

IN THE
LANTERN'S
LIGHT

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CHARLES R. BROWN

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For my bride,
Bobbie,
my constant encourager
and friend



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to help you acknowledge the worth of God.
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Part Two: Words of Hope and Encouragement

Turn the flame a little brighter
and anticipate an indescribable message
of great possibility and promise
along with words that will say to the heart, “Keep going.”
Let the soul experience burdens lifted, paths revealed,
light along the way.

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 and is compelled to think about what he says.
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Charlie

August 23, 2010

Not only was the Teacher wise,
but also he imparted knowledge to the people.
He pondered and searched out
and set in order many proverbs.
The Teacher searched to find just the right words,
and he wrote what was upright and true.

—Ecclesiastes 12:9–10

PART ONE
WORDS OF WORSHIP
AND PRAISE



IDLE WORSHIP

People . . . having a form of godliness
but denying its power.

—2 Timothy 3:2, 5

Idle—not employed: doing nothing, inactive;
to run disengaged so that power is not used for work¹

On any given day of worship
some come to the gathering to get something—
some need—physical, emotional, or spiritual.
Some find their way into a house of worship
only to sit on their hands,
listen to some music, and get a little rest
during the message.
More often than not, they leave unfulfilled.

Genuine worship is engaging.
It engages the power that birthed the church,
the resurrection power that raised the Savior to new life.
It's the kind of worship that
is filled with anticipation.
God is here and he has something to say to us.
It is a time of open hearts and open hands
freely saying to our Creator

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that we desire to be free from entangling things,
to be empowered by the Spirit
in ways that will only honor and glorify him.
Idle worship is an expression of outward appearance
expelled from a hollow heart
filled with emptiness.

Genuine worship
is born out of relationship;
relationship with the only One
worthy of praise and adoration.

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth
and wisdom and strength,
and honor and glory and praise!
—Revelation 5:12

¹ *Webster's College Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster®, Inc., 2003, Barnes & Noble Books