

At the start of the Reformation of the Church in Scotland in 1557, John Knox wrote to his congregation before going into exile and said,

“You are bishops and kings; your wife, children, servants, and family are your bishopric and charge. Of you it shall be required how carefully and diligently you have instructed them in God’s true knowledge . . .

And therefore I say, you must make them partakers in, exhorting, and in making common prayers, which I would in every house were used once a day at least.”

Let’s Worship God

14th-19th October 2013
Deuteronomy



Let's Worship God is a ministry of



Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church

airdrierpcs.org, 01236 620107
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Family worship, a joy to be experienced every day!



Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

It is not in heaven, that you should say, Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?
Deuteronomy 30:12

reading Deuteronomy 16:1-8 - The Passover

notes Here Israel is taught to remember her history, especially the goodness of the Lord towards her. The Passover was to be kept as a memorial of their deliverance from Egypt's death by the mighty Hand of God. The Feast of Weeks was a reminder of their bondage to Pharaoh. The Feast of Tabernacles was a sign of their wanderings and the Lord's grace in settling and prospering them. According to verses 16,17, every male was to appear in the centralised place of worship thrice a year.

History is His-Story, God's story. And it remains the story of God's goodness and mercy towards His people. For Christians, every Lord's Day is a memorial when we recognise our fallenness, God's grace in sending His Son for our sins, His death and resurrection, and His promised return. Public divine worship needs to be taken seriously for this reason. The Lord's Supper too is a sign, to remind us of the Saviour's death until He comes again.

questions

1. What was the Passover a reminder of?
2. What is the Lord's Day a reminder of?

praise pray

Ps. 91A:1-6

1. Give thanks for the blessings of the Lord's Day.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



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Verse To Learn

It is not in heaven, that you should say, Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?
Deuteronomy 30:12

reading Deuteronomy 17:14-20 - A King

notes Jehovah was Israel's King; she needed no other. And so, although human kingship was not God's ideal government for His people, he recognised Israel's weaknesses and made provisions for them. Notice that the appointment of a king is not commanded but merely permitted.

But if a king was to be installed, then it had to be done in God's way. God was the One who would choose the king. This king was not to be a stranger; he was to be one from among them. He was not to build a military arsenal or take the people back into Egypt. He was not to be polygamous or excessively rich. At his coronation, the king was to write the law of God with his own hands and thus learn it and read it all the days of his life. In this way, he would learn to fear God and keep His Word. And this was to be a means to save him from pride, arrogance and disobedience.

How we need this wisdom today! The true worship of God and holiness in the people's dealings with each other will bring prosperity for our land. Righteousness does exalt a nation!

questions

1. What was the king not to do?
2. What was the king to write out?

praise pray

Ps. 92A:all

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



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Verse To Learn
It is not in heaven, that you should say, Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?
Deuteronomy 30:12

reading Deuteronomy 17:8-13 - Respect for Authority

notes After giving the judicial guidelines for justice, the Lord provides a system of trial and review in difficult legal cases. The unresolved or unresolvable matter is to be brought before the house of God and the priests and Levites as ministers of the Lord. Their final judgement was to be respected and obeyed, and any refusal to do so was deemed an "evil" worthy of death. The disobedient has acted presumptuously in ignoring the priest "that stands to minister there before the Lord thy God, or unto the judge". The clear implication is that this higher court was the chamber of the Lord and the verdict was considered to be His.

