

Psalms 89:7;

God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.

1-One of the most vitally-needed lessons in the church today is that of reverence.

1-In our worship we should not endeavor to become formal or ritualistic or ostentatious.

2-We should strive to make every phase of our worship a sacrifice with which God would be pleased.

1-Hebrews 12:28;

Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

2-Some approach the house of worship in a spirit that is not conducive to reverence.

1-Worship is not accidental.

2-We must purpose and prepare our hearts for it.

3-Reverence:

1-New Winston Dictionary:

1-Deep respect together with awe and affection.

2-Synonyms:

1-Veneration, honor, homage, respect.

2-If we lack this reverence or veneration we or not worthy of his presence.

1-In Christian worship we must approach God with profound respect and veneration

4-God has always required that those who come before him do so with profound veneration.

1-Exodus 3:5;

God said to Moses, "Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. Moses in Midian.

5-God required reverence of those who worshipped Him in Old Testament times.

1-Exodus 29:4-9;

The Levitical priests were consecrated by a special ceremony:

1-They, Aaron and his sons, were brought unto the door of the tabernacle and washed with water.

2-They were anointed with oil and dressed in special garments.

2-Exodus 28:36;

And thou shalt make a plate of pure gold, and grave upon it, like the engravings of a signet, HOLY TO THE LORD.

1-Why all this?

1-Because they were entering into the divine presence of Jehovah.

2-Therefore, they did it with reverence.

6-God requires reverence of those who worship him today; Reverence is required because:

1-God dwells in the church.

Ephesians 2:21-22;

In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

1-Peter 2:1-5; concerning the "Temple of living stones," Peter said,

1-Wherefore, laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrites, and envies and all evil speakings, 2-As new born babes desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby;

3-If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious: 4-To whom coming, as unto living stones, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, 5-Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

1-The sacrifices of Christian priests are:

1-Prayer, praise, good deeds, the consecration of our bodies and substance to the service of God.

7-It matters not where the church meets God Christ are there:

1-Matthew 18:20;

For where tow or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

1-Hence the assembly of worship today becomes a sacred place because those assembled are on holy ground.

2-They are in the divine presence of God.

8-Hence anything that detracts from the worship of God;

a-That does not make for reverence in the assembly of the saints, certainly should be abandoned by God-fearing people.

9-Let us therefore endeavor:

1-To be quiet as we assemble together for worship.

2-Let us save our visiting and conversing with friends until the worship is concluded.

10-Let us direct our meditation on things above

1-We can be ready to begin the worship when the song leader announces the number of the first song.

2-Our lack of reverence is not only displeasing to God, it also makes a bad impression upon our visitors.

