

Old and New Testament Examples of Godly Order

Gathering together

In Numbers chapter 2, we have specific instructions as to where each tribe of Israel is to set up camp around the Tabernacle. On the east side the tribes of Judah, Issachar and Zebulun are to camp. On the south side it is Reuben, Simeon and Gad. On the west side it is Benjamin, Manasseh and Ephraim, while on the north side it is Naphtali, Asher and Dan. The Tabernacle was in the midst of all 12 tribes so each person could look at the Tabernacle.

“And it came to pass, when Moses went out unto the tabernacle, that all the people rose up, and stood every man at his tent door, and looked after Moses, until he was gone into the tabernacle. And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the LORD talked with Moses. And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door.” Exodus 33:8-10. The Lord was there in the Tabernacle in the midst of His people.

In Matthew 18:20 we are told that where 2 or 3 are gathered together in the Lord's name, He will be in their midst. As we gather to remember him, each person in the group has access to the Lord and can offer spiritual sacrifices to the Lord. The Lord is there in the midst of those so gathered.

The Lord is so gracious to show us the way we are to meet around Him in an orderly way from His word. We should be thankful to Him that He didn't leave us without scriptural instruction as to this very important matter. What an absolute joy and blessing it is to be gathered around Himself in fellowship with other believers and have a true sense of the Lord's presence in the midst. In each of these examples, we see the Lord's order. His people around Him with Himself in the midst. He is the Object of attention and the One who is worshiped. Truly, He is worthy!

Offerings and Worship

In the Old Testament the children of Israel could also offer a sacrifice, through the priests, to the Lord. In the first seven chapters of Leviticus, the Lord gives us very detailed instructions as to five different offerings. We are told what the offerer is to do, what the priest is to do as well as many other details. This shows us God's order as to sacrifices made to Himself.

With the sin question settled on the cross, and we stand in grace before the Lord, we have a natural outpouring of worship as an offering and is an overflow of our hearts of what God has put there. As we spend time with the Lord during the week in prayer, Bible reading and meditation we receive much blessing from Him. When we are gathered together to remember Him, the Holy Spirit, along with our spirit, moves our hearts to burst out or overflow with worship and praise to the Lord. This is God's order for His children for today. He doesn't leave it up to us to decide how we are to worship Him. In John 4:24 we are told to worship God in spirit and in truth. In spirit refers to that which is deep inside of us as opposed to that which is outward. In truth refers to that which is of God as contained in His word.