



#79

**Theme:** “Is Reverence Old Hat?”

**Scripture:** Leviticus 19: 30 (HCSB) *“You must keep my Sabbaths and revere My sanctuary, I am the Lord”*

**A Thought:** Oh boy! I am going to get into trouble with this essay. I recently attended a liturgical service a mass to be specific. It brought back memories; as a child attending the neighborhood parish every Sunday. Noticeably missing were the statutes of saints in the niches that lined the sanctuary walls as well as on the platform where the cross and altar cloth rested on the granite stone. I must say there was a quietness, a quietness that the inner-sanctum provided that was very pleasing to my ears, eyes and my heart. The worship was quite subdued as well as the two thousand year-old tradition liturgical message. As I exited the church I noticed that men were wearing pants and dress shoes sans shorts, beach shoes; familiar attire at churches where I have been a member or have attended in the past twenty-plus years. To be clear subdued worship music and message or wearing a suit and tie are not necessarily pious virtues. Perhaps I was impressed by the worship service because of my subsequent years in studying the Word and I understood the message after many years of attending nonliturgical church services and countless Bible studies and fellowship gatherings. To some in the Christian fold may say that the liturgical service is very rote and even sanctimonious in nature. Nevertheless the presence of formality and a sense of reverence touched my soul. I am not too concern about the formality as I am with the reverential tone preceding, during and following the service. I could be wrong but it seems to me we have forsaken reverence in many of our churches today. Now to be sure I fancy informality...that is my nature. I thank the Holy Spirit for leading me to a Bible teaching church that included loving fellowship and exuberant worship music. However, I was glad to have experienced the spiritual solemnness and stillness of the liturgical service. Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

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**Talk to yourself:**

- How do you perceive “reverence”? What should be the state of mind when attending your weekly church service? Or any other church service?
- The importance of teaching our children respect for the Lord’s sanctuary.
- Does the Lord care how you dress for church service? Discuss with friends.
- How important is the presence of the Holy Spirit when attending church service?

**Scriptures to read:**

- Psalm 2:11, 5:9, 1 Samuel 12:24; Leviticus 19:30, 26;2; Nehemiah 5:15; Malachi 2:5; Acts 9:31; Cor. 12:19; Hebrew 12:28, 13:17; Ephesians 4:1-3; 1 Peter 5:5

**Quote:**

A. W. Tozer, Preacher, Theologian...”Only as the people respond to the movement of the Holy Spirit will true worship take place.”

**Bottom Line:**

As I was typing this essay I felt the small hairs stand up on the back of my neck and a voice exhorting me as an old fogey. Possibly I am...to be sure a “causal” old fogey. Believe me there is no ill-intent in this essay. The discourse is to shine a light on the importance of reverence in our walk with the Lord. A.W.Tozer in one of his writings places *“the quality of worship not on planning, music, things etc., but, upon the worshiper.”* Yes, you and me. It is not how you dress or look but, what is in the heart as you enter the Lord’s house. If you were to visit a potentate you would dress accordingly and your demeanor would match the occasion. Not unlike the Magi when they visited the infant Jesus. In keeping with Tozer’s thinking we should not look with disdain upon those churches that follow the two century- old liturgical service. Tozer goes on to say, *“A true fear of God is a beautiful thing, for it is worship, it is love, it is veneration.”* Take heed, the Holy Spirit is the mover for each one of our hearts and minds. Our love for our Lord, our confessions, our repentance, our prayers our charity are the links for the Holy Spirit to work within us daily and on that special sabbath day. *“Worship the Lord with reverence, And rejoice with trembling”* Psalm 2:11 (NASB) **NOW.....THAT’S THE BOTTOM LINE.**

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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