

Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.

Psalms 34:14

Store In My Heart Habakkuk 2:1

I will stand on my guard post
And station myself on the
rampart; And I will keep watch
to see what He will speak to me,
And how I may reply when I am
reproved.

Habakkuk was written
between the fall of the
Assyrians and the rise of the
Babylonians. The concern of
Habakkuk was why God would
let wicked nations grow to
wealth and power so He could
use them to punish other, more
righteous nations.

We often have similar
questions about God's work.
Why do the wicked prosper and
the righteous suffer harm? The
answer given to Habakkuk is
also our answer today. "The
righteous shall live by his faith."
It is not our place to know the
mind and ways of God. We
must, just like Habakkuk, stand
firm at our post and wait upon
God. I have heard it said this
way, "We ought not try whittlin'
on God's end of the stick."



Worship In Reverence Leads To Obedience

David A. Cox

"By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; and before all the people I must be glorified" (Leviticus 10:3).

Because worship is so central to our lives as Christians, it is vital that we examine our attitude in worship. God has made His will clear that He is to be regarded as holy, and before all the people He is to be glorified. (**Leviticus 10:3**). It is quite evident that many who profess Christianity today display a casual attitude toward the worship assembly. For some, worship has shifted from a sacred gathering before God to a setting designed for entertainment. For others, though not overtly entertaining, worship still bears the marks of casualness - rushed, half-hearted, or done with little thought. Yet the Scriptures remind us that true worship must be *"acceptable with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire"* (**Hebrews 12:28-29**).

What Reverence Means

Reverence is more than outward form; it is a posture of the heart. At Mount Sinai, Israel trembled at the presence of God (**Exodus 20:18-20**). The early church felt great fear when God judged Ananias and Sapphira (**Acts 5:11**). Reverence can include fear and trembling, but it also carries the idea of respect, honor, and holy restraint.

The writer of Hebrews tells us Noah *"moved with godly fear"* when he prepared the ark (**Hebrews 11:7**). That kind of reverence is not paralyzing fear, but deep respect that motivates obedience. The Greek word translated *"reverence"* in **Hebrews 12:28** points to a demeanor that restrains us from doing anything unworthy before God. Joseph displayed it when he resisted temptation in Potiphar's house (**Genesis 39:7-9**). David displayed it when he refused to kill Saul even when he had the chance (**1Samuel 26:8-9**). Reverence is respect that governs our choices - in worship and in life.

Reverence Versus Casual Worship

Reverent worship flows from a determined heart. **Acts 11:23**

describes the Christians in Antioch as cleaving to the Lord with purpose of heart. They were steadfast and intentional, not casual or occasional in their devotion. Likewise, reverent Christians make worship a regular practice, not something attended only when convenient.

Casual worship, by contrast, treats the gathering as optional. It is service offered when it fits into one's schedule, or when one "feels like it." Instead of purpose, there is passivity. Instead of reverence, there is routine. Such worship lacks the seriousness of approaching the living God.

Reverence also shows itself in attention. When God speaks through His Word, a reverent heart listens carefully and applies it (**Proverbs 1:1-9**). Casual worshipers, however, show little interest. They may hear without listening, attend without engaging, or sing without meaning the words. They leave unchanged because their hearts were never bowed in awe before God.

Reverence Produces Obedience

Reverence is not just a feeling during worship; it leads to full obedience from the heart. Jesus taught that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind (**Matthew 22:37-38**). Such devotion leaves no room for half-hearted, casual service.

Those who truly revere God will obey Him in all things. They will repent and obey the gospel (**Acts 2:37-38**). They will continue faithfully, working out their salvation "*with fear and trembling*" (**Philippians 2:12**). Reverence for God's holiness compels obedience, not selective service.

A Call to Examine Ourselves

This contrast between reverence and casualness is not meant to point fingers at others but to call each of us to self-examination. Do we approach worship with awe, or with apathy? Do we serve God with steadfast devotion, or only when convenient? Do we listen intently to His Word, or allow distractions to dull our hearts?

When we understand that reverence leads to obedience, the difference between casual and acceptable worship becomes clear. God is worthy of more than half-hearted offerings. He calls us to serve Him with reverence and awe, knowing He is a consuming fire. May our worship and our lives reflect the holy respect He deserves.

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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For Our Information

David Laubach's toe infection is improving.

Paula Laubach has shingles on her fractured foot.

Stanley Hurst is improving with physical therapy.

Jim Soliday will start new meds for his heart rhythm in Nov.

Sue Soliday is still dealing with her lymphedema and having some difficulty being active.

Leta Rivera is on oxygen but is improving with her breathing.

Sunday Evening - **Isaiah 30:18** Wednesday - **Revelation 2:8**

Time Changes November 2nd

The
CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study