



For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

Vol. 48 No. 40

1400 Troy Road Collinsville, Illinois 62234

October 4, 2020

Stand in Awe of Him

The Bible simply begins with the existence of God (Genesis 1:1). He is described as the Creator, the Eternal One, the God Most High, the Almighty, who is omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent, and the One and only to be worshiped. Certainly, one should stand in awe of Him. As the psalmist recorded, *“Let all the earth fear Jehovah: Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him”* (Psalm 33:8).

If one realizes the majesty of God as Sovereign Ruler and stands in awe of Him, life would change and be different.

He would glorify and praise Him. *“Ye that fear Jehovah, praise him; All ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; And stand in awe of him, all ye the seed of Israel”* (Psalm 22:23). That should be done regularly in worship. Some have the attitude that worship is for the worshiper. To them it makes no difference to God how one worships. However, assembling for worship is a way to honor and reverence God. That is not done when it is taken lightly, when it is done for personal pleasure, when it is done other than as prescribed by God. Glorifying and praising Him should not be limited to the formal assembly, however. One’s entire life should be lived to the glory of God.

If one stands in awe of God, he will obey Him. Solomon recorded, *“(This is) the end of the matter; all hath been heard: fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole (duty) of man”* (Ecclesiastes 12:13). To stand in awe of God means His commands will not be questioned. One will not challenge His word regarding salvation.

There are many who question the need for baptism. Yet, if there is the true respect for God, there will be respect for His word. If there is the proper respect for His word, then there would be no question

regarding the role baptism plays in salvation as God has given it (1 Peter 3:21). Likewise, there would be no questioning God regarding worship. Many desire to worship in a way that is pleasing to man. Some add to the worship prescribed in God’s word. Others take away from it (See Deuteronomy 4:2, 1 Corinthians 4:6, and Revelation 22:18-19). When there is the proper respect for God, that will not happen.

Where there is the proper respect for God, a person will strive for holiness, overcoming temptation so as not to sin (Psalm 4:4). Paul wrote, *“Having therefore these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God”* (2 Corinthians 7:1). Therefore, he who stands in awe of God will strive to remain pure in dress, speech, actions, morality, and more. He will not be swayed by peers. He will not try to get as close to sin as possible. Rather, he will make every attempt to keep away from sin.

He who respects God will get off the throne of life and serve God rather than himself. It is recorded, *“Wherefore, receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us have grace, whereby we may offer service well-pleasing to God with reverence and awe”* (Hebrews 12:28). It is not that God needs anything from man (Acts 17:25). Yet, one serves God by serving others— by helping the fatherless, the widow, and those in need.

Finally, he who respects God will teach others (2 Corinthians 5:11). If God is worthy of all honor and glory, the Christian must convince others of that. For God is worthy of all glory from all men.

Let us all stand in awe of God.

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