

regard to matters of religion, the people only follow their scholars. So choose for yourself one of these two options.

Then He says «And establish prayer» that is, performing the physical movements properly, with focus and presence of mind «give zakâh» to those who are entitled to receive it «and bow [in worship] with those who bow» that is, pray with those who pray. If you do that, whilst believing in the Messengers and revelations of Allah, then you will have combined both visible and hidden actions, joining sincerity towards Allah with kindness towards His slaves, and combining acts of worship in the heart with physical and financial acts of worship.

«and bow [in worship] with those who bow» that is, pray with those who pray. This is a command which indicates that it is obligatory to pray in congregation and that bowing is one of the pillars or essential parts of the prayer. Here prayer is referred to as bowing; when an act of worship is referred to by one of its parts, this indicates that that part of the act of worship is obligatory.



﴿ أَتَأْمُرُونَ النَّاسَ بِالْبِرِّ وَتَنْسَوْنَ أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَأَنْتُمْ نَتْلُونَ الْكِتَابَ أَفَلَا تَعْقِلُونَ ﴾

(سورة البقرة: ٤٤) ﴿٤٤﴾

- 2:44. Do you enjoin righteousness upon people while you ignore your own selves, even though you study the scripture? Will you not understand?

«Do you enjoin righteousness upon people» that is, do you tell them to believe and do good

«while you ignore your own selves» that is, you do not remind yourselves to do that, at the time when