

Worship To God, Emotionalism Or Reverent?

I had a very special treat this last week, one that I was not expecting. When I arrived at my brother's house, he informed me that there was a Gospel Meeting in Lodi. Brother Bill Mosely was the speaker. During the three days that I was privileged to attend, there was no shouting, no hand clapping, no holding of hands, no dimming of the lights, they depended only on God's Wisdom. The singing was heart-felt, the Prayers were reverent, and the lessons were from God's Word. Individuals sometimes forget where the power is: "For the word of God is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Heb. 4:12)

My beloved, we need to follow the pattern that is revealed to us from God Almighty, not someone who wants to feel good! "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth: for such doth the Father seek to be his worshippers." (Jhn.4:23) We need to have the emotions of David "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go unto the house of Jehovah." (Psa. 122:1) Yes we need to praise God with our whole heart, Listen to a man of God "Praise ye Jehovah. I will give thanks unto Jehovah with my whole heart, In the council of the upright, and in the congregation." Psa. 111:1.

Unfortunately man if left to himself drifts further away from God's Pattern as generations come and go. This was true of the Pharisees as it is true of man today. Jesus said, "Ye hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, This people honoreth me with their lips; But their heart is far from me." (Mat.15:7-8)

Brethren, we need to be honest, first with ourselves and our brethren. We need to take a long hard look at self! Who are we desiring to please? We have grown-up in a society that does not want standards, some school systems grade on the curve, not a standard. What has this type of system provided for this country? There is a pattern that man seems to follow, that is what do the majority of individuals do, that is if they are below the standard, let's lower our standards. We have seen the moral standard in this country go straight down! Why? Because the original standard was too restricting, didn't allow for personal preference. This same type of thinking has

spread to the Lord's Church.

My beloved, listen to the Apostle Paul,

"Finally then, brethren, we beseech and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that, as ye received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, even as ye do walk,--that ye abound more and more." (1Thes.4:1); "Hold the pattern of sound words which thou hast heard from me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus." (2Tim.1:13);

"Nevertheless, to {the degree} that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, {that they are} the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end {is} destruction, whose god {is their} belly, and {whose} glory {is} in their shame - who set their mind on earthly things." (Phil.3:16-19 NKJ)

Beloved, seek not the earthly standard, rather diligently seek God's Standard and walk therein, "If then ye were raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated on the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things that are above, not on the things that are upon the earth. For ye died, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, {who is} our life, shall be manifested, then shall ye also with him be manifested in glory. Put to death therefore your members which are upon the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry; for which things' sake cometh the wrath of God upon the sons of disobedience: wherein ye also once walked, when ye lived in these things;" (Colossians 3:1-7 ASV) Beloved, do not be fooled by worldly wisdom, man can live in an adulterous state, God said so! Colossae did!