



16 August 2024

Bow the knee

The Bible makes it clear that a day is coming when everyone will bow the knee before God, including all who have rejected Him and forever will bear the just judgment of their rejection, of their sin.

The apostle Paul, citing God's words through Isaiah wrote,

“‘As I live,’ says the LORD, ‘to Me every knee will bow, and every tongue will give praise to God.’”

(Romans 14:11)



For those who have bowed the knee to Christ, have accepted Him as their Savior, that day will be a day of celebration, of joyful praise. One of the scenes of that in The Revelation gives us this description,

“I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all the tribes, peoples, and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.’ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, ‘Amen, blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might belong to our God forever and ever. Amen.’” (7:9-12)

Down through the ages bowing the knee, bowing down, has been a sign of respect for a person who is in a higher position and who has authority, and so it honors that person. Bowing down was intended to be an outward sign of inward attitude, including in our relationship to God.

The familiar words of Psalm 95 reflect that,

“Come, let's worship and bow down, let's kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.” (6)

Jesus made that point to some hypocritical religious leaders as he cited Isaiah,

“This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far away from Me.”

(Mark 7:6)

And so the apt phrase *lip service* meaning expressing something with words, but not supporting it with actions, and so being hypocritical.

King David's closing words to Psalm 19 reflect true devotion in thought and action,

"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, LORD, my rock and my Redeemer" (14).

Paul introduced his prayer for the believers in Ephesus to be strengthened with "I bend my knees before the Father" (3:14).

Whether actually or figuratively, we are to bow ourselves, our spirit before Almighty God. This is not limited to prayer, singing or any other part of worship. Our whole life is to be lived bowing the knee to God—in all of our thoughts, words, plans and actions, in all our circumstances, good and bad.

The apostle Paul told the church at Corinth that he carried out his ministry, his life "taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5). He bowed his knee to Christ in everything, made himself captive of obedience to Christ. Does that describe how you have been living today, this week?

The song *Bow the Knee* expresses this and reminds us, especially in the tough times.

"There are moments on our journey following the Lord when God illumines every step we take. There are times when circumstances make perfect sense to us as we try to understand each move He makes. But when the path grows dim and our questions have no answers, turn to Him, bow the knee."

"Bow the knee. Trust the heart of your Father when the answer goes beyond what you can see. Bow the knee, Lift your eyes toward heaven and believe the One who holds eternity. When you don't understand the purpose of His plan, in the presence of your King, bow the knee."

"There are days when clouds surround us, the rain begins to fall, and the cold and lonely winds won't cease to blow. And there seems to be no reason for the suffering we feel. We are tempted to believe God doesn't know when the storms arise. Don't forget we live by faith and not by sight. When you don't understand the purpose of His plan, in the presence of your King, bow the knee."

Yes, bow the knee.

Pastor Lyle