

"THUS SAITH THE LORD..."

FREE GENERAL NEWSLETTER

Encouraging people to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

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They Will Reverence My Son (Matthew 21:37)



In June of 2000, we addressed the lack of reverence in the sanctuary. A little over seven years later,

things have not changed or have even gotten worse. How important is reverence in the sanctuary? Why are we to be reverent? How are we to be reverent? Independent of the June 2000 study, we present the following based upon searching for the use of "reverence" or the form thereof.

What Does The Bible Say?

"Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I [am] the LORD." (Leviticus 19:30, 26:2) Please note that this verse appears twice in exact wording. If God says it once, it should be obeyed. Saying it a second time expresses extreme importance. It is not enough to keep the Sabbath holy, we are to also be reverent in the sanctuary. It is great to see you in church, but God would rather you stay home than to be irreverent towards Him in church.

"God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all [them that are] about him." (Psalms 89:7) For those who point to Leviticus being in the Old Testament, note the word "all" used in this verse. Even though Psalms are in the Old Testament, ALL who gather before God are to be reverent. That transcends time.

"He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend [is] his name." (Psalms 111:9) Jesus also said, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:20) When we gather at church, we are gathering in

His name, therefore, we are to be reverent. That does not only include how we use His name but what we do before His name. We all agree that gathering together in church and having an orgy is wrong. Why then do we think gathering together and socializing in the sanctuary and carrying on in the sanctuary about things that happened during the week is any different? And for those that were taken back by the strong comparison, please note that people in the past have done so, possibly even in your own denomination. Look at the Bible example with the golden calf. In addition, there have even been modern reports of such activity in the name of God.

"But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son." (Matthew 21:37) "Having yet therefore one son, his wellbeloved, he sent him also last unto them, saying, They will reverence my son." (Mark 12:6) "Then said the lord of the vineyard, What shall I do? I will send my beloved son: it may be they will reverence [him] when they see him." (Luke 20:13) In three similar wordings, God the Father expects us to reverence His Son. Church is not a place to gather for any other reason than to worship and praise God and to be fed by His Word. Gathering to get the latest gossip is wrong. Gathering because it is the day to go to church is wrong, believe it or not. Gathering so as to enjoy the meal together afterwards and other social activity is wrong. Again, our primary focus is to gather to worship God and God only. Please do not misunderstand. A meal afterwards is fine. Expressing your concerns for another in a social manner afterwards is fine. But you do not gather for that purpose. You gather for God's sake. By gathering for any other reason, you are not reverencing God's Son. You

WHO ARE WE?

We are not a church but rather a ministry, encouraging church attendance, not as blind pew warmers but rather as searchers of a TSTL — "Thus Saith the Lord"

The "Thus Saith the Lord..." General Newsletter is published monthly by "Thus Saith the Lord..." Ministries

MISSION STATEMENT:

To strengthen the faith in God's Word by enabling you to have a "Thus Saith the Lord..." for all that you believe.

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Do You Have A TSTL For That???

If someone asked you "why do you believe that or why do you do that" could you give them an answer from the Bible — a TSTL?

Hosea 4:6 *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*

Debt Reduction Progress


Over our 10 year history, \$80,000 has accumulated in debt both from short periods of time of not being able to cover all of the ministry expenses and the over 4 year period (Jan. 2004 - May 2007) when Jerry lost his job due to religious conflict. Now financial blessings are occurring in his employment but it requires very long hours, especially now with traveling home each night to see his family (1.5 hr drive), and then he must stay up late to do the work. Can you help lower this debt faster?


\$65,533 Prior Balance
 - **605** Readership
 - **316** O'Donnell's
\$64,612 Current Balance

Any request to be removed from our mailing list because you cannot assist us or feel guilty will not be honored. That is not what this appeal is about.

WEB SITES TO CONSIDER

 **TSTL.NET** is for the general public

 **TSTL4MINISTERS.NET** is for any minister, bible worker, teacher, etc.

 **TSTL4CHILDREN.NET** is for the children and the contents will be a transfer of children's material from TSTL.NET to this new site.

are then gathering for your sake and possibly giving reverence to others. Gathering is to be an activity in which you give God your all.

"Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God [is] a consuming fire." (Hebrews 12:28-29) Gathering for church has been referred to as a church service. If so, how are you serving God? Is it acceptable? Is it with reverence?

