

PARTICULARS OF GOD'S WORD

(MANY TIMES DISREGARDED)

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(Ref. #28rdg)

Some religious groups have accused our Church of having a 'religion of works', and of desiring to reach Heaven by our own works instead of through the Blood of Christ (the late Pastor said). However, this is directly opposite to the facts (given in God's Word).

There are large numbers of people who thoroughly believe in the Atonement of Jesus Christ and think they will get to Heaven just because Jesus died for them. There are thousands (and we could say millions) of people who are not going to get to Heaven because of their unbelief even though Jesus Christ died for them. His Atonement sacrifice does not take anyone to Heaven who does not believe and accept it and receive the benefits of that work of Atonement. (Matt. 7:19 Jesus said), "Every tree which does not yield good fruit is cut down and thrown aside for burning."

(Jesus warned everyone about unrepentant sin and unbelief (that is trusting on human things and desires for satisfaction and contentment), instead of trusting on the divine power of Jesus Christ's 'work of Atonement' which (in reality) would be forsaking the mercy that God extends to anyone who will believe on the power of His Son's atonement work.

Jesus said (Luke 13:4-5), "those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell, do you suppose they had failed in their duty more than all the rest of the people who live in Jerusalem? I tell you, certainly not. On the contrary, if you do not repent you will all perish just as they did."

The apostle Paul explained also that sins of the flesh and the 'sin of unbelief' is 'idolatry' just the same as 'greed' is one of many other forms of idolatry. Being greedy to get more than is needed for each day or wanting to lay up things for weeks or months (or years) to come is unbelief of the facts given to us in God's Word, which promise that He will take away wrong desires, and He will provide for us for tomorrow and the future (through our faith on His Word alone). Paul instructed 'believers' (Col. 3: 5-7) "Therefore put to death your earthward inclinations... fornication, impurity, sensual passion, unholy desire, and all 'greed', for that is a form of 'idolatry'. It is on account of these very sins that God's anger is coming, and you also were once addicted to them, while you were living under their power."

Thus, the apostle warned us (2 Cor.6:15-16) "Or what participation has a believer with an unbeliever? And what compact has the Temple of God with idols? For we (meaning true believers) are the Temple of the ever-living God;"

Again, Jesus Christ's Atonement sacrifice (by itself) does not take anyone to Heaven (who does not 'believe' and accept it), and so receive the benefits of that cleansing 'work of Atonement'.

Everyone must understand that the atonement work of Jesus Christ is the greatest foundation for all human hopes and stand of faith (for every truly repentant soul). It canceled our debt, took away our guilt, provided peace, health, protection, and prosperity in everything that we do within God's will. (In reality), the Atonement of Jesus Christ has given us God, Himself, which is the most valuable gift of all. (Rom. 6:5-6) "For since we have become one with Him by sharing in His death, we shall also be one with Him by sharing in His resurrection. This we know--that our old self was nailed to the cross with Him, in order that our sinful nature might be deprived of its power, so that we should no longer be the slaves of sin;" [This is one of the 'Details of God's Will' many times overlooked (disregarded as the message is titled), however a person freed from a human desire to sin, is indeed quite a reward from God, for believing on the resurrection power of Jesus' 'sacrifice').

If, however, we do not believe on and accept the benefits of that Atonement; (if we do not believe to receive the righteousness which it provides); if we do not(because of our unbelief) receive the health provided by the Atonement work of Christ; if we do not (because of unbelief) receive the power to obey God's Word to trust God financially, (instead of having a human source to depend on), then the Atonement work of Christ has become of no use to us.

What use would it be (worldly speaking) to have ten thousand dollars in the bank if we never touched it? What would be the use of having that money? (In a similar sense, spiritually), what is the use of Jesus Christ having died for us, if we do not believe and receive the benefits of that Atonement sacrifice?

For those who do believe God's Word about His Son and do have faith on the power of Jesus' Atonement Blood, the Bible promises great rewards for having faith on Him, just as Abraham's faith (Gen. 15:6) "was placed to his credit as righteousness." (Rom. 4:24-25), "Faith, before long, will be placed to the credit of us also who are believers in Him who raised Jesus, our Lord, from the dead, who was surrendered to death because of the offences we had committed and was raised to life because of the acquittal secured for us."