How Christians need to hear these words and recognise these principles in our anarchic culture! All lawful authority is established by God and is therefore worthy of our respect and obedience. In the Church, authority has been committed by the Lord Jesus Christ to His properly appointed Ministers and Elders. Christians should be careful not to act presumptuously. In going against His ministers, Christians are in danger of provoking Christ.

questions

1. What would happen with the difficult cases?
2. What happened if they refused to obey the priests?

praise pray Ps. 91B:13-15

1. Give thanks for your ministers and elders.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



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Verse To Learn
It is not in heaven, that you should say, Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?
Deuteronomy 30:12

reading Deuteronomy 16:9-17 - Feasts

notes Notice that Israel's religious calendar fitted well with her agricultural cycle. The feast of weeks marked the completion of the barley harvest; while the feast of tabernacles was the 'harvest thanksgiving' of Israel. The harvest thanksgiving at the feast of tabernacles is an especial case in point, for the 'booths' or 'tabernacles' symbolised the 'tents' in which the Israelites sojourned in their wilderness journeyings. Thus the harvest thanksgiving included thanksgiving for all the mercies of the pilgrim journey. Happy is the people who can see in the material providence of a bountiful God the shadows and illustrations of other and deeper blessings of grace and redemption

These feasts teach us that humankind's duties toward God are not fulfilled simply by the keeping of the law. The rituals remind us that all of life is destined for the worship of God. Man is the personal property of God, and God seeks communion with us. It is our relationship to God, our fellowship and communion with Him, that is all-important, and from which all else is to flow. Where that is not right, nothing else can ever be right.

questions

1. What was the feast of tabernacles to remind the Israelites of?
2. Why is our relationship with God key to what we do for Him?

praise pray Ps. 91A:7-12

1. Pray that your relationship with God would grow stronger.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



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Verse To Learn
It is not in heaven, that you should say, Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?
Deuteronomy 30:12

reading Deuteronomy 16:18-17:1 - Justice

notes In verse 18, we see that judges and officers were to be appointed 'in all thy gates' and 'throughout thy tribes'. Still more important is the emphasis on impartiality and just judgment. 'That which is altogether just' may be rendered 'justice and only justice'. The emphasis does not exclude mercy and compassion. Rather, it is justice in the sense of true justice, in contrast to any 'bent' form, whether through partiality or respect of persons, or through bribery, that is being insisted upon in these verses.

From verse 21 onwards, we are told of the impurities that are to be avoided in the worship of God. No hint of idolatry was to come near the place of worship that Jehovah has chosen for Himself, all who worship anything other than the one true God are declared to have worked wickedness, and their actions are pronounced an abomination. They are to be judicially executed; the phrase in verse 5, 'unto thy gates' signifies exclusion from the congregation of the Lord. The aim of this was to put away the "evil from among you". Idolatry and false worship are dangerous, damaging and ultimately destructive.

questions

1. What kind of judges were to be appointed?
2. Why is idolatry so destructive?

praise pray Ps. 91B:1-6

1. Pray that you would love God with all your heart.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
- 3 Pray for family matters.



Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
It is not in heaven, that you should say, Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?
Deuteronomy 30:12

reading Deuteronomy 17:2-7 - Judgement

notes Beginning here, rules of evidence and judgement are presented. The citing of the particular case of apostasy simply illustrates the cases that required capital punishment. It also underscores the contextual emphasis on the exclusive lordship of Jehovah in the judicial process.

Verses 2 and 7 make clear that rebellion was a transgression of God's covenant and that the words that Moses spoke were from the mouth of Jehovah.

Justice, we see, is to be safeguarded by a thorough investigation and an insistence on adequate evidence. A minimum of two witnesses was required and their truthfulness was to be evidenced by their assuming the dread responsibility of delivering the first and probably lethal blow in the execution of the condemned.

The meticulousness of this judicial process makes clear that an accused is innocent until proved guilty. This is a principle that needs to be re-introduced into the thinking of Christians today. The media, in its frenzy, often seems to work on the assumption that every accused is guilty unless proven otherwise! Even within the church, there is too much hurtful and malicious gossip bearing little relation to the facts. This often comes in the guise of 'sharing'. If Christians were obliged to put their names in writing to the things they say about others, there might be a dramatic reduction in rumour-mongering and of the hurt and distress it causes.

questions

1. How many witnesses were to accuse someone?
2. What principle does this show?

praise pray Ps. 91B:7-12

1. Pray that you would be careful in what you say.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
- 3 Pray for family matters.