

LENEXA EDIFIER

“and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:32)

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COMPREHENSIVE REVERENCE

Jim Stauffer

An appropriate recognition of the work of Jesus regarding the salvation of man should result in man having a complete and thorough reverence for what He has said and done.

There are two very distinctive things Jesus did that are necessary to the salvation of the souls of men. First, He died on Calvary for our sins and then authored salvation by way of the gospel to guide us through the process of redemption. He taught the apostles while he was on the earth and then sent the Comforter, the Holy Spirit to guide them into all truth and bring to their remembrance what He taught them. They, in turn carried the message of Jesus as delivered by the Holy Spirit to the known world during their lives. God has preserved that message for us in the form of the Bible as the completed work of the Holy Spirit.

During the time they preached the gospel, they were given the power to perform miracles to confirm the word so men could understand they were sent from God (**Acts 2:1-4; Mark 16:15-18; Hebrews 2:1-4**). The words they spoke and wrote were given to them by the Holy Spirit as the revealed mind of God (**1 Corinthians 2:10-13**).

We understand He was given *...all authority in heaven and on earth*. We know God has elevated Him above all rule and authority (**Ephesians 1:20-23**). He is the prophet Moses promised in **Deuteronomy 18:18,19** and was verified by the apostle Peter **Acts 3:22-26**.

Being aware of these things revealed to us in His word, it is very surprising to see people turn worship according to concepts that originate in the minds of men.

Why would anyone decide their worship or claim of salvation was valid in the eyes of the Savior when it is not authorized in Scripture. It is very important to the honest heart to be responding to the truth when he

attempts to obey the Lord. It is not rude nor should it be offensive when someone asks if religion is practiced according to the authority of the Son of God. Can we expect salvation when we disrespect the author (**Hebrews 5:8,9**).

FIVE SMOOTH STONES OF PARENTING

by Sewell Hall

In Goliath, David faced what seemed an indomitable foe. David's goal was not so much to kill the giant as to protect the children and honor of God. He took five smooth stones from the brook to achieve his purpose. In the pervasive humanism of our society, parents face what appears to be an equally unconquerable giant who is determined to destroy their children. They have five stones with which to protect them.

1. **Purpose** *“A child left to himself brings shame to his mother”* (**Proverbs 29:15**). Consequently, Wisdom says, *“Train up a child in the way he should go...”* (**Proverbs 22:6**). This requires first determining “the way he should go,” then pointing the child in that direction. For Christians one direction supersedes all others: eternal life in heaven via Christlikeness on earth. Scores of agencies with different goals challenge us for control of our children. My father used to say, “I will not let the schools take my children away from me.” Today there are many additional threats: TV, internet, video games, ipods, scouts, sports, neighbors, etc. These must be constantly monitored and controlled.

Parents of good children are often told, “You are just lucky.” No, good children are not the product of luck, but of purpose—relentlessly, sacrificially and pro-actively pursued.

2. **Training** *“Bring them up in the training... of the Lord”* (**Ephesians 6:4**). Training a plant requires knowing where you want it to go and then patiently bending it, pruning it, and perhaps even tying it. Training an animal involves knowing what you want it to do, using force at first, then

patiently guiding, correcting, and finally rewarding and punishing. In both instances, training means establishing authority and maintaining control. Training children begins with example and sometime physical force, then guidance, correction, and eventually reward and punishment when the child understands what is expected. Above all, it means establishing the parents' authority and letting the child know who is in control. This must begin very early. Once willful rebellion is tolerated, a wrong direction is established and the necessary "bending, pruning, and tying" become all the more difficult. The mother of John and Charles Wesley described good discipline as "shaping the will without breaking the spirit." This agrees with the Spirit's counsel: *"Do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up..."* (Ephesians 6:4).

3. **Instruction** *"Bring them up in the... admonition* (instruction—NASB) *of the Lord"* (Ephesians 6:4). Unlike plants and animals children can be admonished and instructed. This, also, parents must do. The very intellect that enables children to be instructed also enables them to exercise their free will as they grow older. Parental control constantly diminishes, and unless God's control is established, their lives will be out of control. God's control is established by teaching them the scriptures. Long after Timothy was beyond the control of mother and grandmother, their faith dwelt in him (2 Timothy 1:5). How was this accomplished?

Paul reminded Timothy, *"From childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith that is in Christ Jesus"* (2 Timothy 3:15). Faith in older children is the result of early instruction in righteousness. Parents should take advantage of the classes offered by the church, but this is not enough—they must teach their children personally. A mother once told me of overhearing her husband saying to their young infant in the crib, "Let me tell you about Jesus." Not surprisingly, that young infant is now a godly young teenager.

4. **Affection** Training and instruction must be administered with love—a love that *"suffers long and is kind,"* that *"does not behave rudely,"* and above all, *"does not seek its own"* (1 Corinthians 13:4-5). Children will forgive many mistakes if they can always be sure of their parents' love. *"Love will cover a multitude*

of sins" (1 Peter 4:8). Affection without firmness is disastrous, but equally disastrous is firmness without affection.

5. Prayer David did not attribute his defeat of Goliath to the stone, to his sling, or to his skill. *"The battle,"* he said, *"is the Lord's"* (1 Samuel 17:47). So it is with the training of our children. God is concerned with the outcome and we are servants whom He has entrusted with our little ones.