(Rom. 5:1-2), "Standing then acquitted as the result of faith, let us enjoy peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also, as the result of faith, we have obtained an introduction into that state of favor with God in which we stand, and we exult in hope of someday sharing in God's glory."

In reality, we have no excuse for not believing and obeying God's Word, because all the power to obey and to do His will in our life, was provided through the Atonement of Jesus Christ. That is not a religion of law or works, but it is the 'true Gospel' of Jesus Christ (God's New Covenant Plan which includes empowerment of the Holy Spirit to enable us to obey Him). Under the old law, people were required to obey God in their own strength and ability (which was a 'religion of works'), and mankind hopelessly failed to obey.

Obedience to God's Will under the Gospel plan (provided by the Atonement of Jesus Christ) is all the more strict, but it is not to be done in our own strength at all. Rather, it is to be obeyed through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 5:21-24 Jesus spoke), "it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell. Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift."

In that strength of the Holy Spirit of God (which is given to true 'believers'), we can succeed in obeying God's Will. That is indeed, a major difference between the old law, and God's 'New Covenant Plan' for all believers to obey Him.

God's plan can be summed up in two commandments. (Jesus explained Matt.22:37-40) "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God,' with thy whole heart, thy whole soul, thy whole mind.' This is the greatest and foremost Commandment. And the second is similar to it: 'Thou shalt love thy fellow man as much as thyself.' The whole of the Law and the Prophets is summed up in these two Commandments."

The teaching of God's Word in the New Testament explains and enlarges the details of God's will for a person who wants to live a true Christian life. These two commandments are the basis of God's will for us (but, like the main trunk of a tree), there are many branches (or details) which extend out from those commands, with directions that cover all the details of our life of faith on God.

One of the details of God's will for a person whose heart is surrendered to Him, is not trying to limit the size of our family. This may seem like a new teaching or one that is somewhat out of style (the Pastor said), but it is just as much God's will that we should accept the size of family that God chooses to give us, just as it is not His will for us to steal, lie, or be dishonest financially. The Scriptures are very plain on this matter, and where some have gone contrary to God's Word on this, it has allowed Satan to cause problems in that home. When the earth was destroyed in the time of Noah, God said to him (Gen. 9:1) "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth."

Psalms 127 both encourages and assures the one who wants to be right with God (on the matter of raising a family in His plan and with His blessing). (Vs.3-5) "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so

are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed but shall speak with their enemies in the gate."

New Testament teaching on this subject is found (1 Tim.5:14) "I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give no occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

Another detail of God's will to consider, is the relationship between children and their parents (which has promising rewards). (Ephes.6:1-3) "Children, be obedient to your parents as a Christian duty, for it is a duty. Honor your father and your mother" -this is the first Commandment which has a promise added to it- "so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth."

The key to having that obedience and peace in the home, is that the parents take the place that God assigned to them, toward each other and toward their children. If parents will do that, God will see to it that the children take their place of full obedience in the family. That is an excellent foundation to build on, and it is better than money or position in life. In fact, it is better than any human plan, to obey God's commandment in regard to parents. (Ephes. 6:4), "And you, fathers, do not irritate your children, but bring them up tenderly with true Christian training and advice."

It is the parents' relationship with God, taking the place that the "details of God's Word" assigns to parents, depending on Him to control their children (and to know how to discipline them in a Christlike way "with true Christian training and advice") (as the Bible says) which allows God to control the children in a home.

Our relationship to the child is not what makes them obey, rather it is our relationship with God (Who gives children a desire to obey). Disobedient and rebellious children are found in homes because parents have never taken the place that God's Word assigned to them. If parents are out of God's will, He cannot make the children act right. Parents are more mature and responsible to God, and less subject to Satan's power and deceptions, and they should know better than the children on how to resist Satan. So, if the parents will 'take their place in God's will', then God will see to it that 'the children take their place'.

The Scriptures give us further detailed instructions for children and parents (which are many times commonly overlooked or disregarded) (Colos.3:20-21) "Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged." (Ephes.6:4 says it very clearly), "do not irritate your children, but bring them up tenderly with true Christian training and advice."

