

Series: Stand Fast in the Lord

# THE DEVOTION OF NOAH

## GENESIS 8:20-22

Text: Genesis 8:20

### **Genesis 8:20**

*<sup>20</sup> And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.*

Introduction:

Last week we considered the Days of Noah and the Description of Noah. Today we consider the Devotion of Noah.

In these verses we have the record of Noah's noble devotion gives some excellent instruction about worship.

To study this record of Noah's devotion, as it is recorded in our text, which gives some excellent instructions about worship, we will consider this morning and this evening the priority of worship, the purpose of worship, the price of worship, the provisions for worship, the purity of worship, and the product of worship.

Note:

Sermon Content:

## **1. THE PRIORITY OF WORSHIP**

Building an altar and then offering burnt offerings on the altar was the first recorded act of Noah after left from the ark.

This demonstrates the priority of worship in the promptness of his worship.

The fact that God makes this the first recorded act of Noah after leaving the ark puts high priority on this matter of worship.

Thought:

Noah was now turned out into a cold and desolate world, where, one would have thought, his first concern would have been to build a house for himself; but, he begins with building an altar for God.

Noah's priority is the right priority.

Note Matthew 6:33:

### ***Matthew 6:33***

*<sup>33</sup> But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

Few do that today.

Seeking God in any form is low on the priority list for most people.

And this is especially evident in the matter of worship.

Many folk have such a low priority for worship they will only show up at church to worship if they have no other pressing responsibilities or interests.

Churches doesn't help this priority much – some churches have changed their services to be convenient to the carnal pursuits of man.

Many churches have now cancelled their Sunday evening services so their people can watch the Super Bowl.

Noah's priority to worship shows the right priority we need to put on spiritual matters.

The world focuses chiefly on the material and the physical and belittles the spiritual.

Remember what we read in Mark 8:

**Mark 8:36**

*<sup>36</sup> For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?*

Thought:

This statement by the Lord says spiritual matters are the most important matters in life.

When you come to the end of your life, you will learn quickly, and the unsaved will also learn tragically, that spiritual matters are the most important matters in life.

To focus only on the material and physical and ignore the spiritual needs of your soul will bring great eternal loss.

Note not only the Priority of Worship but also:

## **2. THE PURPOSE OF WORSHIP**

Why did Noah build an altar and offer burnt offerings on the altar?

There are at least three reasons for this action.

Note it involved:

### **A. Appreciation**

Thanksgiving is expressed in making an offering on the altar.

Noah had much to be thankful for in his deliverance from the flood.

The ark had survived; he and his family had survived; the animals had survived.

He could be mightily thankful that he had "found grace in the eyes of the LORD"

**Genesis 6:8**

*<sup>8</sup> But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.*

It was only fitting, that he make a burnt offering to acknowledge his thanksgiving for Divine protection.

When we worship God, thanksgiving is involved.

Failure to worship becomes a failure to show thanksgiving to God.

Those that have received mercy from God should be quick in returning thanks, and do it not of constraint, but willingly.

The ungrateful heart is not a godly heart.

It involved:

## B. Adoration

Making an offering to God shows honor for God.

Worship is an act of honor for God.

Failure to worship is failure to honor God.

Many in our day are not interested in honoring God; in fact, it is very opposed to honoring God.

More and more laws are being passed that hinder the honoring of God in our society.

Even women and children frequently spew out profanity which blasphemes and dishonors the name of God.

Disinterest in worship reflects this disinterest in honoring God.

And when we fail to worship, we soon will not be able to worship; for laws will be passed that will prohibit worship of God.

You honor God or you will be prohibited from honoring God eventually.

This has happened in many countries in the world, and no country is exempt.

Understand:

God will judge and take away your religious freedoms which means you will also lose other freedoms as well and we are seeing this in our nation today.

The people in Noah's day, before the flood, certainly did not honor God.

But when Noah got off the ark he quickly built an altar and offered burnt offerings to honor God.

This not only involved appreciation and adoration but also:

### C. Propitiation

A third thing that this making an offering on the altar shows is propitiation.

The animal sacrifice is what spoke of propitiation, for it spoke of the death and the shedding of blood.

It was a picture of the blood that the Lord would one day shed for the payment for our sin.

This sacrifice was right in its theology.

## **Hebrews 9:22**

*<sup>22</sup> And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

It was true worship.

Much worship today is not "true" worship, because its theology is wrong.

True worship worships God:

## **John 4:23-24**

*<sup>23</sup> But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*

*<sup>24</sup> God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

The important "truth" aspect of worship is seen in the bloody sacrifice.

Noah had his theology right.

All worship is not true worship.

True worship requires that we worship properly which means we will come to God in worship through the blood of Jesus Christ.



You cannot come to God or worship God apart from coming through Jesus Christ Who bled and died for our sins at Calvary.

We have considered the Priority and Purpose of Worship.

Note also:

### **3. THE PRICE OF WORSHIP**

Understand:

Worship is not easy.

It requires much expenditure in time, in effort, and in possessions.

If you want to have a good worship experience, you will have to pay a price; and the price is high.

That is one reason why many people are not doing well in their worship—they are not willing to pay the price.

They may have the finest cars and clothes and houses but they are cheap when it comes to worship, so they do not have a good worship experience.

Illustration:

King David gives a good illustration of being willing to pay a price for worship.

When he wanted to build an altar and offer burnt offerings to God after the three days of pestilence which came upon the land because of David's sin of numbering the people, a man offered to provide all the materials for the altar and the sacrifices for free for David.

But David answered:

### **2 Samuel 24:24**

*<sup>24</sup> And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.*

Noah did not hesitate to pay a price either. And he paid a high price for his worship.

We note the price in two ways.

- The Building of the Altar

### **Genesis 8:20**

*<sup>20</sup> **And Noah builded an altar** unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.*

This is the first time the Bible records the building of an altar.

Building an altar required effort. If Noah is going to worship, he must put forth some effort to provide a place of worship.

Note only is there price in building the altar but also

- The Burnt Offerings on the Altar

Noah... took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

### **Genesis 8:20**

*<sup>20</sup> And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and **took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.***

The burnt offerings' sacrifices really demonstrated that Noah was willing and did indeed pay a high price for worship.

Worship was of such importance to him that he did not hesitate to pay a high price to worship.

Today – we worship because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross.

And to worship we must often sacrifice much.

No worship is valid without sacrifice.

Noah sacrificed much to worship.

He sacrificed one of every clean beast and every clean fowl that was preserved on the ark.

One of the reasons for taking more of the clean beasts on the ark than the unclean beasts is seen in the burnt offerings.

The other reason, of course, was food.

The food reason emphasizes the price of the worship which Noah was willing to pay.

Noah did not have large herds and an abundant supply of animals from which to make an offering.

But he made the burnt offering anyway.

And he included one of each of the clean animals—not just one of the clean animals.

Thought:

Most giving today at church is not a sacrifice even if it is a tithe.

Close:

We'll close today, but let's consider our worship.

Is it our priority?

What is our purpose in our worship?

What price are we paying or sacrifice are we making in our worship?