**“THE LESSON, FOR US, FROM NADAB AND ABIHU”**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. scripture – Leviticus 10:1-3

 -a. Leviticus chapter 10 should be something that we are well aware of from the scriptures.

 -b. the events herein dictate God’s determination of *HIS WILL* being observed

 (A) context is that of the consecration of Aaron and his sons as priests – Lev.8-9

 -a. animals were slaughtered and placed on altar -Lev.9:24

 -b. the glory of the Lord appeared -9:23

 -c. fire consumed the “meats” and the people shouted – 9:94

 (B) Some time later? Chapter 10 records these events

2. *What happened?*

 -a. God had approved of the fire/coals to be taken *from the burning altar* when incense was

 offered at other times – Lev.16:2

 -b. these two priests took their fire pans/censers and placed hot coals on them,

 then put the incense on those coals, and the smoke would rise upwards.

 -1-. Lev.9:24 states, ***“...and a fire came out from the Lord and consumed..”***

 (based on a blessing and God’s acceptance)

 same words

 -2-. Lev.10:2 states ***“..and a fire came out from the Lord and consumed…”***

 (based on a cursing of those disobeying)

 -c. As they proceeded, a fire came forth and slew them Lev.10:2

 -d. Question? was their fire taken from a common source, “rather than the altar?”

 possibly this fire/incense offering was at an unauthorized “time?”

3. It is stated that they offered ***“strange fire”*** unto God,

 WHY?

 for they did that which was not commanded!

 Lev.10:1.. ***“which He had not commanded them”***

NOTE; they offered what had not been commanded

 -a. the implication is obvious

 -b. God “had commanded” by His will what was to be done

 -c. they did something different

 4. God defending His actions states;

 -a. Lev.10:3 …those who come near unto God must treat Him as holy

 honor his dignity

 -b. when we offer unto God,

 *That which is not commanded*

 It is to dishonor and treat Him as unholy

 -c. they did ***“other”*** than what was instructed

5. Paul, set forth that ***“…these things were written that we might learn...”*** - Rom.15:4

6. We have the ability to ***“learn”*** what is meant by this event that occurred!

**THOUGHTS:**

***(I) “PRINCIPAL ESTABLISHED”***

 1. Leviticus 10:1-2

 -a. if it is not according to what has been instructed

 -b. it is ***“strange”,*** it is unacceptable

 2. Throughout the scriptures, when we study, we find this “principal”

 -a. all the way back to Gen:4:4-5

 -1-. Cain offered

 -2-. Abel offered scriptures state “they both offered”

 (“key” is in Heb.11:4)

 -b. BUT GOD REJECTED CAINS OFFERING…

 God *rejected* His worship

 3. Even Christ, to the Jews stated as in Matthew. 15:8-9

 ***“in vain do they worship…”***

 -a-. “vain” means useless

 -b-. when it is offered as they did, Christ said “it was useless”

 4. Once we (1) ***understand*** and (2) ***accept*** the principal established here,

 there should be understood there is but “one source” for worship activities.

 ***“man approaches God on God’s terms”***

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***(II) “DOES GOD ACCEPT WHATEVER WE OFFER?”***

 1. The belief exists,

 ***“as long as I am worshipping, why would God be upset?”***

 -a. many never even consider this question

 -b. what difference could it make?

 2. The beliefs, traditions, that have been ***“created by men”*** abound as to

 what is included in a worship service abound in our religious world.

 burning incense to handling snakes to “weight lifters for Christ”

 “dedication of the animals”, a drama presentation of the crucifixion

 -1-. and the reason is, as Amos once said to the people of the Northern Kingdom…

 -a. Jeroboam, the king, had created a worship system, practices

 -b. he instituted worship practices *different* than God had instructed

 ***“as he devised from his heart”*** – I Kgs.12:33

 -2-. It was to God

 “ worship to God

 -3-. But it was ***not*** acceptable!

