

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer, resting on an open Bible. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame, with fingers interlaced. The Bible is open, showing its pages, and is placed on a dark surface. The background is dark and out of focus, emphasizing the hands and the Bible. The overall mood is solemn and reverent.

*Serving God Acceptably*

**WITH REVERENCE  
AND GODLY FEAR**

Proverbs 1:7 (NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> The fear of the Lord *is* the beginning of knowledge,  
*But* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

*Hebrews 12:18-29*

# HEBREWS 12:18-29 (NKJV)

<sup>18</sup> For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, <sup>19</sup> and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard *it* begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. <sup>20</sup>

(For they could not endure what was commanded: “*And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow.*”)

<sup>21</sup> And so terrifying was the sight *that* Moses said, “*I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.*”)



# HEBREWS 12:18-29 (NKJV)

<sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, <sup>23</sup> to the general assembly and church of the firstborn *who are* registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, <sup>24</sup> to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than *that of* Abel. <sup>25</sup> See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more *shall we not escape* if we turn away from Him who *speaks* from heaven,

# HEBREWS 12:18-29 (NKJV)

<sup>26</sup> whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, “*Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.*” <sup>27</sup> Now this, “*Yet once more,*” indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. <sup>28</sup> Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

<sup>29</sup> For our God *is* a consuming fire.



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# WITH REVERENCE AND GODLY FEAR

## Hebrews 12 - Context

- Superiority of Christ
  - ▶ 1:1-3 - over the Prophets
  - ▶ 1:4-2:18 - over the Angels
  - ▶ 3:1-4:13 - over Moses
  - ▶ 4:14-7:28 - His Priesthood
  - ▶ 8:1-13 — His Covenant
  - ▶ 9:1-10:18 — Sanctuary & Sacrifice
  - ▶ 10:19-13:25 — In our lives



