

Presenting Ourselves Before God

by Ted Gatza

A. To present has three basic meanings.

- I. To stand
- II. To station oneself (as in opposition)
- III. To present oneself before.

B. To stand – In a literal sense.

- I. Ex. 2:4 - *And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch; and she put the child therein, and laid it in the flags by the river's brink. And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him.*
- II. Hab. 2:1 - *I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will look forth to see what he will speak with me, and what I shall answer concerning my complaint.*

C. To Station Oneself – (As in opposition).

- I. Ps. 2:2 - *The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against Jehovah, and against his anointed, saying,*
 - a. To set themselves is to station oneself.
- II. Josh. 1:5 - *There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life. as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee; I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*
- III. Ps. 94:16 - *Who will rise up for me against the evil-doers? Who will stand up for me against the workers of iniquity?*

D. To Present Oneself Before

- I. Ex 8:20 - *And Jehovah said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh; lo, he cometh forth to the water; and say unto him, Thus saith Jehovah, Let my people go, that they may serve me.*
- II. Job 2:1 - *Again it came to pass on the day when the sons of God came to present themselves before Jehovah, that Satan came also among them to present himself before Jehovah.*
- III. 2 Sam.12:20 - *Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel; and he came into the house of Jehovah, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat.*

E. Three Thoughts To Consider When Presenting Oneself

- I. Jesus Christ presents us.
- II. Paul and the apostles presents us.
- III. We present ourselves.

F. Jesus Presents Us

- I. Eph. 5:25-27 - *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it; that he might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing of water with the word, that he might present the church to himself a*

glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

- a. Jesus sacrificed himself for it
 - b. By the washing of the water and the word.
 - c. Not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing.
 - d. To be holy and without blemish.
- II. Col. 1:22 - *yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and without blemish and unproveable before him:*
- a. We are presented holy.
 - b. We are presented without blemish.
 - c. We are presented unproved.
- III. Jude 24 - *Now unto him that is able to guard you from stumbling, and to set you before the presence of his glory without blemish in exceeding joy,*
- a. He guards us from stumbling.
 - b. He is able to set us (present us) before the presence of his glory.
 - c. He makes us to be without blemish.
 - d. This is done in exceeding joy.

G. Paul and the Apostles Presents Us

- I. Col. 1:28 - *whom we proclaim, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ;*
 - a. We are presented through admonishing.
 - b. Through their teaching every man.
 - c. Through their use of wisdom.
- II. 2 Cor. 11:2 - *For I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy: for I espoused you to one husband, that I might present you as a pure virgin to Christ.*
 - a. Paul was jealous of those whom he taught .
 - b. He espoused us to Christ.
 - c. He presented us as a pure virgin.

H. We are to present ourselves.

- I. Rom. 12:1 - *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service.*
 - a. Our bodies are a living sacrifice.
 - b. We are to present ourselves as holy.
 - c. We are to be acceptable to God.
 - d. This is our spiritual service.
- II. Col. 1:23 - *if so be that ye continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel which ye heard, which was preached in all creation under heaven; whereof I Paul was made a minister.*
 - a. We are to continue in the faith.
 - b. We are to be grounded and steadfast.
 - c. We are not to be easily removed from the hope of the gospel.

I. What Is Our Attitude For Presenting Ourselves Before God?

I. Physical Presentation:

- a. 2 Sam. 12:20 - *Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel; and he came into the house of Jehovah, and worshiped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat.*
 - i. Do we make the same effort as David did?
 - ii. Do we dress ourselves to honor God or do we prefer to be indifferent and worldly in our dress?
 - How would you dress for a job interview?
 - iii. Do we clean ourselves or do we worship without regard to purification?

J. Spiritually – Realizing what Christ Did To Present Us.

- I. Will we allow the teaching, admonishing and the wisdom from Paul to instruct us?
 - a. If not we cannot present ourselves.
 - b. Will we be the faithful bride that Paul says that we must be?
 - c. We are to remain true and faithful.
- II. Will we take our worship seriously with due respect to the creator.
 - a. Will we want to present ourselves to God at every opportunity?
 - i. If not, how can we be presented by and to Christ?
 - b. Do we show responsibility by our dress and demeanor?
 - i. We do not need Neiman Marcus clothes, but T-Shirts with worldly advertisements and jeans with holes have not place before God. - Dress modestly (1 Tim.2:9)
 - c. Do we continue in study to achieve perfection and to remove blemishes?
 - d. Are we trying to make ourselves a living sacrifice?
 - i. If so, do not waste opportunities to study and hear God's word.
 - This allows us to perfect ourselves which leads us to be able to present ourselves before God.
 - ii. Do not forget what Jesus did for us that allows us the opportunity to present ourselves before God.
 - iii. Like David, in 2Sam. 12:20, let us show the same respect to God.