 -3-. Years later, as Amos(sent to reprove their actions) was being sarcastic

 about their “false system” states in

 Amos 4:4-5…

 “bring your sacrifices, bring your tithes, make your offerings,

 ***“for this pleases you O house of Israel…”***

 *“their worship became what was pleasing to them”*

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***(III) “ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP”***

 1. John 4:24…

 -a. two conditions must be present for “acceptable worship”

 -b. in “spirit” and in “truth”

 -1-. In ***“spirit”*** refers to the correct attitude, desire, from the heart

 attitude

 -2-. in ***“truth”*** refers to the correct actions, activities, as instructed &

 avenue

 2. You can’t have one without the other, *and be acceptable*

 -a. what if you are following ***truth***, but *without the correct attitude/mind-set*?

 Read Isa.1:11-15….. *it is not acceptable*

 I Cor.11:27… *guilty, while partaking of the Lord’s Supper*

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 -b. what if you have a ***correct attitude/sincere***, *but not following truth*?

 Read Romans 10:1-3

 3. Man, without divine revelation cannot know “how to offer worship”.

 -a. but when revelation “has revealed”

 -b. by what means can we chose *to do differently*

 -3. I Cor.2:11-12………..except God reveals

 we cannot know His will

4. From revelation, we find what God has “authorized”,

 what God accepts in this New Testament age

 -a. it must not be based upon “traditions” – Matt.15:9

 -b. not based upon modern interpretations nor personal beliefs/preferences

 not allowing the minds of men to direct our spiritual direction – Col.2:8

 -c. it must be “authorized”

 -a. this is the “word” we need to be able to use --- “authorized”

 -b. that means ***“by the authority of”***

 -c-. Col.3:17

5. Concerning any item of worship which *“some may choose to take part in”,*

 -a. if **Christ** did not teach it…and He has all authority – Matt.28:18

 -b. if the **apostles** did not teach it – ambassadors of Christ that can only teach his will

 II Cor.5:20

 -c. if the **Holy Spirit** did not teach it “thru the inspired word”,

 -1-. by which we can be found complete – II Timothy 3:16-17

 -2-. thru a knowledge of this word, we have been given all things – II Pet.1:3

 -d. if it is not found recorded in the **truth**-

 and were not the apostles guided into all truth

 as they spoke and wrote? … -- John 16:13

 ***“we must consider the source”***

 -e. for when we “go beyond” what is recorded” – we left God behind …II John verse 9

 -f. I Cor.4:6 … *“learn not to go beyond that which is written…” NASV..NIV*

 *“not think of men beyond that which is written” – KJV* same thought

6. We come to the New Testament, and we then find

 ***“what is authorized”***

 -a. what did the inspired apostles teach?

 -b. what did the N.T. Christians do in their worship?

 -1-. Is that not a valid question?

 -2-. What did the early Christians practice as they worshipped?

 (A) offering up of prayers

 I Tim.2:1-12(men to lead in the assemblies)

 even to our saying “Amen” at the end of a prayer – I Cor.14:16

 (B) preaching/proclamation of the word

 I Cor.14:23-26… Acts 20:7 - “Paul preached till about mid night”

 Col.4:16. *“have this letter(epistle of Paul) read in the church…”*

 (C) singing

 Hebrews 2:12… Eph.5:19... Col.3:16

 (D) partaking of the Lord’s Supper

 Acts 20:7… I Cor.11:33…

 “so brethren when ye come together to eat…”

 “upon the first day of the week”

 (E) contribution/ offering…

 I Cor.16:1-3… II Cor.9:7

 7. We cannot find “any other” instructions as to anything else!

 -a. nothing else can be found in the N.T. writings

 -b. what lesson should we learn from that ???

8. We started with Nadab and Abihu, who offered that which was not commanded!

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**CONCLUSION:**

1. As we seek to be “pleasing unto God”,

 let us “learn the lessons” from Cain and Abel

 Nadab and Abihu

 Jeroboam and worship “devised from his heart”

2. Let what we offer be according to what God has instructed

 with a true heart -------------- II Peter 1:10