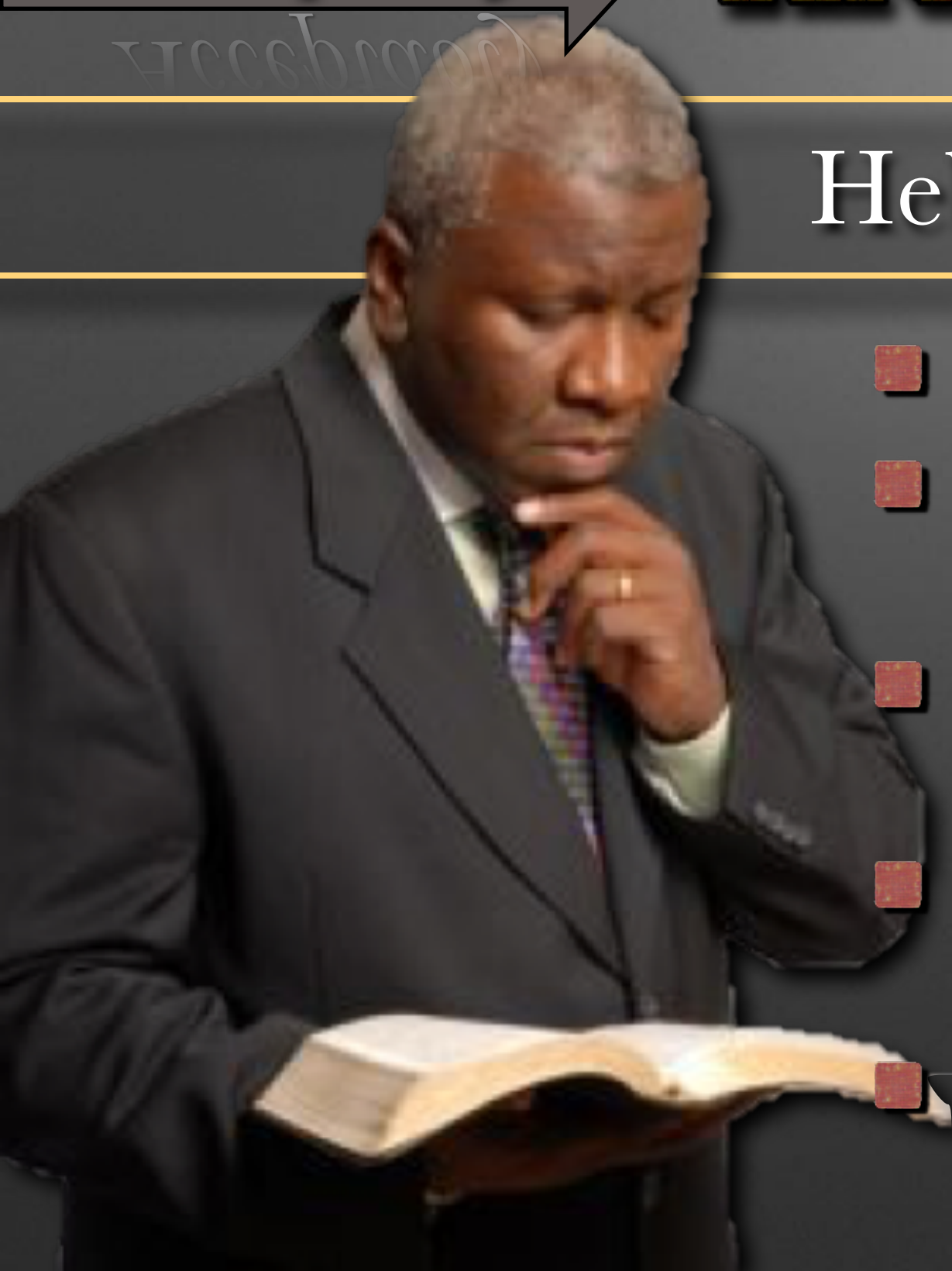


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# WITH REVERENCE AND GODLY FEAR

## Hebrews 12 - Context

- Endure - looking to Jesus - 1,2
- Accept & Grow Through God's Discipline - 3-11
- Gain Strength In Order To Resist Falling - 12-17
- Participation In The Glory of God's Gracious Provisions - 18-24
- Reverential & God Honoring Worship - 25-29





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# WITH REVERENCE AND GODLY FEAR

A Stark Contrast: “*We Have Not Come To*”

HEBREWS 12:18-21

Mountain that can be touched

Mountain burning with fire

Darkness / Gloom / Storm

Trumpet blast / Voice with  
frightening words

Sight that terrified Moses



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# WITH REVERENCE AND GODLY FEAR

A Stark Contrast: “But *We Have Come To*”

HEBREWS 12:22-24

<sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, <sup>23</sup> to the general assembly and church of the firstborn *who are* registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, <sup>24</sup> to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than *that of* Abel.



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# WITH REVERENCE AND GODLY FEAR

A Stark Contrast:

*“We Have Not Come To” “But We Have Come To”*

- A Material Place
- A Burning Mt
- Darkness & Fear
- A Terrified Mediator

- A Spiritual Relationship
- A Cross / Salvation
- Light / Joy / Peace
- A Saving Mediator

*Obedience Demanded*

*Obedience Demanded*

From The Lesser To The Greater



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# WITH REVERENCE AND GODLY FEAR

Vs. 25 Do not refuse Him who speaks

Hebrews 12:25 (NKJV)

<sup>25</sup> See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more *shall we not escape* if we turn away from Him who *speaks* from heaven,

- Through Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant - (*the testimony of His blood*) — vs. 24; 1:1,2; Act 2:36; Deut 18:15,19; Mat 17:5.
- From heaven / The divinely authorized & confirmed gospel - the New Cov. — Mat 21:25; Heb. 2:1-4; 8:3-6; 9:11-15; Gal. 1:6-9.
- Warning to those who refuse — vs. 26,27; cf. Heb. 2:2,3; 10:28,29




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# WITH REVERENCE AND GODLY FEAR

Vs. 26-28

## The Perpetual Kingdom



Hebrews 12:26 (NKJV)  
<sup>26</sup> whose voice then shook  
the earth; but now He has  
promised, saying, “*Yet once  
more I shake not only the  
earth, but also heaven.*”

- God spoke at Sinai & His voice shook the earth, (Exo 19:18), but the Hebrew writer speaks of yet another promised “*shaking both the earth & the heavens*” - referencing Haggai 2:6-7
- The “shaking” is a metaphor for the judgment of God executed in history - (Is 13:13; Hag 2:6)



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# WITH REVERENCE AND GODLY FEAR

Vs. 26-28

## The Perpetual Kingdom

Hebrews 12:27 (NKJV)

<sup>27</sup> Now this, “*Yet once more,*” indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.

