

HOW TO SERVE GOD

Luke 1:67-79

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Give context:
 - 1. Mary visited by an angel, Luke 1:30,38.
 - 2. Elizabeth gave birth to John, v.57-ff.
 - 3. Zecharias had been struck mute by Gabriel, v.20.
 - 4. After Zecharias had written on the board, he regained his voice and prophesied, v.67-79.
- B. In **Luke 1:67-79** we find the words of Zechariah, after his speech was restored. In his words we find some wisdom that describes what it is to be a servant of the most high God.
- C. Zacharias here foretold the character of the coming kingdom as one in which Israel would be delivered from enemies and continue in the service of God with holiness and righteousness without fear. That he might have thought, in his own heart, that this had reference to the restoration of the secular kingdom is a possibility; but the fidelity of his words to the promptings of the Holy Spirit was such that the more extended meaning as it pertains to the universal church of all ages is clearly evident; and, in the remaining words of his message, there appears the glorious promise of salvation for the Gentiles. (Coffman Comm).
- D. The word servant occurs 417 times in the OT, and 75 times in the NT. bond-servant occurs 8 times in the NT.
- E. A Servant may be defined as:
 - 1. One who *voluntarily* dedicates himself to the service of another.
 - 2. One who is in subjection or *bondage* to another.
- F. We do not dwell on the word servant as much as we should. Too many want to be the served instead of a servant.
- G. We need to realize our purpose on earth.
 - 1. *We are not here on this earth to have people wait on us and visit us and beg us to come to worship services.*
 - 2. *We are not here to see how little we can do in the work of the church.*
 - 3. *We are put here to love God with all our heart (Cf. Matthew 22:37-38) and teach others the gospel and to be a servant to people who need our help.*
- H. Let's see what Zechariah had to say:

I. SERVE GOD WITHOUT FEAR, Luke 1:74.

- A. God is worthy of our respect and reverential fear:
 - 1. Our God is a consuming fire, and we are to serve Him with reverence and godly fear, **Hebrews 9:27-28**.
 - 2. However, we do not have to *be afraid* of Him.
 - 3. Children should have respect for and a little fear of parents.
- B. Through Christ we may come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and find grace to help in time of need, **Hebrews 4:16**.
- C. WE CAN SERVE GOD WITHOUT FEARING MAN:
 - 1. "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear

- Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” **Matthew 10:28.**
2. “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” **2 Timothy 1:7.**
 3. So we may boldly say: ☐ The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?☐ **Hebrews 13:6.**
- D. Because of what Christ has done for us, we can serve without fear.

II. SERVE GOD IN HOLINESS, Luke 1:75.

- A. We are to serve in holiness because God is holy, **1 Peter 1:15-16** *but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ☐ Be holy, for I am holy.*☐
- B. One aspect of holiness is being *SEPARATED TO GOD*.
 1. And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ☐ I will dwell in them And walk among them. *I will be their God, And they shall be My people.*☐ **2 Corinthians 6:16.**
 2. ☐ Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.☐ **2 Corinthians 6:17.**
- C. Another aspect is being *SEPARATED FROM SIN*.
 1. ☐ Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. *Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.*☐ **2 Corinthians 6:17.**
 2. ☐ Let everyone who names the name of Christ *depart from iniquity.*☐ **2 Timothy 2:19.**
 3. ☐ For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.☐ **1 Thessalonians 4:7.**
- D. ☐ Pursue peace with all people, and *holiness*, without which no one will see the Lord.☐ **Hebrews 12:14** (NKJ).
- E. Holiness is *NOT PERFECTION*, but it is being like God, **1 Peter 1:15-16.**

III. SERVE GOD IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, Luke 1:75.

- A. There is a ☐ righteousness which is by faith in Jesus Christ ☐ **Romans 3:22**, which is equal to forgiveness of sins.
- B. Righteousness is also described as ☐ doing right.☐
 1. ☐ If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who *practices righteousness* is born of Him.☐ **1 John 2:29.**
 2. ☐ Little children, let no one deceive you. He who *practices righteousness* is righteous, just as He is righteous.☐ **1 John 3:7.**
 3. God's servant does not continue in sin. ☐ Shall we *continue in sin* that grace may abound?☐ **Romans 6:1.**
- C. Children of God become instruments of righteousness, **Romans 6:6-18.**
 1. When our ☐ old man ☐ is crucified with the Lord in baptism, we no longer serve sin, v.6. ☐ slaves of sin,☐ (NKJ).
 2. We serve as instruments of righteousness or unrighteousness, **v.13.**
 3. To whom do you present yourself as a servant? **v.16-18.**

- a. You are the slave of the one to whom you submit.
 - b. By obedience, you become free from sin and a slave of righteousness.
4. The Lord wants you to present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. *v.19.*

IV. SERVE GOD ALL THE DAYS OF OUR LIVES, Luke 1:75.

- A. We are to serve with perseverance, and hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end. *Hebrews 3:6.*
- B. We need to watch, for we know not the hour the Lord may come, *Matthew 24:42.*
- C. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. *Revelation 2:10.*
- D. *SERVING GOD IS NOT A HOBBY, BUT A LIFE.*
- E. *"IT IS NEVER TOO SOON TO START AND ALWAYS TOO SOON TO QUIT."*

CONCLUSION:

- A. Remember, we were not put here just to be happy and have a good time.
- B. We were put here to be servants of God, lead others to Christ and to strive with all of our hearts to go to heaven.
- C. Do you have the heart of a servant?
- D. Are you a servant of righteousness or a servant of sin?

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