

Monday, January 15, 2018 – Who is Worthy of Praise?

The United States of America takes great pride in honoring individuals in history, quite often, by designating a day in honor of them. There are individuals throughout history who have contributed greatly to our ability to live in this free land. This ability allows us to live free from oppression and, for Christians, to worship God without the challenges our First Century brethren dealt with. I always find it interesting that these individuals seem to be given a pass on the blatant, sin filled lives they lived as if their “contribution to society” excuses their deliberate immorality against Jehovah God.

Today has been designated as Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. He is held up as a truly religious man; a standard bearer of Christian values. He is glorified as a man that preached the Word of God and believed and obeyed how we are to live according to Divine instruction. The reality, however, is that Martin Luther King Jr. was a moral degenerate and hedonist. Few people understand the breadth of King's debauched behavior, and the vile activities in which he participated. For the purposes of this article it makes absolutely no difference whether Mr. King was black or white, red or yellow. It makes a world of difference, however, whether he and the things for which he stood were Christian or anti-Christian, of Christ or of Satan, according to Scripture or opposed to Scripture. His wicked lifestyle was not any different than that of John F. Kennedy or his brother Robert Kennedy. The difference is MLK's claim to Christianity and a proclaimer of God's Word. He was, as Christ would describe him, a hypocrite.

First, he claimed for himself the title of Reverend. There is no New Testament authority for the use of such categorization. This argument will carry no weight with those who are unconcerned with operating within the bounds of the Lord's authority; yet, apostolic teaching is clear that one must not venture into the domain of presumptuous religious activity (1 Cor. 4:6; Col. 3:17; 2 Jn. 9). Christians are warned against religious conduct against the will of God. Clearly the Savior, in a scathing rebuke of the scribes and Pharisees, condemned the use of pompous titles by which Christian men exalt themselves above their equals.

Second, Mr. King was an apostate. A number of academic papers written during his seminary years (1948-1951) provide the depth of his depravity. In them he denied Jesus' resurrection, the Virgin Birth, the divinity of Christ, and even the return of Christ. King did not believe the words of Jesus when he said “no man cometh to the Father but by me.” Instead, he chose to believe other religions could lead to salvation. He wrote: “Of course the true seeker will realize that there is no one way to find God.” No one can claim Christianity and deny the doctrines upon which every tenet of Christianity is constructed.

Third, the night before he was killed, he engaged in adultery with a member of the Kentucky State Legislature, Georgia Davis Powers. King made excuses for his lifestyle of adultery by stating, as captured by FBI wiretaps, "I'm away from home twenty-five to twenty-seven days a month." In his words, his sexual dalliances were just a form of anxiety reduction. I refused to use his exact verbiage because it was so crude.

Need I go on?

When will we learn that the only One Worthy of Honor, Glory, Admiration, Reverence, and Praise is Jesus Christ, the Son of the One and Only Living God! Think of all that is proclaimed of Him in the scriptures:

Why Christ is Worthy of Praise

Hebrews 1:1-4 - God, having of old time spoken unto the fathers in the prophets by divers portions and in divers manners, hath at the end of these days spoken unto us in *his* Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom also he made the worlds; who being the effulgence of his glory, and the very image of his substance, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had made purification of sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; having become by so much better than the angels, as he hath inherited a more excellent name than they.

Christ purged our sins

- \* He cleansed us with his own blood - Heb 9:14
- \* He cleansed us from all sin - I John 1:7
- \* He has bought us back, redeemed us, through His blood - Eph 1:7; I Pet 1:18-19

Christ is in heaven at the right hand of God

- \* Christ now rules from a position of honor - Eph 1:20; I Pet 3:22
- \* Truly He is worthy of our honor - Phil 2:9-11
- \* John saw Christ receive His power, riches, glory and honor - Rev 5

God blesses us "in Christ." He chose us "in him." He adopted us "through Jesus Christ." God's grace is given "in the Beloved." Redemption is "in him." Forgiveness of sins is "in him." God's purpose is "in him." Salvation is "in him." (Eph. 1)

Will you not give him your praise, your respect and honor?

Will you not give him yourself as a living sacrifice by bending your will to the King of Kings?

Christians don't have to wait for a special day to honor, worship and serve the One who truly deserves praise: Jesus Christ Our Lord!