- A past shaking - Exod 19:18
- There is a current shaking - “*things that are being shaken*” - which shaking will continue until that which was temporary be taken out of the way - *The law, temple, furnishings, sacrifices, priesthood* were all destined to pass away - Gal 3:23-25; Heb 7:12; 8:13; 10:1-9



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- “*That the things which cannot be shaken may remain*” - The things made in the former sense do not remain; the things of the new heaven and earth “*shall remain before God*” (cf. Is 66:22).
- The New Covenant & those who remain in it will continue - all else will be destroyed.




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# WITH REVERENCE AND GODLY FEAR

Vs. 26-28

## The Perpetual Kingdom

A photograph of a man with short grey hair, wearing a dark suit and tie, looking down at an open book he is holding. The background is dark and out of focus.

Hebrews 12:28 (NKJV)  
28 Therefore, since we are  
receiving a kingdom which  
cannot be shaken, let us  
have grace, ...

- *Therefore* (διο [dio]). Things stated provides the trustworthy grounds for continued loyalty to Christ and for calm trust in God — *we have that which will remain.*
- Prophesied by Daniel - Dan 2:40-44; 7:14,27; cf. Eph 1:20-23; Col 1:13
- Was to come during the lifetime of many who heard Jesus speak - Mark 9:1; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4




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## The Perpetual Kingdom



Hebrews 12:28 (NKJV)  
28 Therefore, since we are  
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have grace, ...

- ESV - *“Let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken,”* i.e., the kingdom of God, or Christ, which will continue even after death is destroyed - 1 Cor. 15:23-26
- We should be overwhelmed with gratitude for what God has given us! — Col. 1:13-20; Eph. 1:3-16




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# WITH REVERENCE AND GODLY FEAR

Vs. 28-29

## The Why & How of WORSHIP



Hebrews 12:28,29 (NKJV)  
<sup>28</sup> ... by which we may serve  
God acceptably with  
reverence and godly fear.  
<sup>29</sup> For our God is a  
consuming fire.

- “*Serve*” — used many times in epistle referring to priestly duties - 8:5; 9:9; 13:10; cf. 1 Pet 2:5
- In order to *serve* God acceptably in this new dispensation, we **MUST** Have *reverence & godly fear*, i.e., with extreme respect for God’s holiness & His stated will. — Lev 10:1-4; Ps. 89:7; Ro. 11:20; 1 Pe. 1:17



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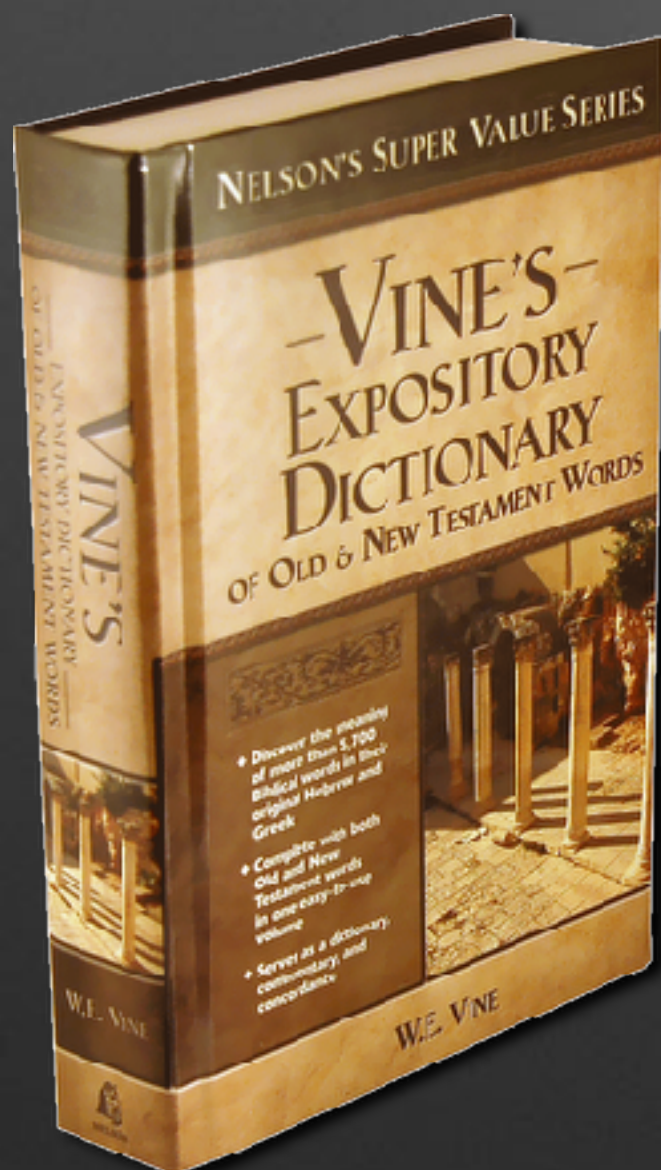
# WITH REVERENCE AND GODLY FEAR

