

The Oologah Informer

June 16th, 2013

Prepare To Meet God

Jack Williams

And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes, And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai. (Exodus 19:11)

The above is an Old Testament passage and thus is not to be used for our justification (Galatians 5:4), but it still holds much “for our learning” (Romans 15:4). The setting of the verse is that of the law about to be delivered to the children of Israel from Mount Sinai. On the third day the Lord was to come before the people. We realize that God is omnipresent – that is, He is in all places at all times (Psalm 139:7-10; Jeremiah 23:23-24), but we realize also that there are times that we can “come before” God in a special way. One such time, as noted by the Psalmist, is when we come to worship God (Psalm 91:2-7; 100:2). In the passage from Exodus we note that God expected his people to “be ready” when they were to be in His presence. The phrase “be ready” means they were to be prepared. Such a grand time of being in the presence of God was not to be “business as usual” but was a special time — a time that required preparation. Would it not be logical for us too to “be ready” when we come before God to worship Him? Is not this a special time for us also? Note that the preparation of the Israelites stated they were to “sanctify” themselves and “wash their clothes.” I believe in this we can see two aspects of being ready to be in the presence of God to worship Him:

First, an inward preparation – “sanctify” ourselves. Sanctification is a setting apart to God. We can do such today in several ways as we prepare for worshiping God. Such things as prayer and Bible study will go a long way. One could read and study the Bible class lessons or study passages relating to the sermon topic if it is known (if not know, feel free to call the preacher and ask for suggested passages). Be sure to pray for the time of worship and also those who will be leading in the studies in worship. Take time to think of some of the songs that pertain to the lessons you are studying. Read the lines to them and seek to relate them to passages from the Bible. Of course it is important to obtain the proper rest before worship. One’s mind simply will not function properly without the needed rest. I am sure you can think of other things to help, but the point is that the preparation for coming before God in worship begins within.

Secondly, an outward preparation– “wash your clothes.” From this passage one can see that the argument some make – “It doesn’t matter what you look like outside, God is only concerned with the inner man” – is utter foolishness. We realize that the children of Israel as they met at Mount Sinai had concerns we do not share as to the climate and conditions, but the point is that God expected an “outward” preparation as they came before Him. Surely we realize that the outer man is mostly a reflection of the inner man. Why would we think He does not expect such today? Are we truly providing outward preparation when we appear before God as if it were simply another day at the ball game? We need to remember that when we worship we are before the Creator and Sustainer

Address

13800 S. 4080 Rd on Hwy 169
South of Oologah

P.O. Box 527

Oologah, OK 74053

918-443-2025

www.oologahcofc.org

oologahcofc@oologahcofc.org

facebook.com/oologahchurchofchrist

Service Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.

Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

Preacher:

Russ Earl

AM Sermon:

The Holy Spirit (John 16:12-13)

PM Sermon:

Is it not a small matter?

Vance Smith

Sunday AM Bible Class:

The Book of Job

Wednesday Bible Class:

Summer Series:

Challenges Facing the Christian

This week’s lesson:

“Worldliness in the Church”

Seth Hass

of all things. Suppose for a moment if we knew the President or some other dignitary were going to be present. Or perhaps we were to attend a banquet in honor of some great one who had sacrificed all for others. Would we take time to get some of our better clothing and show concern in our appearance, or would we treat it as a “come as you are” function? I am sure we all know the answer, but most importantly I am sure we know that God knows the answer.

God expects us to be ready to come before Him. He expects us to prepare ourselves inwardly and outwardly — and truly He is deserving of such preparation. Oh yes, one other thing. Note that the children of God were to prepare for the third day. Note that in verse 16 the Lord did as He said and on the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and the people trembled. You know, I have a hard time thinking that some of the people were trailing along later, only to hear about what happened before because they were late. What would such say about the preparation they had made to come before God? Now again I understand that sometimes unavoidable things happen. But isn't it odd how such things can happen regularly when we are called upon to worship God, but don't seem to be a chronic problem concerning school, work, going to the movies and the like? We each need to determine to prepare to come before God and then strive that as much as lies in our power we will do so at the proper time.