

Proper Attitude Toward God's Word

"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper." (Psalm 1:1-3)

According to the above text, one who delights in the law of the Lord is "blessed." It is his primary focus. He meditates on it day and night. It is a source of refreshment and life to him. He becomes as a tree that is planted by a river because the word of God makes his life fruitful and productive.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus describes him as a person who will "hunger and thirst for righteousness" (Matthew 5:6). He considers receiving and giving instruction in God's word as one of his greatest blessings. Learning and/or teaching the law of God is an activity he eagerly anticipates and thoroughly enjoys. Therefore, he values those times when his fellow-saints assemble for study and worship -- knowing he will be with people who, like him, respect and adore the word of God.

Nehemiah 8:1-8 Is An Example of Proper Attitude Toward the Word of God

After their return from Babylonian captivity, the people of Judah set about to restore worship to God in Jerusalem. In Nehemiah 8, they asked Ezra the scribe to read the law of God to them. He assembled all the people, opened the book of the law before them, and then read distinctly from it to make sure the assembled crowd understood its message. The people, when beckoned, willingly assembled. They stood when the book of the law was opened -- a show of reverence. Standing from daybreak to midday, they praised God for His word and then fell on their faces worshipping Him.

Whether proclaiming the word or receiving instruction from it, we should have the same willingness to assemble, the same reverence and respect, and the same praise for our God.

Acts 10:33 Is Another Example

Having summoned Peter to preach the message of God to him and his family, Cornelius told him of their willingness to hear him preach the gospel of Christ. Cornelius' attitude --- a model for all -- caused him to:

- Send for one knowledgeable in God's word.
- Assemble his family to hear what Peter would proclaim.
- Realize that God was present and that everything was being said and done before Him.
- Be ready to hear all things God had commanded.

What We Must Be and Do

If we are going to have the proper attitude toward the word of God, therefore, we must:

- Have good and honest hearts (Luke 8:15).
- Allow the word of God to "prick" our hearts (Acts 2:37).
- Gladly receive the word (Acts 2:40).
- Be discerning hearers (Acts 17:11).
- Be eager hearers (Matthew 5:6; Acts 10:33).
- Desire to hear and know all of the word (Acts 10:33).
- Desire only the word of God (Matthew 15:9).

What is your attitude toward the word of God? What should it be? Make sure it is what the Lord would have it to be.

- by Gene Taylor

Obedience is Necessary

Just a casual reading of the Scriptures will reveal that God expects obedience to his will. Consider a few simple texts.

“Not everyone who says to Me, “Lord, Lord,” shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven” (Matt. 7:21).

“But why do you call Me “Lord, Lord,” and do not do the things which I say” (Luke 6:46)?

“Though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him” (Heb. 5:8-9).

Those who heard the gospel in the first century were told to “Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out” (Acts 3:19) even though the sin they committed was done “in ignorance” (v. 17).

We must conclude that there will be honest and sincere people who will be lost. If such is the case, it behooves us to carefully study God’s word and live accordingly.

- by Donnie V. Rader

Being ‘Picky’

The classified section of most local newspapers has been replaced almost entirely by ‘online’ ads. For instance, the old ‘For Singles Only’ section in the newspaper has been traded for online dating services, but the concept is still primarily the same. Individuals looking for companionship by members of the opposite sex make their posts there. Most of the ads are fairly similar. People describe themselves as “attractive, fun loving, emotionally well-balanced, and financially secure”. They are seeking to meet a person who is “sincere, considerate, down-to-earth, affectionate, romantic, honest, well-adjusted, intelligent, ambitious, caring, sensitive, professional, gentle, etc.” You get the idea fairly quickly that these folks are down right picky about the person they want to meet. Many of the ads specify age, height, weight, hair color, etc.

One interesting ad was reported to us. In listing the desired qualities of a prospective mate, this one said, “height - average; eyes - no more than two; hair - not required”! While most ads were very picky, this one was not at all.

These two extremes can illustrate a point. In matters relating to this life folks are generally very picky. They know what they want, and are not timid about demanding it. Why is it that in religion these same folks will allow anything and everything? If things of this world deserve careful attention, why not the things that pertain to the world which is to come? And what about the one who had no requirements at all? With such standards anyone can find a mate, but who would want him/her? We need to be picky about some things. Religion is one of those things (Col. 3:17).

- by Greg Gwin