Vs. 28-29

## The Why & How of WORSHIP

### With Reverence

3. *eulabeia* (εὐλάβεια, 2124) signifies, firstly, “caution”; then, “reverence, godly fear,” Heb. 5:7; 12:28, in best mss., “reverence”; in general, “apprehension, but especially holy fear,” “that mingled fear and love which, combined, constitute the piety of man toward God; the OT places its emphasis on the fear, the NT ... on the love, though there was love in the fear of God’s saints then, as there must be fear in their love now” (Trench, *Syn. Sec.*xlvi). ¶ In the Sept., Josh. 22:24; Prov. 28:14. ¶





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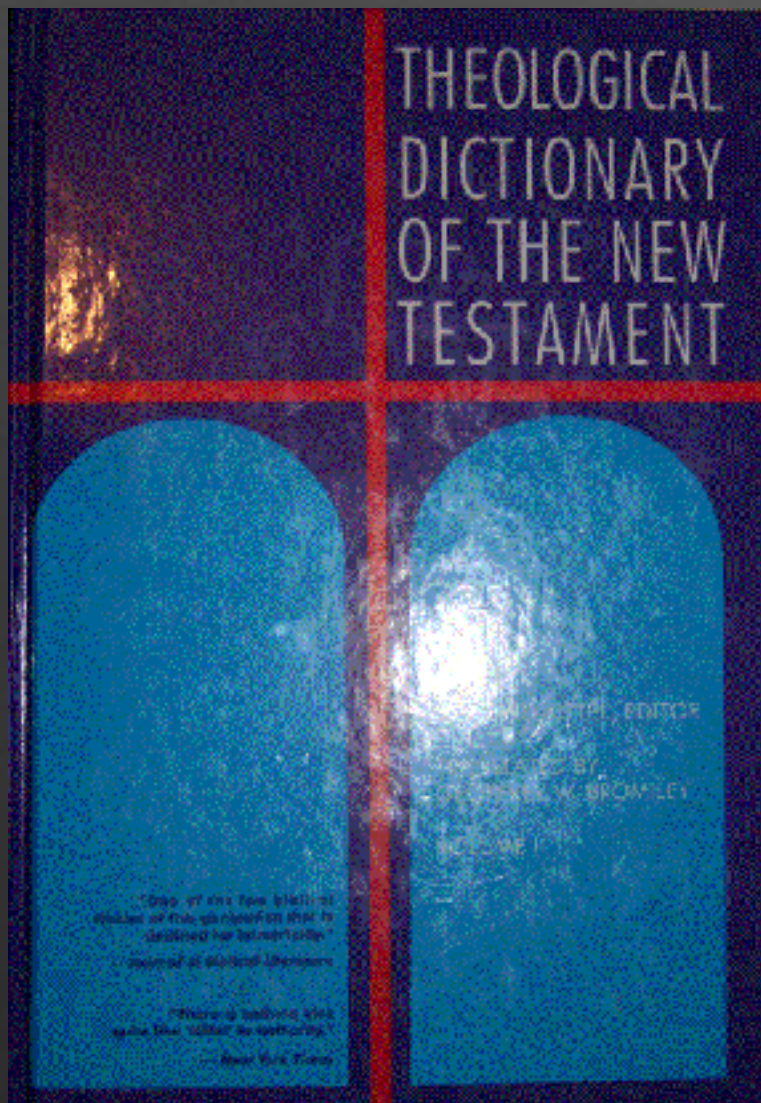
# WITH REVERENCE AND GODLY FEAR

