

WHAT SHALL I RENDER UNTO THE LORD?

By Keith Greer

“What shall I render to the LORD For all His benefits toward me? I will take up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD. I will pay my vows to the LORD now in the presence of all His people.” {Psalm 116:12} Clearly, what I render **MUST BE:**

From genuine gratitude. “And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, ‘Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?’” {Luke 17:15-17} Ten lepers were cleansed, but only one exhibited real gratitude for what Jesus had done. The service I render must come from a heart that is full of thankfulness and gratitude for the loving favor bestowed upon me by a merciful and caring God.

Accompanied by appropriate conduct. “With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening? Can a fig tree, my brethren, bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Thus no spring yields both salt water and fresh.” {James 3:9-12} I now wear the name of Christ and am a member of His spiritual family. How should I conduct my life? My life must be filled with the duties I have taken upon myself as God’s child. Listen to the words James wrote earlier in his letter, “But someone will say, ‘You have faith, and I have works.’ Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.” {James 2:18} I must wear a “badge” of conduct that is befitting of who I am.

Pleasing to the recipient. “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” {John 4:23,24} How can I be certain my service pleases the Lord? I must act according to His truth, but my actions must be coupled with the proper attitude. This thought is expanded under the next point.

With a proper spirit. “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.” {1 Corinthians 13:1-3} Love must be the motive behind all of the service I render to the Lord. He knows my heart, and He will judge me accordingly. Can you see the love that motivated Jesus to do what He did and continues to do for us?

Of the best quality. “And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.” {2 Corinthians 8:5} God demands of His children the very

best we can give Him. Doing just enough to get by, fulfilling the minimum requirement, or giving Him what is left after I've done the things my own heart desires will not be acceptable! God demands my best efforts for His cause and in His kingdom. He knows the difference!

What type of service are you rendering to the Lord? Can you say you are rendering what He desires from you, or something less and hoping He will accept it. Sadly, we have plenty of examples of those who offered what they thought would please Him, but were wrong! Let us determine not to repeat the mistake of those gone before us. We need to always put God and His work in first place in our lives! Matthew 6:33 ***