



offering was to be made of **fine flour, without leaven**. It was to be mixed with **oil** or anointed with oil, and every grain offering was to be **seasoned with salt**. The Shewbread for the Temple was to be **made fresh every week**.

Learning from the Past

Of course we understand that the old Levitical Law is no longer binding. There are no exact specifications regarding the construction of our church buildings, as was true of the tabernacle and the temple. We don't have priests clothed in robes. We are not required to make the various grain and animal offerings that are described in detail in that law.

But if God insisted then that those who came into His presence do so with respect and honor for Him, would He be pleased with less from us? If He demanded that the people cleanse themselves and prepare themselves before approaching Him in a corporate gathering, would casualness in our attitude toward Him today not be offensive?

If the Shewbread was to be carefully made, with specific ingredients, and made fresh each week, should we not have as much respect for the making of the bread used in our Lord's memorial supper?

God's law has changed, but His greatness and His holiness have not changed. Do we not owe Him at least as much honor and respect as was required of the children of Israel? Should we not very carefully dress for worship, as we would if we were going into the presence of an important dignitary? Should we not prepare our minds to actually *worship*?

"...Moses said, 'I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.' But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, 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, to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel. 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."

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How Do We Approach God?

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Next Sunday, take a minute to look around and form a general assessment of just how you and fellow-Christians are approaching God. With regard to worship, the much-used saying “familiarity breeds contempt” might be modified to say “repetitiveness robs an action of its specialness”.

Have you ever inserted your key in the ignition as you were about to leave the church building, to be suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that you sang the words to the hymns, you took the bread and juice, you heard the prayers and the lesson, you even dropped your check into the collection plate — but not once did you have that mental connection of being in God’s presence before His throne?

Had you really worshipped?

Has something that we faithful Christians do every week become commonplace?

Do we come to the assembly, dressed in our casual clothes — or even in immodest clothes?

Do we exchange quips about yesterday’s

ball game up until the minute the bell rings for worship to begin? And does part of our mind continue with analysis of the conversation?

Do we find our minds wandering from the lesson with thoughts of lunch or of what someone is wearing or wondering where some missing person might be visiting...?

In order to know God’s requirements of those who come into His presence in prayer and in worship, we need to pay close attention to what is recorded in His Book:

Attitude In Approaching God

“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’” (Leviticus 10:3).

When the Israelites were to come into God’s presence at the time of the giving of the Law, strict stipulations were made:

“Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself ... especially concerning the day you stood before the Lord your God in Horeb, when the Lord said to me, ‘Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children’” (Deuteronomy 4:9,10).

Physical Preparation for Approaching God

“Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes.

‘And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

‘You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, ‘Take heed to yourselves that you do not go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death’” (Exodus 19:10-12).

“So you shall put them [specifically described robes] on Aaron your brother and on his sons with him. You shall anoint them, consecrate them, and sanctify them, that they may minister to Me as priests. And you shall make for them linen trousers to cover their nakedness; they shall reach from the waist to the thighs. They shall be on Aaron and on his sons when they come into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister in the holy place, that they do not incur iniquity and die” (Exodus 28:41-43).

Specifications Regarding Offerings

Requirements regarding grain offerings were delineated in detail in Leviticus 2. The