If any man is hungry, let him eat at home" (I Corinthians 11.34). Let us never seem to "despise" God's worship. Let us leave common things at home or for some time other than our worship hour. IT'S ONLY AN HOUR!

Brethren, worship is serious business. Let us treat it so, and instill in our children the same reverence and awe that God and His holy things deserve!

RAGER ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

5775 Rager Rd, Canal Winchester, Ohio 43110
Phone: 614-830-0110
Website: www.ragerroad.org



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

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| SUNDAY MORNING | BIBLE STUDY | 9:30 A.M. |
| | WORSHIP | 10:30 A.M. |
| SUNDAY EVENING | WORSHIP | 6:00 P.M. |
| WEDNESDAY | BIBLE STUDY | 7:30 P.M. |
| Preachers: | Robin W. Haley | 614-751-1082 |
| | James Grayson | 614-409-0941 |

September 6, 2009

Weekly Budget: \$1360.00

Wednesday's Wisdom:

"The kingdom is enduring because of God's Word, God's Son, God's Purpose, God's Unity, and God's Weapons (the Bible)!" Josh Haley

Brandi Grayson's address:

Miami University
333 Dennison Hall
21 N Fisher Dr
Oxford, Oh 45056
Drop her a note now and then!

Howie Bell cut a couple of his fingers rather badly and the docs are trying to save them. Pray for their success and his continued healing.

Sister Rose Anne Bates will be having cataract surgery on her right eye this coming Tuesday, September 8. Pray for success!