

# BEHAVE YOURSELF

*Wayne Blake*

Paul is writing to young Timothy the evangelist (2 Tim. 4:5). Paul addresses certain problems that Timothy must face. Paul writes, **“But in tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth”** (1 Tim. 3:15). Today, many need to learn how to behave themselves in the house of the Lord.

## BEHAVE YOURSELF IN WORSHIP

The Psalmist said, **“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord”** (122:1). Obviously, David is speaking of the Temple of God. God dwells today in the church, the called-out ones (Psa. 89:7; Mat. 28:18-20). One really wonders what is in the minds of many brethren who show up for worship. Many forget their Bible and other study helps. They need to remember, **“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so”** (Acts 17:11). Some may be present physically, but their thoughts are on lunch, ballgames, and fishing. They have forgotten that they have come to worship God. Our Lord said to the Pharisees, **“This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me”** (Mat. 15:8). One can easily treat the Lord’s Day like any other day. Many see no problem with arriving late, leaving early, or not showing up at all.

Those who are spiritually-minded understand the value of arriving early to prepare for worship. The one who regularly forsakes the assembly is in sin and needs to publicly repent (Heb. 10:24-26). Our presence is needed every week to strengthen and edify the church. The late arrivers and no-shows teach that the worship is not a top priority for the day.

## BEHAVE YOURSELF WHEN RAISING HANDS

The subject of leadership is one of the most taught subjects, yet the least applied. Many men, young and old alike, are shirking their responsibility of leading. Paul wrote, **“I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting”** (1 Tim. 2:8). The phrase **“lifting up holy hands”** denotes one who has not given himself over to deeds of wicked lust. The term “men” denotes the male members of the church. Therefore, only faithful men are to do the leading in the Lord’s church. Sometimes the most sinful men are leading our thoughts in prayer while faithful men shirk their responsibility of leading. This ought not to be so! BOTH will be held accountable (Mat. 25:14-30). When men are needed to serve the Lord’s Supper, lead prayers, lead singing, teach or preach, there is a lot of begging done to get those men to act. We need more men like

Moses, Joshua, and Caleb. The church needs men who will take the role that God has given to them seriously and live a life in accordance to the will of God.

### **BEHAVE YOURSELF WITH EARTHLY TREASURES**

Paul tells Timothy to preach, **“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after; they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows”** (1 Tim. 6:10). There are many works the church could be involved in if the members understood what God expects of givers. The elders are asked to help with all types of evangelistic works and they cannot because they lack resources. There are many who do not give sacrificially each time they are prospered. They have two cars, a boat, big screen television, and a two-hundred thousand dollar home and yet when the collection plate is passed a crowbar is needed to get their pennies out of their hands. Behave yourself! Paul said:

**Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate** (1 Tim. 6:17:-18).

All are to give so that the elders may have the resources they need to further the gospel. Many today are piling up fortunes and allowing the Lord's work to suffer. That money will not buy anyone a place in Heaven because it will be left behind (1 Tim. 6:7). When a man or woman will not sacrificially give back to God he/she is a thief (Mal. 3:8). Money is a blessing that can be used wrongly and become that which will cost many their souls (1 Tim. 6:6-10). The rich young ruler understood this point very well (Mat. 19:16-22).

### **CONCLUSION**

All must learn how to behave in the church of God. How persons prepare for worship, live their lives, and use the money the Lord has blessed them with will determine where they will spend eternity. All are accountable and will give account for the good and bad (2 Cor. 5:10). Are you behaving yourself?~