

Worshipping God His Way!

by Wayne Goff

One day you and I will stand before the august Presence of Almighty God, the King of kings and Lord of lords, and we will have **no problem** understanding the reverence and respect that is due Him! If you have trouble picturing that event on Judgment Day, then go back to your Old Testament and read Isaiah 6 or Ezekiel 1. Isaiah's response to seeing the vision of the Lord sitting on His throne, high and lifted up, was: *"Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts"* (6:5).

When we come to the worship assembly of the Lord's church, it should strike us soundly that we should come to God and worship Him in His way! The Son of God explained it in John 4:24 - *"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."* God wants us to worship Him in His way — spirit and truth! When mere mortals suppose that they can worship God any way they choose, just so long as they are sincere, then they assume too much.

When Cain and Abel offered a sacrifice to God in Genesis 4, Cain did not offer his sacrifice according to God's instructions (v. 5). Rather than understand that God is in charge and mere mortal Cain needed to submit, he became angry.

When the nation of Israel shuttered at the foot of Mount Sinai while Moses received the Ten Commandments, God instructed very particularly **how**, **when** and **where** He was to be worshiped (Exodus 20-31). Those who tried to worship in their own way were struck dead!

The Pharisees of Jesus' day worshiped God *in vain*, teaching the commandments of men as *"doctrine"* (Matt. 15:9). God does not accept vain worship.

Maybe some today do not "get it" when we ask for Divine Authority for religious holidays like Christmas, Easter, etc. We are not trying to be heartless ogres who would devour the religiously ignorant. We are simply trying to follow the Divine pattern God has given us for worship. Some will say of these human holidays: "What is **wrong** with them?" My response is simple: "What is **right** with them? Where is God's instructions in the matter?"

"Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression." (Psalms 19:13).

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