We must pray daily for the wisdom that He has promised to supply... *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him"* (James 1:5). and for His providence to overrule our inevitable mistakes. And when our children have become what we hoped for, we have no ground for boasting, only for the humble exclamation, "to God be the glory!" **David succeeded, using only one stone; parents will need all five.**

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH" #6

A local congregation is a group of Christians in a specific area; these Christians band together to accomplish the work God gave His church to do (Philippians 1:1). These Christians act together in seeking to accomplish the work the Lord said to do. All Christians share equally in the responsibility of doing what the Lord said to do. *"From whom all the body fitly framed and knit together through that which every joint supplieth, according to the working in due measure of each several part, maketh the increase of the body unto the building up of itself in love"* (Ephesians 4:16). This does not mean the church has authority to do everything the individual may do. The word "church" is a collective noun (herd, flock). One member is not the body (1 Corinthians 12:12,14); one stone is not the entire building (1 Peter 2:5). A distinction exists in the New Testament between individual action and church action (Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 11:22). This principle is demonstrated from a study of 1 Timothy five.

Notice that there are some things the individual can do that the church cannot do. Children or grandchildren must show piety toward their own family, taking care of them or requiring them (v.4). A man must provide for his own household (v.8). *"If any woman that believeth hath widows, let her relieve them, and let not the church be burdened* (KJV charged) *that it may relieve them that are widows indeed."* Paul told Timothy not to

lay hands hastily on any man and to use a little wine for health reasons (**vv.22-23**). Yet, the church was to discharge its collective duty by taking care of certain widows who met the given qualifications (**vv.9-10**). Younger widows did not fall into this category (v.11). The church was to be charged with the care of certain people (**v.16**).

Does the Christian have a responsibility toward those in need? Yes! Any man who needs our help is our neighbor and we have an obligation to help him (**Luke 10:25-37**). The Christian must engage in honest labor in order to provide for his own and then for others as opportunity arises (**Ephesians 4:28; 1 John 3:17**).

The Christian has a duty toward his family (**1 Timothy 5:4,8,16**). If he could not do what these verses teach, how could the church keep from being charged with the care of those people? **James 1:27** says: *"Pure religion and undefiled before our God and Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."* Do we have authority to build prisons, hospitals, orphans and widows' homes in order to discharge the duties of this passage (**Matthew 25:31-46**), or are we simply to help as needs arise? As the Christian has opportunity (**Galatians 6:10**), he will help as the needs arise, assisting saint and sinner alike.

As Christians we have many collective and many individual responsibilities. May we be faithful to the Lord in every relationship given to us. As individuals we cannot shirk our responsibilities and turn them over to the church. Let the church be the church and do its work; let each of us do our work, all to the glory of God and in respect for His eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus purposed in Christ (**Ephesians 3:11-12**).

Randy Harshbarger

God Is on the Throne Not on Stage

The God we serve is an august, spiritual being both deserving and desirous of our deepest respect.

Though described in Scripture as a friend to man (**Isaiah 41:8; James 2:23**), He is not some sort of "good buddy" to joke with or about.

Our God is still on the throne (**Psalms 45:6**); His ways remain higher than our ways (**Isaiah 55:9**), and His authoritative Word still promises to judge us in the Last Day (**Revelation 20:12**).

No measure of self-appointed, flippant familiarity with the God of heaven detracts one bit or whit from His inherent majesty. Our God is eminently worthy of our reverence; thus we must serve Him *"acceptably with reverence and godly fear"* (**Hebrews 12:28**). Truly, reverence is the 'very first element of religion.'

Moreover, our periods of public worship should express this spirit of reverence. *"God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all about him"* (**Psalms 89:7**). Worship performed *"in spirit and in truth"* (**John 4:24**) suggests a demeanor of awe and reverence.

We agree that our worship services should be permeated with expressions of joy and thanksgiving - they should not come to resemble a congregational visit to the dentist, but neither should the reverent worship of our heavenly Father be confused for a carnival or rock concert. Regardless of where, when, or by whom the worship is performed - it must be characterized by reverence and decorum. *"Let all things be done decently and in order"* (**1 Corinthians 14:40**).

The worship assembly is not the proper setting for screaming, whistling, clapping, and stomping the feet in response to a speaker's message. We do not gather to pay homage to men but to worship God. We do not come together as we would at football game or a band concert; we come to worship God. We do not assemble with the intent of being entertained; we come to worship God. Any assembly of saints with the intent of worshipping and praising the God of heaven should reject that which emphasizes the carnal emotions and minimizes the spiritual man. An outsider should be able to attend one of our assemblies and see a marked difference between the worship of God and a stage show performance.

In the realm of worship, zeal without knowledge (**Romans 10:2**) paves a dangerous road toward pagan, fleshly-oriented, and riotous assemblies. Most of our denominational neighbors have long gone this route, with services geared more toward entertaining man than worshipping God. May we learn to temper our joy in Christ with a Christ-like reverence for things holy. And may we teach our children so.

Remember, our God is on the throne - not on stage.

by Dalton Key

Psa. 1:1 *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.*

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Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study
Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship
Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship
Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

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SUNDAY SERMON: **PAUL TEACHES JESUS**

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10