

Reverencing God

Lesson 2

Beware of Substituting Externals For Substance

Reverence – A Response To The Greatness of God

The greatness of God's

Power

Holiness

Mercy

What is reverence?

How do we reverently respond to God's

Power

Holiness

Mercy

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What Is Reverence?

- Reverence is not defined by externals
- Reverence is a response to God's greatness, His power, His holiness and His mercy – to all He is
- Reverence is a deliberate caution in how we approach God, an attitude of modesty, bashfulness toward God
- Reverence is also a fearful attitude toward God based on godliness, our desire to obey God in all things

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Introduction

- Beware of substituting externals while living irreverently
- Shallow external reverence becomes about us not about God
- Irreverence begins with wrong thinking about God
- True reverence focuses on God's greatness intending to please and praise God above all – our only purpose in life

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All Irreverence Begins With A False View of God

Rom 1:21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Rom 1:23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

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Our Only Purpose For Being On Earth

Ecc 12:13 The conclusion, when all has been heard, *is*: fear God and keep His commandments, because this *applies to* every person.

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Self-reliance For Dependence On The All-powerful God

- So-called Christians preach believing in ourselves and our power to accomplish anything we desire
- They preach that God wants us to have all our material desires in this life, health, wealth and salvation gospel

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Self-reliance For Dependence On The All-powerful God

2Ti 3:2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, 2Ti 3:3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,

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Self-reliance For Dependence On The All-powerful God

2Ti 3:4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 2Ti 3:5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

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Dependence On The All- powerful God

- As we learn to be in awe of the all-powerful God, we reverence Him by trusting in and submitting to His will knowing it is His power in us that is greater than any power of our own
- Our goal to praise His name and obey with fear and trembling

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Dependence On The All- powerful God

Exo 3:5 Then He said, "Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

Exo 3:6 He said also, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

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Dependence On The All- powerful God

Exo 3:10 "Therefore, come now, and I will send you to Pharaoh, so that you may bring My people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt." Exo 3:11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?"

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Dependence On The All-powerful God

Exo 3:12 And He said, "Certainly I will be with you, and this shall be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God at this mountain."

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Dependence On The All-powerful God

Eph 3:20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

Eph 3:21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

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Outward Ritualistic Worship For Reverent Worship of God

- Going through motions of worship as if they are commands of men not God
- Believing God will accept externals while we irreverently live as we please
- In contrast our worship must focus on God's greatness and humbly bowing our hearts before Him in fear and trembling and rejoicing

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Outward Ritualistic Worship For Reverent Worship of God

Mar 7:5 The Pharisees and the scribes *asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?"

Mar 7:6 And He said to them, "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.'

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Outward Ritualistic Worship For Reverent Worship of God

Mar 7:7 'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.'

Mar 7:8 "Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men."

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Outward Ritualistic Worship For Reverent Worship of God

Isa 29:13 Then the Lord said, "Because this people draw near with their words And honor Me with their lip service, But they remove their hearts far from Me, And their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned *by rote*,

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Reverent Worship of God

Heb 12:28 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe;

Heb 12:29 for our God is a consuming fire.

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Reverent Worship of God

Rev 15:4 "Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy; For ALL THE NATIONS WILL COME AND WORSHIP BEFORE YOU, FOR YOUR RIGHTEOUS ACTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED."

Psa 2:11 Worship the LORD with reverence
And rejoice with trembling.

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Shallow Righteousness For God's Righteousness

- Boil righteous living down to outward actions that please men
- Ignore reverently serving the Lord, exercising fear toward Him in all our relationships

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Shallow Righteousness For God's Righteousness

Mat 5:20 "For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses *that* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Mat 5:21 "You have heard that the ancients were told, 'YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT MURDER' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.'

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God's Righteousness

Act 10:34 Opening his mouth, Peter said: "I most certainly understand *now* that God is not one to show partiality,

Act 10:35 but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him.

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God's Righteousness

Col 3:22 Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who *merely* please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

Col 3:23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,
Col 3:24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

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Beware of Substituting Externals For Substance

1. Self-reliance for dependence on the all-powerful God
2. Outward ritualistic worship for reverent worship of God
3. Shallow righteousness for God's righteousness

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We Must Train Ourselves To Reverence God

1Ti 4:7 But have nothing to do with worldly fables fit only for old women. On the other hand, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness;

1Ti 4:8 for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and *also* for the *life* to come.

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Recognize Awesome Nature of God

Isa 6:1 In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.

Isa 6:3 And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."

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Recognize Awesome Nature of God

Isa 6:5 Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."

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Exercise In The Word To Become Reverent

Heb 5:12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

Heb 5:13 For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant.

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Exercise In The Word To Become Reverent

Heb 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

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Practice Denying Self and Obeying God

Luk 9:23 And He was saying to *them* all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

We Must Train Ourselves To Reverence God

1. Recognize awesome nature of God
2. Exercise in the word to become reverent
3. Practice denying self and obeying God