

## Light and Life

## Manna & Grain

“I will never again curse the ground for man’s sake, although the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done. While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease” (Gen. 8:21-22).

This was God’s response to Noah after he had made an altar to God. When we think of God’s promise not to destroy the world with water again, we may think of the rainbow (Gen. 9:12-17). The world has taken this sign of God’s covenant and made it into a symbol of sexual deviance. We should never associate something God has created to teach about Himself with something so antithetical to His will! But the rainbow is not the only sign of His promise.

The change of seasons, the rising and setting of the sun, and the perennial provision of food from the ground are all signs of God’s faithfulness to mankind.

Much later, when Israel wandered in the wilderness, they were fed by daily manna from heaven to teach them about their dependence on God (Dt. 8:3). When they crossed the Jordan River into Canaan, the manna ceased, and they ate of the produce of the land (Jos. 5:12). Was God any less responsible for providing food from the land than He was the manna from heaven? Of course not (Gn. 1:29; 8:22)!

We often see God’s hand in the ‘big’ moments of life. But as much as we should see God in the manna, He is also in the grain! We see His faithfulness on full display not only in the answers of specific prayers, but also in the little things we often take for granted. God is in the changing of the leaves, the cooling of the weather, and the rising of the sun on a new day.

He is faithful!

- Sam Bunyard

## Another Perspective

## Is Everything We Do Worship?

Is everything we do worship? The Greek word *proskuneo* (“kiss toward”), translated “worship,” contains the idea of reverence and devotion expressed to God. Christians do not do this at all times. Another Greek word, *latreuo* (“service”), can include worship but is not limited to worship. Christians should seek to serve God in all things.

The following usages of *proskuneo* reveal that a person enters into periods of worship but does not worship at all times: Mt 2:2,11 (The magi went to worship Jesus.) Mt 14:33 (When Jesus calmed the sea, those in the ship worshiped Him.) Mt 18:26 (Jesus told a parable in which a servant did homage to his master). Mt 28:9,17 (After His resurrection, Jesus’ disciples worshiped Him) See also Lu 24:52, Jn 9:38, 12:20, Ac 8:27, 10:25, 24:11, 1 Co 14:25.

Worship of God is not continuous but begins and ends at certain times. Man is to worship (*proskuneo*) and also serve (*latreuo*) God (Mt 4:10; Lu 4:8). *Latreuo* includes every aspect of service to God, including worship. Not all service, however, is worship.

If we conclude that everything we do is worship, then worship includes every mundane and menial task we do. Some of these would be considered disrespectful even to man if we did them for the purpose of showing gratitude and appreciation. Cooking, occupational activities, husband/wife relations, and caring for personal hygiene can be pleasing to God but are not acts of *proskuneo* toward God. They are right in their place as *latreuo* but would be wrong if used in private devotions or in the worship assemblies of the saints. Distinguishing between worship and service to God is important: Worship (*proskuneo*) must be in spirit and truth. Not everything we do in our daily walk, even in service to God, can be used in worship of God.

- Owen Olbricht (edited for space)

## ASSEMBLY TIMES

### Sunday

Morning Bible Class 9:30  
Morning Assembly 10:30  
Evening Assembly 5:00

### Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

Pray “for kings and  
all who are in high  
positions, that we  
may lead a peaceful  
and quiet life”

1Ti 2:1-2

## Downtown Church of Christ

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You will never regret  
being generous.

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# DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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## Doctrine Matters

Preachers – especially the younger preachers – often receive advice on how to preach. For example, some want us to preach only ‘love’. They say doctrine is too divisive and that only our attitudes should matter.

But Jesus did not think that way. It mattered to Him what people believed. For example, He taught that He was divine, and that those who did not hold that doctrinal position would be lost (Jn 8:24).

And Paul demanded unity on several doctrinal points. He rebuked some for believing and teaching that there would be no resurrection (1 Co 15:12f). He condemned the

doctrine of salvation by merit (Ga 5:4) while James exposed the false doctrine of salvation by faith alone (Ja 2:24).

Yes, it does matter which doctrines we believe, for the things we **believe** lead directly to the things we **do**. If we believe, for instance, in the resurrection and the judgment to follow, then we will live like it. And if, on the other hand, we do **not** hold to the idea of a day of reckoning – well, we will live like it as well.

Love matters, and attitude matters. But doctrine matters, too. Learn the truth – and **believe** it!

- *WKing*

## FAMILY NEWS

### PRAYER LIST –

*Preachers we support:* Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

*Sick:* KFletcher, Swims, JMarshall, RStarr, MiBader, KHeilighenthal, JTerrell

*Shut-ins:* Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Susan Wiese, Virgil Carter, AHopper

*Military:* Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT** – This Wednesday evening, the young men will lead the worship in the auditorium. (Guys, coordinate with Sam.)

**SENTENCE SERMON** – Some Christians grew up “in the church”, but never grew up in Christ.