

Ye Shall Reverence My Sanctuary

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Leviticus 19:30 Ye shall keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary: I am the LORD.

- I. Again, this chapter is laying out the moral law of God and explaining what He means when He says “Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.” (v.2)
 - A. All the matters mentioned in this chapter are moral issues – not rituals or religious practices.
 - B. They have to do with things that violate moral law, which is God’s standard of right and wrong, good and evil.
 - C. Holiness is more about the basic character and disposition of the soul and spirit than about the certain things that are mentioned here.
 - D. So there is something wrong in the soul of a person who does not regard these things or who makes light of them, or defends the practice of them.
- II. Ye shall keep my sabbaths.
 - A. We have already preached a message on this subject in this chapter back in verses 1-3, so there is no need to go deep into it again.
 - B. But we need to say again that regarding the Sabbath is a moral issue and not a religious observance.
 1. It is one of the ten commandments, which is the basic moral law of God.

Exodus 20:8-11 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

- C. The Sabbath is not a burden or a sacrifice, but a blessing from God.
 - D. The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath. (Mark 2:27)
 - E. God designed the Sabbath for the blessing and the benefit of man.
 - F. For rest from our labors and refreshment for our soul and body.
 - G. To keep us from being slaves to time.
 - H. It includes everyone from all levels of society – everyone is to rest, not just a privileged few.
 - I. To help us with our faith by showing us how He will bless those who keep his Sabbaths.
- III. Ye shall ... reverence my sanctuary.
 - A. This is not about reverencing a place or religious objects, but is speaking of the meeting place of God and his people.
 - B. So the statement itself proves that there is to be a designated place where God’s people meet together in God’s presence.
 1. This means that a lake or a river or the woods are not places we can call the “sanctuary.”

2. This means that “where two or three are met together” does not constitute a church or a sanctuary of God.
- C. To reverence means “Fear mingled with respect and esteem; veneration.”
1. It means to attend to as a thing that affects our interest or happiness; to fix the mind on as a matter of importance.
 2. It means to place a high value on something.
 3. It means to have feeling and sentiment excited by the sacredness and importance of a person or place.
 4. When we reverence something or someone it is basically just the response of our heart and mind to what we hold dear and precious to us, as well as most vital to our lives.
- D. So to neglect to go to the sanctuary of God with God’s people is a violation of moral law, which is by definition, a sin.
1. It shows disrespect and disregard for a thing most holy and important.
 2. It shows even more than that, it shows contempt for God, his law, and his people.
 3. To neglect or to refuse to go to the sanctuary of God at the appointed times for meeting is to identify yourself as one who does not know God, does not want to know God.
- E. There are many reasons for being faithful to the house of God.
1. Just like the Sabbath, God did not intend for his sanctuary to be a burden on people, but a blessing.
 2. Those who make it a burden have missed the entire meaning of it all.
- F. Faithful attendance to the sanctuary of God is like a guiding light in our lives.
1. It is there we hear the Word of God.
 2. It is there we hear and see the testimonies of God’s people.
 3. It is there we find the presence of God with his people.
 4. It is there we have the sweet fellowship of the saints.
 5. It is there we find godly examples of what a Christian really is and make friends for eternity.
 6. Without all these benefits we are wandering like lonely nomads in the desert of this world, without any guidance, encouragement, inspiration, or initiative.
- G. It is in the sanctuary that we get understanding when we are confused.

[Psalm 73:17](#) Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.

1. It is in the sanctuary that we receive help when we are in time of need.

[Psalm 20:1-2](#) To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. The LORD hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee; Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion;

2. Where would any help come from if everyone neglected and disregarded the house of God like so many do now?
3. It is in the sanctuary that we see, feel, and know the presence and power of God.

[Psalm 63:2](#) To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.

4. God manifests himself and speaks to hearts through the preaching of the Word of God.
5. There is no way to even estimate the loss suffered by those who neglect and refuse to come to the house of God.

H. We see God working in the sanctuary in the lives of people and learn the ways of God. If we miss this we learn the ways of the heathen instead from the world.

Psalm 68:24 They have seen thy goings, O God; even the goings of my God, my King, in the sanctuary.

Psalm 77:13 Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?

I. We learn of and experience the glory of God in the sanctuary.

Psalm 96:6 Honour and majesty are before him: strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

J. We worship God with his people in the sanctuary.

Psalm 134:2 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the LORD.

Psalm 150:1 Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

There is a place like no other place,
A shelter in time of the storm,
Where God's children meet in fellowship sweet,
And the Spirit of God keeps them warm.
It's the nearest thing this old world has to offer
To the glory that God has in store.
And I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the Lord.

Psalm 84:1-4 How amiable are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. Yea, the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thine altars, O LORD of hosts, my King, and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee. Selah.

Psalm 84:10 For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Psalm 122:1 A Song of degrees of David. I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD.

Psalm 27:4 One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

Ezekiel 5:11 Wherefore, as I live, saith the Lord GOD; Surely, because thou hast defiled my sanctuary with all thy detestable things, and with all thine abominations, therefore will I also diminish thee; neither shall mine eye spare, neither will I have any pity.

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K. It is for our good and God's glory – stay faithful to the house of God.