

Dive In - May 4, 2011

### **Worship includes reverence for God's Word**

- A. Definition of Worship – According to Webster's dictionary: 1 (chiefly British) a person of importance —used as a title for various officials (as magistrates and some mayors); 2: reverence offered a divine being or supernatural power; also: an act of expressing such reverence; 3: a form of religious practice with its creed and ritual; 4: extravagant respect or admiration for or devotion to an object of esteem. These definitions lack something don't they?

Definition of Reverence - honor or respect felt or shown; a gesture of respect

Let's incorporate that definition into a better one for worship:

**Worship is taking the opportunity in everything that we do, think or say to show honor, respect, and adoration for God.**

### B. Acts of Reverence

1. What would you do if you met the following people: The President of the United States, the Queen of England, a popular musician like Chris Tomlin, a famous athlete like Justin Verlander, Channing Tatum, a Supreme Court judge, Pastor Coon?
2. What do we do when we sing our national anthem? Hand over our heart (reverence).
3. What do those in the military do when they meet someone of a higher rank? Salute.
4. Have you ever thought about this? When we read the Bible or have it read to us, we're meeting with God? We're learning about Him and communicating with Him. What did the speaker Sunday have us do when he read the scripture? He had us stand in respect. Very interesting.

I'm not saying that we have to stand every time we encounter God's word or that we're doing wrong by not standing when we read it in church. But do we revere the Bible? Are we giving it proper honor and respect? Or is it just words on a page, something that we do in church? When you read something that you didn't know about the Christian life, do you implement it into your life? I've known people like that. As soon as they read it, they DID IT!!! This is often true of new believers. In order to truly worship the LORD, we must give His Word more respect and honor it.

### C. Proper Example of Reverence for God's Word

[Nehemiah 8:1-8](#)

What did the people ask ([vs.1](#))? For Ezra to bring the Book of the Law to them

Why would they do that? Remember that they've been in captivity for 70 years and many do not know how God wants them to behave. They need their instruction manual!!!!

Who was at the worship service ([vv. 2-4](#))? Ezra, all who could understand what they heard, the leaders and the Levites

What did Ezra, the priest, do ([vs. 3](#))? He read the Word to them

How long? From morning until midday (noon)

Where was he ([vv. 4, 5](#))? Up in front and above the people (on a wooden platform)

How did the people respond ([v.5](#))? They stood up.

Why would they do that? Out of reverence

After reading the law, how did they respond ([v. 6](#))? Lifted up their hands, bowed their heads, and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

What happened after the reading and worship ([vv. 7, 8](#))? The Levites helped the people understand the Law

How do we read the Bible in our services? How do we respond? Do we attempt to internalize it or learn from it? Do we reverence God's Holy Word? When Pastor explains it afterwards in his sermon, do we really try to understand?

Again I am not saying that we have to do it exactly like they did in Nehemiah's day but we need to respond in our hearts the same way. Revere the Bible! Don't just wash over the words. Give them the respect they're due. Also, we must do our best to understand what the words mean, and if not, find out from someone else. Then we should apply them to our lives.