What is reverence? According to Webster, it is "honor or respect felt or shown, profound adoring, awed respect, a gesture of respect (as a bow)." As you see, reverence includes both the physical and spiritual. That means to show reverence, it includes but is not limited to:

BEING SILENT: Upon entering and until you exit, it is not time to carry on a conversation. Asking what page you are on is one thing, but even the greeting of "Good morning, how are you?" or a simple "Hi" as a late arrival comes into the sanctuary is wrong. Such are not to be acknowledged until after the service outside of the sanctuary. You may think it is cold, but in reality, you are stealing attention away from God. Remember, acts of kindness substituting for obedience is wrong. Just look at King Saul (1 Samuel 15:1-23). *"Behold, to obey [is] better than sacrifice, [and] to hearken than the fat of rams"* (1 Samuel 15:22).

THOUGHTS ARE TO BE ON GOD ONLY. Your time between entering and exiting the sanctuary is to be on God. It is not to be rolling your eyes around, carrying on pre-service conversations, watching your watch, thinking about what

you are going to do after the church service, wondering if a certain someone will show, etc. It is prayer and reflection time. To help set the mood for such, some churches play soft, background music. That is your hint to shut the mouth.

RIGHT SINGING: When it is time to sing, sing. God gave you a voice. Those declaring that you cannot sing are an insult to God. At the very least, read along. Keeping your mouth shut when you have the ability to voice it is wrong. And those that sing so softly are an insult to God. How do you carry on during the week? If your voice is louder outside of church time, you are not giving God your all.

DRESSING FOR THE OCCASION: Ladies, God does not want to see your cleavage or your legs. Men and ladies, God does not want to see your body shapes. Enough with baring parts of your chest, showing chest hairs, showing your thighs and the bottom cheeks of your rump, and enough with the skintight clothing. Also, it is not appropriate to be dressing down for church despite what others in preaching and teaching positions have told you, which was born out of the rebellious 1960's. You are to wear your best to church. In fact, it is appropriate, even if ever so plain and simple, to have a special outfit not to be worn for any other purpose but for God.

Conclusion

Many more guidelines for reverence in the sanctuary can be quoted, but it is left to you to search these things for yourselves. For now, Thus Saith the Lord, *"Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I [am] the LORD."* (Leviticus 19:30)

ADD TO THIS FREE GENERAL NEWSLETTER

Name: _____

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Send to TSTL, PO Box 10607, Harrisburg, PA 17105

DO YOU HAVE A TSTL FOR THAT?

The purpose of these Bible studies is to help you seek for a TSTL—"Thus Saith the Lord..." for all that you believe. May you go forward in this study with that goal.



What Does God Think About Anger

1. What is anger? **Proverbs 27:4**
2. Who is greater than a mighty or strong person? **Proverbs 16:32**
3. Is all anger wrong? **Ephesians 4:26**
4. What clarification is placed on anger? **Matthew 5:22**
5. What type of decisions does an angry person make? **Proverbs 14:17**

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S STUDY:

Set Forth For An Example (Jude 1:7)

WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM IS THE ARM OF THE LORD REVEALED? (Isaiah 53:1)



» Daily Mail, October 15, 2007 - Is this Pope John Paul II waving from beyond the grave? Vatican TV director says yes

A fiery figure is being hailed as Pope John Paul II making an appearance beyond the grave.

COMMENT: The Bible says "No!" Not until the second coming. 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 "But now is Christ risen from the dead, [and] become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man [came] death, by man [came] also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."

1. What people does Enoch and Elijah represent as an example (hint: Genesis 5:24)? **1 Corinthians 15:51-52** "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." Not everyone shall die. Those that live at the second coming will not see death but be changed.
2. What people does Cain represent (hint: Genesis 4:15)? **Revelation 13:17** "And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."
3. What people does Moses represent (hint: Deuteronomy 27:1)? **Revelation 14:12** "Here is the patience of the saints: here [are] they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."
4. What does Noah and those saved at that time represent (hint: 1 Peter 3:20)? **Matthew 7:14** "Because strait [is] the gate, and narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."
5. What condition does Daniel's friends represent (hint: Daniel 3:6)? **Revelation 13:15** "And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed."

» MSNBC, October 8, 2007 - THE YEAR OF LIVING BIBLICALLY

What happens when you follow the Bible as literally as you can in the modern age? Journalist/author A.J. Jacobs found out when he spent a year taking a spiritual journey, following more than 700 Biblical rules.