Vs. 28-29

## The Why & How of WORSHIP

### With Reverence

εὐλαβής always means “pious” or “devout” as in the LXX (→ 752), and it is no accident that the piety thus characterised is that which consists in scrupulous observance of the Law, as may be seen in Ac. 22:12 ... (Hebrews 12:28) has the sense of “anxiety,” so that the combination corresponds to the μετὰ φόβου καὶ τρόμου of Phil. 2:12. The copyist, however, obviously understood it in the sense of “pious reverence”






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# WITH REVERENCE AND GODLY FEAR

Vs. 28-29

## The Why & How of WORSHIP



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consuming fire.

- Obedience honors God /  
Disobedience dishonors God.
- We CAN ONLY obey God by doing  
what He has said / We CANNOT  
obey God while doing different from  
what He has said.
- God has revealed what He wants -  
We honor God by doing what He  
has revealed / We dishonor God  
when, instead, we do what we want.




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# WITH REVERENCE AND GODLY FEAR

Vs. 28-29

## The Why & How of WORSHIP

A photograph of a man with short grey hair, wearing a dark suit and a patterned tie, looking down at an open Bible he is holding in his hands. The background is dark and out of focus.

Hebrews 12:28,29 (NKJV)  
<sup>28</sup> ... by which we may serve  
God acceptably with  
reverence and godly fear.  
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consuming fire.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)  
<sup>16</sup> All Scripture *is* given by  
inspiration of God, and *is*  
profitable for doctrine, for  
reproof, for correction, for  
instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>  
that the man of God may be  
complete, thoroughly equipped  
for every good work.




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# WITH REVERENCE AND GODLY FEAR

Vs. 28-29

The Why & How of WORSHIP



Hebrews 12:28,29 (NKJV)  
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reverence and godly fear.  
<sup>29</sup> For our God is a  
consuming fire.

2 Peter 1:3 (NKJV)  
<sup>3</sup> as His divine power has  
given to us all things that  
*pertain* to life and godliness,  
through the knowledge of  
Him who called us by glory  
and virtue,




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Vs. 28-29

## The Why & How of WORSHIP



Hebrews 12:28,29 (NKJV)  
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God acceptably with  
reverence and godly fear.  
<sup>29</sup> For our God is a  
consuming fire.

Leviticus 10:1-3 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. <sup>2</sup> So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. <sup>3</sup> And Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the Lord spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.' " So Aaron held his peace.




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# WITH REVERENCE AND GODLY FEAR

Vs. 28-29

The Why & How of WORSHIP



Hebrews 12:28,29 (NKJV)  
<sup>28</sup> ... by which we may serve  
God acceptably with  
reverence and godly fear.  
<sup>29</sup> For our God is a  
consuming fire.

Psalm 89:7 (NKJV)  
7 God is greatly to be  
feared in the assembly of  
the saints, And to be  
held in reverence by all  
*those* around Him.




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# WITH REVERENCE AND GODLY FEAR

Vs. 28-29

## The Why & How of WORSHIP



Hebrews 12:28,29 (NKJV)  
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God acceptably with  
reverence and godly fear.  
<sup>29</sup> For our God is a  
consuming fire.

Ecclesiastes 5:1-7 (NKJV)  
<sup>1</sup> Walk prudently when you  
go to the house of God; and  
draw near to hear rather  
than to give the sacrifice of  
fools, for they do not know  
that they do evil.




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## The Why & How of WORSHIP



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reverence and godly fear.  
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consuming fire.

Isaiah 66:2 (NKJV)  
<sup>2</sup> For all those *things* My hand  
has made, And all those  
*things* exist,” Says the Lord.  
“But on this *one* will I look:  
On *him who* is poor and of a  
contrite spirit, And who  
trembles at My word.



