

Dangers of Careless Worship

1. Not all the problem is with churches...
2. If an unlearned person can see problems, why can't others?
3. Some either do not want to see a problem, or they have not learned to discern right and wrong (Hb.5:12-14)

Lv.10: A tragedy happened despite God's plain and specific warnings to the priests

God's judgment warns us against careless worship

Ro.15⁴ whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope

I. Presumption in Leviticus 10

Worship becomes deadly, 1-3

1: Nadab and Abihu:

- First day on job; first offering
- Holy family (sons of Aaron)
- Thorough training
- People watching
 - Holy fire had fallen from heaven, 9:22-24
 - Lv.16:12: commanded to use coals from brazen altar
 - They used ... profane; strange;
unauthorized; unholy; illegitimate

Worship becomes deadly, 1-3

1: Nadab and Abihu:

- Their offering was *before the Lord*
- He had not commanded (unauthorized)
- He had warned against disobedience
 - Actions of a Korah, Nu.16
 - Exodus: 'commanded': 47x
 - Leviticus: 'commanded': 27x
 - God gives commands, not suggestions

Worship becomes deadly, 1-3

2: sinned with fire ... slain by fire from LORD

- Consumed them; died before LORD
- Ro.15⁴ For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope
- Hb.8⁵ as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain

God: “I will be sanctified” 3:

[treated as holy . . . glorified]

- Careless disregard for worship is fatal
- God will be respected, either by obedience, or by punishment
- Aaron held his peace [he knows God is right...]

Priests become silent, 4-7:

- Aaron and others do not mourn as sons are dragged away
 - Worship is not a 'spectator sport.' Jn.4:24
- 6: Aaron and family must not mourn [it could imply disagreement with God's judgment]
- 7: they did according to the word of Moses. They are believers...

Distinguish holy and profane, 8-11

- Distinguish – separate; set apart; make distinction between clean / unclean, holy / profane
- Hb.5:14
 - Drunk: cannot discern
 - Darkness: cannot discern. Ac.17
 - Deceived: strong believers in error. Col.2.
 - Distracted: 1 Co.11, Lord's supper
 - Drained: physically / mentally exhausted...

Neglected sacrifice, 12-20

12-15: Aaron ordered to eat (3x) – his due, with his sons...

16: Moses: found sin offering burned up

17-18: Aaron is held accountable: why did you not eat sin offering? (9:3, 15)

19-20: Aaron: had completed sin offering / burnt offering – the festive part of the observance remained (privately fed the priest and his family). This was omitted

- Aaron's concern: sad heart; unworthy...
- Moses let his disapproval suffice

I. Presumption in Leviticus 10

II. Principles to Remember in
Acceptable Worship, 1 Co.14

- Pursue love, 1 (= ch.13)
 - Opposite of pride, neglect, selfishness, error
 - Love and gifts are not competitors
 - Ac.2, tongues brought audience together to hear; love bound them...
- Understanding is necessary, 2
 - Prophecy, 2 ... Teaching, 15-19
 - Singing, praying, speaking, giving, Supper – Mt.26:29, 'with you'
 - 1 Co.11:17-22, clear separation between Lord's supper and common meal

- Goal: edification, spiritual maturity
 - One goal in worship: edify the church, 4-5
 - Must not neglect first principles, but cannot be limited to them. Hb.6.
 - Must 'know' before we can 'grow.' Profit, 6
 - Not entertainment (though we enjoy learning)

- Clear, distinct instruction, 9-11. Bugle
- Interpretation, 13. What mean to me?
- Thanksgiving, 13, 16.
- Instruct, teach, 19. Vaccination. Ac.2:42
- Attitude, 20. Eager, respectful...
- Assembly, 23-25.
- All things for edification, 26. Purpose
- Peace pleases God, 33.
- Authority, 37. [Not everyone will profit from warning, 38]
- All things decently, in order, 40.

- Nadab and Abihu were duly appointed
- They kindled the fire, used correct censers, right incense, but did not touch the incense with fire from the altar (kindled by Lord, 9:24) – thus, ‘unauthorized fire’
- “So what? Fire is fire...”
 - Mt.15:9
 - 1 Co.11:17-22