

## **Today is a Day of Worship** By Kent Heaton

Today is a day of worship. As we worship let us reflect upon the glory of the Lord.

W = WAIT FOR THE LORD. Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! (Psalms 46:10)

O = OFFER THE FRUIT OF OUR LIPS. Offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. (Hebrews 13:15)

R = REFRESH THE SPIRIT WITH BRETHREN. Yes, brother, let me have joy from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in the Lord. (Philemon 1:20)

S = SING WITH THE SPIRIT. I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding. (1 Corinthians 14:15)

H = HONOR THE LORD WITH OUR GIVING. Honor the LORD with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase. (Proverbs 3:9)

I = INSTRUCTION FROM THE WORD OF GOD. Apply your heart to instruction, and your ears to words of knowledge. (Proverbs 23:12)

P = PRAISE IS WORSHIP. I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name For Your loving kindness and Your truth; for You have magnified Your word above all Your name. (Psalms 138:2)

### **“If You Will Listen to Me”**

Back when the telegraph was the was the fastest method of long-distance communication, a young man applied for a job as a Morse Code operator. Answering an ad in the newspaper, he went to the office address that was listed. When he arrived, he entered a large, busy office filled with noise and clatter, including the sound of the telegraph in the background. A sign on the receptionist's counter instructed job applicants to fill out a form and wait until they were summoned to enter the inner office.

The young man filled out his form and sat down with the seven other applicants in the waiting area. After a few minutes, the young man stood up, crossed the room to the door of the inner office, and walked right in. Naturally the other applicants perked up, wondering what was going on. They muttered among themselves that they hadn't heard any summons yet. They assumed that the young man who went into the office made a mistake and would be disqualified.

Within a few minutes, however, the employer escorted the young man out of the office and said to the other applicants, "Gentlemen, thank you very much for coming, but the job has just been filled."

The other applicants began grumbling to each other, and one spoke up saying, "Wait a minute, I don't understand. He was the last to come in, and we never even got a chance to be interviewed. Yet he got the job. That's not fair!"

The employer said, "I'm sorry, but all the time you've been sitting here, the telegraph has been ticking out the following message in Morse Code: 'If you understand this message, then come right in. The job is yours.' None of you heard it or understood it. This young man did. The job is his."

We live in a world where not many folks hear what God has to say. Some people are making no attempt to listen, but many are just distracted by the noise and commotion of the world around us. There is so much going on in and around our lives that competes for our attention. But, if we are to truly hear God amidst all the clutter, we must refuse to be distracted and focus our attention on God and His Word.

"I will hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace to His people and to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly" (Psalm 85:8). "Hear, O My people, and I will admonish you! O Israel, if you will listen to Me! ... I am the LORD your God" (Psalm. 81:8, 10).

### **When You Thought I Wasn't Looking**

When you thought I wasn't looking you hung my first painting on the refrigerator, and I wanted to paint another.

When you thought I wasn't looking you fed a stray cat, and I thought it was good to be kind to animals.

When you thought I wasn't looking you baked a birthday cake just for me, and I knew that little things were special things.

When you thought I wasn't looking you said a prayer, and I believed there was a God that I could always talk to.

When you thought I wasn't looking you kissed me good-night, and I felt loved.

When you thought I wasn't looking I saw tears come from your eyes, and I learned that sometimes things hurt--but that it's all right to cry.

When you thought I wasn't looking you smiled, and it made me want to look that pretty, too.

When you thought I wasn't looking you cared, and I wanted to be everything I could be.

When you thought I wasn't looking--I looked ... and wanted to say thanks for all those things you did when you thought I wasn't looking. (By Mary Rita Schilke Korzan in "Stories For The Heart")

Parents are ever conscious of little eyes and ears watching and hearing all that we do and say. But all of us have an effect not only on younger ones watching us, but others as well -- people around us at work and at school. People are watching us, even at times we may not be aware of it. Recognizing that fact, may God help us to live in such a way that others are led closer to God by our example.

"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matt. 5:14-16).

### **A Moments Wisdom on Hope**

--To love means loving the unlovable. To forgive means pardoning the unpardonable. Faith means believing the unbelievable. Hope means hoping when everything seems hopeless. G. K. Chesterton

--If it were not for hopes, the heart would break.

--Hope is the golden thread that should be woven into every experience of life.

--From the withered tree, a flower blooms.

--Hope is the dream of a waking man.

--The darkest day, if you live till tomorrow, will have passed away.

--In all things it is better to hope than to despair. Goethe

--A misty morning does not signify a cloudy day.

--We come to this world with two great powers: love and hope.

--Hope is not the same thing as optimism. It is not the conviction that things will turn out well, but the certainty that it will make sense, regardless of how it turns out.

--Don't wish it were easier; wish you were better.

--Let your hopes, not your hurts, shape your future.