That means to bring them up under the teaching of Jesus Christ, with tenderness, gentleness, and divine love. (Colos.3:16) "Let the teaching concerning Christ remain as a rich treasure in your hearts." (17) "And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus" (which includes how we discipline our children) "and let it be through 'Him' that you give thanks to God the Father."

These are detailed instructions from God's Word (which also apply to our home-life). It means that we are not to attempt to rule our family in our own strength, nor are we to depend on them to obey us because of the relationship between parent and child. We are not to expect our children to obey us via threats, growling, hard looks, and mean words, which are all efforts of the flesh (or methods of a self-life). Rather, we are to trust God to know how to discipline children in a Christlike way, and trust God to make them obedient children. (Hebr.12:6 says) "for those whom the Lord loves He disciplines:" (which, of course, would mean that He disciplines us with a caring, divine love, for that is God's nature, (1 John 4:8) so that is how we are to discipline our children). (Vs.7) "God is dealing with you as sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?"

This means that when a parent instructs a child to do something, they should not do so in their own strength nor by threats or mean words, nor are they (or we) to depend on the children to obey us because they are supposed to obey their parent. Rather, a parent is to depend on the power of God (in Jesus' Name), and being right themselves with God, Who has all power and authority in

Heaven and earth. (God subdued and controlled the demoniac of Gadara who was full of the devil, so He can certainly control our children). We are to depend on the power back of the 'Name of Jesus' (in whose Name we ask for all things), because He said He is always there for us to call on. (Matt. 28:20 says), "And remember, I am with you always, day by day, until the Close of the Age."

Parents should be careful not to be drawn into arguments with their children nor scold them when they are trying to be Christlike. We have known children who lost the power of God within themselves and have backslidden (the Pastor said), because of just one clash between them and the parents (or with an older child). How careful we should be in our dealing with each other because we all have to spend eternity somewhere. Surely, we want our children to spend eternity in the best of two places.

A husband and wife should be in Scriptural agreement on all matters in the home-life (and other things), and with the Holy Spirit's help, to come to Scriptural decisions, not arbitrary, impulsive, or inconsistent decisions. The moment a husband desires a wife to do something contrary to God's will if it would cost her, her life, she should not do it. It is the same with parents and children; we do not do something just to please our children if it would conflict with the Word and Will of God. And that would go for a government, employers, magistrates, governors, or police officers, and all others with authority, ...when their commands or directives conflict with the will of God we are to disobey them at the cost of our life (just as the Hebrew children did). They refused to bow down to an idol or to obey a manmade plan to trust in someone or some thing, in place of trusting on God. When they took their stand to disobey the law and plans of men (which would have been outside of God's will), God delivered them miraculously.

In summary, God's Word gives the details of His will for us in all things in life, which many times (unfortunately) are disregarded or overlooked and referred to as a 'religion of works' (by professing, but not truly acting Christians). This is, however, opposite to the facts and details (given in God's Word). Large numbers of people believe in the reality of the Atonement of Jesus Christ and think they will get to Heaven just because Jesus died for them, but thousands (or millions) of people are not going to get to Heaven because of their unbelief (even though Jesus Christ died for them). His Atonement sacrifice (in itself) does not take anyone to Heaven, who does not believe and accept it and receive the benefits of that work of Atonement. [Obedient faith to "believe on the One whom God has sent", is God's foremost requirement, Jesus told us. To those who are not "obedient to my Father in Heaven" (as Jesus said Matt.7:21), and so, not "be found to be trusting in God's Son" for all things in life, He will say to them "I never knew you: begone from Me." (vs.23).]

Those benefits of the Atonement include having the Holy Spirit to remove 'self' from our heart and inspire us to "love the Lord thy God, with thy whole heart, thy whole soul, thy whole mind. This is the greatest and foremost Commandment." (Jesus said).

"And the second is similar to it: Thou shalt love thy fellow man as much as thyself. The whole of the Law and the Prophets is summed up in these two Commandments."

[Important Details of God's Will (or Particulars of God's Word) that should not be disregarded, ignored, or omitted because (as Jesus said, Matt.12:50) "whoever does the will of my Father in Heaven, is My brother and sister and mother."]

The only thing that matters, "is faith expressing itself through love" (Gal.5:6) (love for God and others) ... (that is, loving God and His Son with our whole heart, soul, and mind).

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