

## Honouring & Reverencing

Continuing onto our series on present truth, we're going to look into the second characteristic of those who need to know and study present truth.

And that second characteristic consists of "honouring and reverencing" Jesus.

But what does that mean?

### **Honour**

When I think of the word "honor" in the Bible, what first comes to my mind is 1 Samuel 2:30, which says:

Wherefore the Lord God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the Lord saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed. (1 SAMUEL 2:30)

What does that mean?

What I find interesting is that one of the meanings for "honor" in Hebrew is "to make heavy, a yoke."

Now what comes to your mind when you see that word "yoke"?

For me, the well-beloved words of Jesus in Matthew 11:29-30 comes vividly to mind:

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (MATTHEW 11:29-30)

So, honoring Jesus has something to do with His yoke.

However, it's when we study into the Biblical meaning for the word "reverence" that we get a clear idea of what this all means.

### **Reverence**

In Esther 3:5, we see that reverence is associated with "BOWING"!

And when Haman saw that Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence, then was Haman full of wrath. (ESTHER 3:5)

1 Kings 1:31 also shows that bowing and reverence are closely connected:

Then Bathsheba bowed with her face to the earth, and did reverence to the king, and said, Let my lord king David live for ever. (1 KINGS 1:31)

So, how does all this connect?

### **To Honor & Reverence**

To honor and reverence Jesus simply means bowing down in submission to His yoke.

Those who truly need present truth are those who are learning to truly submit and surrender to the yoke of Christ's authority.

They are already walking in a season of bowing down self, taking up the yoke of His cross, and following Him (Matthew 16:24) because, as we learned in part 3 of this series, they SEEK for Jesus out of LOVE for Him!

To take Christ's yoke upon us, is to put ourselves into the relation to servants and subjects to him, and then of conduct ourselves accordingly, in a conscientious obedience to all his commands, and a cheerful submission to all his disposals.

### **Now we're going to jump into WHAT exactly IS present truth?**

In this series, we looked into WHO needs to be educated on present truth; in a nutshell, these people are:

Seeking Jesus out of love for Him

Submitting for Him

To me, these above characteristics reveal a heart that is ready to receive deeper, meatier truth as Hebrews 5:14 puts it:

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. (HEBREWS 5:14)

And present truth, I believe, is a deeply nourishing, "strong meat" truth that only the true Christian who has been learning to seriously love, seek after, and surrender to Jesus is ready to receive.

### **What Present Truth Is**

Going back to our theme text in 2 Peter 1:12, we read:

Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. (2 PETER 1:12)

The word "present" that's used in this verse comes from the Greek word *pareimi* (πάρεμι), and it means "to be ready."

### **What does this mean for us?**

Key Application

The Greek meaning of "to be ready" for "present" in "present truth" in 2 Peter 1:12 really reminds me of what Jesus said in Matthew 24:44—

Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. (MATTHEW 24:44)

The one key application we can glean from this is that present truth is TRUTH that HELPS us to BE READY for Jesus' second coming.

### **But what kind of truth is that?**

Well, stay tuned for part 6 of our series where we'll dig into the specific layers of what significant Biblical truths help us get ready for Jesus' soon return!

Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

(LUKE 12:40)