COMMENT: 2 Chronicles 36:16 "But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till [there was] no remedy." According to Revelation 15:1, the wrath of God is the seven last plagues. God's word shall not be mocked. Everything has to be taken into proper context; otherwise, it makes the Bible

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Think On These Things

Two Strongest Sins

But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. (Matthew 5:22)

But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. (Matthew 5:28)

Why did Jesus pick only these two commandments? Is it possible that these are two of the most challenging to keep?

You hit your hand with a hammer. Does the word "damn" enter your thoughts? When someone is being a careless driver around you, do you think the word "jerk" or "idiot"? When a gorgeous woman walks by, do you think "Wow! She's hot!" What are your initial thoughts when you see a billboard with a half naked person? If you watch movies and television, ever notice the actors and actresses are mostly for your sex appeal?

Keep in mind that temptation is not sin, but temptation does not last in the mind very long until it turns into sin. Dwelling on a wrong thought for a length of time is sin. Sin does not become sin when acted upon. "For as he thinketh in his heart, so [is] he" (Proverbs 23:7).

So think about how careful you need to be with these two commandment breakers. People may once in a while think about stealing. Once in a while they may covet. Once in a while they may think about disobeying their parents. Once in a while they may not want to keep the Sabbath holy. Once in a while they may choose to obey man instead of God. But everyday there is something ready to tick you off. Everyday there is the opposite gender tempting your wrong feelings.

Cease from anger and lust. And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men [it is] impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible. (Mark 10:27)

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***What Does God Think
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Two Strongest Sins

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appear ridiculous.

» **CNS, September 26, 2007 - Episcopal bishop submits resignation, says he will become Catholic**

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Saying that God is calling him to become a Catholic, the Episcopal bishop of the Diocese of the Rio Grande asked his fellow bishops to accept his resignation Sept. 25. The request, required by church law, came from Bishop Jeffrey Steenson during an executive session on the closing day of the Episcopal Church's House of Bishops meeting in New Orleans. He also said he intended to seek release from his Episcopal ordination vows by the end of the year. The consent of a majority of the House of Bishops is required for a bishop to resign before reaching the mandatory retirement age of 72 or being declared incapacitated. The bishops did not act on the request, however, because Episcopal Church law also requires prior notification of all diocesan standing committees. "It is indeed painful to lay down this ministry, but I realize that an effective leader cannot be so conflicted about the guiding principles of the church one serves," Bishop Steenson said in a statement to the House of Bishops. "I hope my decision will encourage others

who believe they can no longer remain in the Episcopal Church to respect its laws and withdraw as courteously as possible for the sake of the Christian witness."

COMMENT: Luke 9:5 *"And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them."* Symbolically speaking, that is just what this minister has bravely done. We applaud his stance against the errors accepted by the Episcopal Church, however, this is not an endorsement on his second choice.

» **Telegraph, Sep. 23, 2007 - Confessing to 'sins' is booming in America**

Americans are flocking to confess their sins as Protestant churches have joined their Catholic counterparts in modernising the sacrament of penance. Thousands of people are attending confession at weekends and just as many are posting their repentance on videos that are played back to congregations or shared on websites such as YouTube. Although some theologians say that Martin Luther opposed private confession to a priest, the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church – which has 2.5 million members – voted this summer to revive the ritual after ignoring it for a century.

COMMENT: *"Confess [your] faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye*

may be healed" (James 5:16). This is the only confession that is to be made to one another, but notice that it is between the one that offended and the one that was offended. But all other sins, those that no other knows or private sins, are to be left to God alone. *"For [there is] one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus"* (1 Timothy 2:5). Also, note that Martin Luther saw through this.

Other Articles Found At Tstl.Net:

» **CNS, October 8, 2007 - Pope urges Catholics to pray the rosary for global peace**

» **WorldNetDaily, October 4, 2007 - Abortions linked to breast cancer again**

» **CNS, October 4, 2007 - Vatican official says marriage, family life are under attack**

» **CNS, October 3, 2007 - Survey: More Americans know Big Mac ingredients than Ten Commandments**

» **ABC News, September 28, 2007 - Eating Like Adam and Eve**

» **WND, October 10, 2007 - More 'God' references banned at U.S. Capitol**

» **WND, October 7, 2007 - Bush: All religions pray to 'same God'**