

Five Rules for Holy Living

by A.W. Tozer

We should venerate all things because God made them and esteem all men because they were once made in the image of God.

Duration: 23:06

Scripture: Genesis 1:27, Psalm 103:20-22, Isaiah 43:4, Malachi 3:17, Matthew 5:44, 1 Peter 2:17

Topics: "Holy Living"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of praising and blessing the Lord. He highlights various elements of creation such as water, sun, moon, stars, wind, heat, fire, winter, summer, frost, dew, ice, and snow, all of which sing and reflect God's glory. The preacher also mentions that although we cannot physically see God, we can hear Him sing through His creation and feel His presence in our lives. He encourages believers to have a reverent esteem for all things, viewing them as celestial and recognizing the face of Jesus Christ shining through the fallen world. Additionally, the preacher emphasizes the importance of love within the brotherhood of redeemed souls, both on the natural and spiritual planes.

Transcript

If we only knew it, we would find that we are living in a world like an awful lost dark no man's land, but it is the back door of heaven, it is the backyard of heaven, and if we listen, we sing. Now I say that the footprints of God are everywhere about us, and while we can't see him, we can see his luminous, and like a bird that sings, as Milton said, the bird sings darkly. We can't see her, but she sings, and so God sings among his branchings in his universe, and you and I can't gaze upon him, for no man can see God and live, but we can hear him sing his song of creation and redemption, and feel the pressure of his breath upon us as we move through the world.

I say, we'll never see things rightly until we see them as the garden of the Lord. An old Englishman that wrote this, and I thought it was so beautiful that I copied it to give it to you. He said this, your enjoyment of the world, until every morning you awake in heaven and see yourself in your father's palace, and look upon the skies, the earth, and the air as celestial, having such a reverent esteem for all as if you were among the angels.

The bride of a monarch in her husband's chamber hath no such view. The bride of a monarch in the chamber of the king has no cause for delights such as yours, for you live in the maid. Therefore we ought

to remember that this world that we live in is a lattice through which if we look carefully, we can at least see dimly the garments of our ancestors.

We ought to learn to live like that. We've become secularized. We've allowed the merchants to pull us down and make us secular and well-laid.

We ought to all be poets. We ought to all be poets. If we can't play, I know where Middle Sea is.

If anybody would want to shoot me against a wall, I can find it. But that's about all I know about it, but I'm less, and I never wrote much poetry. I've written a little.

One or two things got amused. But so are you, and so are we all, when we can see God Almighty in his world and hear the voice of God calling. We go out in the world and see nothing.

We hear in a previous sermon some time ago about William Blake, the great English poet that was standing on the seashore, looking out east across the waters, and the sun was coming up. And a man walked up and stood beside him, sun up and coloring all the eastern sky, and the little waves caught the color in a thousand shining pieces. And the sun was half up across the waves, just a hemisphere, half up.

Blake turned and said to the man beside him, What do you see? And the man beside him was a merchant from London, and he said, That looks like a gold sea, a sovereign there. What do you see? And Blake said, I see the glory of God. And I hear a multitude of the heavenly hosts crying, Holy Lord God Almighty.

There's your difference, my brother. That's the different world that you live in, whether you live in a world where you see stars and sun, or whether you see the glory of God and hear the voice of the cherub and chanting glory to God in the highest and peace on earth. Venerate all things.

We ought to learn to live like that. We ought not to allow merchants, santas, and worldly men to pull us down. Merchants are all right.

If you're a merchant, don't get mad. I have to use merchants, sell, I sold three books or seven or something one time. But so I'm a merchant too, so don't get angry with me.

Only remember that the ledger type of mentality, the file card type of mentality isn't a type God's looking for a man who can break out of vaults and storage chambers and billfolds and percentages and all the rest of it, and see God in his beautiful world. Venerate all things. Esteem all men.

Why am I to esteem all men? I am to esteem all men because of God. Though fallen and marred and ugly and lost, faith knows their true value. Faith knows that every man has the capabilities and capacities to become a Christian.

And every man whose mind may now be in impurities and whose heart is considering evil and thinking and planning dark deeds upon his bed, in that man there lies the capacity for mighty deeds for God and the capacity to know God. Occasionally art collectors will come upon an old masterpiece, an old Ruben or an old da Vinci, and they will hire those who know how to do it to reconstruct it, to restore it. And here it is, just an old cracked affair, smoky, and nobody can see anything there but these keen, sharp-eyed men.

These experts know that that's a da Vinci, and they are restoring it. They scrape off the dirt, they know all the chemicals to use so as not to hurt the paint, take away the dirt, and pretty soon shining there before them is an old masterpiece, an old Dutch masterpiece, maybe or a Tufts. Shining as beautiful as it was the

There are more verses in this excerpt out of that hymn of praise that they sang or were supposed to have sung when the fires were crackling all around. Instead of being in there grumbling, they said they were praising. Then some Christian got a hold of this and he added another verse.

He says, Oh ye home of heart, bless ye the Lord, glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, amen forever. Now that sums up what we are to do today, that we are to venerate all things because God made them. We are to esteem all men because they were once made in the image of God, brotherhood because they are of our spiritual kind of life.

We are to fear God because of who he is and we are to honor the King because God placed him there to rear his people who may be made in his image. All God's children said amen, amen.

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