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# WITH REVERENCE AND GODLY FEAR

Vs. 28-29

## The Why & How of WORSHIP

Hebrews 12:28,29 (NKJV)  
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consuming fire.

- Has God instructed us to:
  - Pray, teach, sing, give, and to observe the Lord's supper? - Acts 20:7, 1Cor. 11:17-34; Eph 5:19; Col. 3:16
  - Observe holidays in our worship to Him? *scripture?*
  - Use mechanical instrumental music in our worship to Him? *scripture?*




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- Thankful for & genuinely **DESIRE**  
To Assemble For Study & Worship  
— Heb 10:25; Ps 122:1; 119:97-104
- Thankful for & **WILLING** To Give  
God's Word Our Time & Attention  
— Heb 5:12-14; Ro 10:17
- Thankful for & **DETERMINED** to  
do God's things in God's way — Jn  
4:24; Col. 3:17; 2 Jn 9




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## The Why & How of WORSHIP

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consuming fire.

- Our Preparation & Attendance
  - What **preparations** do we make on Saturday? Saturday evening?
  - Do we prepare for Bible classes?
  - Do we plan things out so we will be on time?
  - We all expect teachers, song leaders & preachers to be present, prepared & on time - but what about ME?



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God acceptably with  
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consuming fire.

- Our Preparation & Attendance
  - **Day Before** - *study / Go to bed early*
  - **Sunday Morning** — *Get up on time / Pray, meditate / Breakfast / Dress appropriately, leave early ...*
  - **Arrival** — *Be on time / use bathroom / drink water / focus / Turn off phones*
  - **Worship** — *Have your mind cleared so you can concentrate.*



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# WITH REVERENCE AND GODLY FEAR

Vs. 28-29

## The Why & How of WORSHIP

Leviticus 10:3  
(NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> And Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the Lord spoke, saying: 'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.' ...

Psalms 89:7  
(NKJV)

<sup>7</sup> God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, And to be held in reverence by all *those* around Him.

Hebrews 12:28  
(NKJV)

<sup>28</sup> Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.



# *Do We Serve God Acceptably*

**WITH REVERENCE  
AND GODLY FEAR**

Malachi 1:13 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> You also say, ‘Oh, what a weariness!’ And you sneer at it,” Says the Lord of hosts. “And you bring the stolen, the lame, and the sick; Thus you bring an offering! Should I accept this from your hand?” Says the Lord.

*Hebrews 12:18-29*



*Do We Serve God Acceptably*

**WITH REVERENCE  
AND GODLY FEAR**

Amos 8:5 (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> Saying: “When will the New Moon be past, That we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, That we may trade wheat? Making the ephah small and the shekel large, Falsifying the scales by deceit,

*Hebrews 12:18-29*



A close-up photograph of a hand holding a pen, poised to write on an open book. The background is dark, and the lighting highlights the texture of the paper and the skin of the hand. The text is overlaid on this image.

# *Do We Serve God Acceptably*

## **WITH REVERENCE AND GODLY FEAR**

Matthew 15:7-9 (NKJV)

*7 Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 8 ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’”*

### *Hebrews 12:18-29*



*Do We Serve God Acceptably*

**WITH REVERENCE  
AND GODLY FEAR**

John 4:23-24 (NKJV)

<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup> God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

*Hebrews 12:18-29*







*Serving God Acceptably*

**WITH REVERENCE  
AND GODLY FEAR**

**Charts by Don McClain** / Preached December 24, 2017

West 65<sup>th</sup> Street church of Christ P.O. Box 190062 / Little Rock AR 72219 / 501-568-1062 / Email – [donmcclain@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donmcclain@sbcglobal.net)

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*Hebrews 12:18-29*



## ISAIAH 6:1-7 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His *robe* filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup> And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy *is* the Lord of hosts; The whole earth *is* full of His glory!”



## ISAIAH 6:1-7 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup> So I said: “Woe *is* me, for I am undone! Because I *am* a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts.” <sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal *which* he had taken with the tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup> And he touched my mouth *with it*, and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged.”