

SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

HONOR GOD

EXODUS 20:7-11; Psalm 145:1-7

Our relationship with God is seen in how we honor Him. Actions speak louder than words, sometimes.

EXODUS 20:7-11

As the Israelites began to settle in the land that God gave them, He also gave them instructions as to how they were to worship and obey Him. As we look at how to honor God, what does the word “honor” mean? Respect, courtesy, reverence, and paying attention to Him.

Most people we know, we know by their name. Most people today are named to honor ancestors, a good friend, someone you looked up to and you liked the sound of the name. God’s name (YAHWEH) is more than a title. It is His very nature and character. It stands for everything He is: power and authority. It is also a name that we must not misuse through profanity and slang terms.

As we look at verses 8-11, we see instructions on how to honor and worship God. The Sabbath is a day we devote specifically to focus on God. God knew that we would need rest. God rested to show His people that they needed time away from daily activities to devote that day to worship and have fellowship with the LORD. In those days, keeping the day holy applied to more than just God’s covenant people. It applied to their servants, foreigners, and yes, even animals.

The Sabbath, if kept, was a reminder of His covenant with them. Ezekiel 20:12 expounded on this by saying: “I also gave my Sabbaths to serve as a sign between me and them, so that they would know that I AM the LORD who consecrates them.” It is still important that we set aside one day a week to rest; but, more importantly, to focus on who God is and what He has done and renew our relationship with Him.

PSALM 145:1-7

As we look at Psalms, we see David's vision of God, and what his relationship was with God. David viewed God in several ways. He was his deliverer and here he calls Him King. Being a king himself, David knew what that title meant: authority. Yielding authority to someone, is entirely different than what David attributed to GOD. David said, "He is my GOD," because of my personal relationship with Him. David's relationship with God did not occur only on the Sabbath, it was every day. David called this his lifestyle.

David committed himself to God by not only blessing Him every day, but by praising Him forever and ever. David wanted those around him to know the GOD that he trusted. He wanted them to know that GOD is great.

Men in scripture - Job, Isaiah, and Paul - have testified of God's greatness through visions. David honored God because God set him apart for His purposes. David also challenged believers to pass on to the next generation what God had done for them. Through doing this, the people would hear of the power and splendor of God's wondrous work. (See Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

Those who know the LORD must continue to share Him. Sharing examples of what God has done in your life is a picture of what can be accomplished when we put our trust in Him. It is obvious in these words from David that he "walked the talk." Not that he didn't fall short, but his faith was strong enough to ask for forgiveness and continue to praise God.

We know from scripture that David loved music. Verse 7 says "They, you, will give a testimony of your great goodness and will joyfully sing of your righteousness." Music is a big part of our Sunday services. The beautiful words of some of our favorite hymns and the accompanying music can calm us and prepare us to worship our LORD.

GOD is the standard for righteousness, because He is righteous. Everything He says and does is right. While human standards change, His never change. Singing GOD's praises never grows old.