

PARTICULARS OF GOD'S WORD

(MANY TIMES DISREGARDED or OVERLOOKED-II)

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(Ref.#28rdg)

A previous message emphasized a Promise from God as given to us (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."

That Promise is God's reward for those believing on the power of Jesus' sacrifice of Atonement and His resurrection to Life. God wants a person to be free from a human desire to sin. However, if we do not believe on, and do not accept the benefits of Jesus' Atonement work on a cross for us; if we do not believe to receive that actual righteousness which it has provided;... if we do not (because of our unbelief) receive good health provided by the Atonement work of Christ; if we do not (through our unbelief) receive the power to obey God's Word to trust Him financially (instead of depending on a human source of income),...then the Atonement work of Christ has become of no use to us.

Directly opposite to facts (given in God's Word), there are large numbers of people who say they believe in the Atonement of Jesus Christ, and who think they will get to Heaven just because Jesus died for them. However, there are thousands (or millions) of people (the late Pastor said), who are not going to get to Heaven because of their unbelief (even though Jesus Christ did indeed die for them). His Atonement sacrifice does not take anyone to Heaven who does not believe on its power, and so, accept it to receive the benefits of that work of Atonement for us). (Matt.7:19) "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

Jesus warned about unrepentant sin and unbelief (Luke 13:5) "if you do not repent you will all perish just as they did." Trusting on human things instead of trusting on the divine power of Jesus Christ's work of Atonement, is (in reality) forsaking the mercy that God extends to those who will believe on Jesus' sacrifice of Atonement.

Paul explained that sins of the flesh, and 'sin of unbelief' is 'idolatry' (just the same as sins of coveting or 'greed' are a form of idolatry). God promises that He will take away covetousness and other desires of discontentment from our heart, (and that He will provide for tomorrow and for the future through our faith on His Word).

Apostle Paul was inspired to instruct 'believers' (Colos.3:5-6), "put to death your earthly inclinations", "unholy desires", and "all greed, for that is a form of 'idolatry'. It is on account of these very sins that God's anger is coming."

In reality, we have no excuse for not believing nor obeying the details of God's Word, because all the power to obey and do His will in our life was provided for us through that Atonement work of Jesus Christ. That is not a religion of law or of works,...but, it is however, the 'true Gospel' of trusting faith in Jesus Christ (God's New Covenant Plan). Under the old law people were required to obey God by their own ability (which was a 'religion of works', and unfortunately mankind hopelessly failed in his own strength).

Obedience to God's Will under New Testament '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. Rather, it is to be obeyed through the power of the Holy Spirit. In the strength of the Holy Spirit of God (which is given to true 'believers'), we can succeed in obeying God's Will. That is a major difference between the old law and God's New Covenant Plan for 'believers' to obey Him.

(Jesus reminded us that) God's plan can be summed up in two commandments (Matt.22:37-39) "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 that: 'Thou shalt love thy fellow man as much as thyself'."

That is basic Truth; and God's Word explains details of His will, for a person wanting to live a true Christian 'life of faith' in God. These two commandments are the basis of God's will, but many branches extend out from those commands, which give us directions to cover the details of our life of faith on God. (1 Pet. 2:13-14) "Submit, for the Lord's sake, to every authority set up by man, whether it be to the Emperor as supreme ruler, or to provincial Governors as sent by him for the punishment of evil-doers, and for the encouragement of those who do what is right."

That includes the Government, magistrates, Governors, police officers, husbands, employers, and others appointed to positions of authority. (A recent message reminded us), however, that when their commands (or directives) conflict with the will of God, we are to disobey them at the cost of our life (just as three Hebrews described in Daniel's book). They refused to bow down to an idol, nor would they obey a man-made plan to 'trust in' someone or some thing (in place of trusting on God). When they took their stand (at the risk of their life) to disobey the law and plans of men (because it would have been outside of and against God's will), God delivered them miraculously.

A husband and wife should be in Scriptural agreement on all matters in the home-life and with other things, and with the Holy Spirit's help they will come to Scriptural decisions, not make uninformed, impulsive, or inconsistent decisions. When a husband asks 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 that would conflict with the Word and Will of God). [When we need to make a decision to stay within God's Word and Will, we must realize that God will control the heart and the attitude of the other person, toward us. We will not have to lose the respect and friendship of other people when we put God's Will first in life.]

Another detail of God's Will (given by apostle Paul), (1 Thess. 5:) "And we ask you brethren, to know those laboring among you, and leading you in the Lord, and admonishing you, and to esteem them very

abundantly in love, because of their work; be at peace among yourselves;". [Have peace with God's Will, not question it.]

There are Churches, however, where a Pastor may give one advice contrary to God's Word, but that member has no Scriptural right to disobey God and go against His will. When it comes to the plain written Word of God, a member must obey the Word, ahead of following wrong advice which brings about chastisement.

The late Pastor referred to the illustration given (Rev.2), where it seemed to be the minister's wife teaching people that it was no harm to commit fornication (secret sins), (to be unfaithful to spouses, and to make sacrifices to idols). Some people obeyed her and disobeyed God. But the 'Son of God' said He was going to kill every one of her children, a terrible sickness would come over her, and those who committed sin with her, were to go through very severe trial. If those people would have obeyed God by putting God's Word first in their life, they would not have fallen into that snare of the devil (and they would have been protected from the horrible fate that would come upon them).

From this illustration (warning) that Jesus gave the Thyatira Church, we can see that idols and false places of trust come in many deceitful forms. However, anything that means more to us, than for us to stay in the 'Will of God', will then become detrimental to our spirituality and eternal interests (if it is not repented of).

Jesus said (vs.21-23) "I have given her time to repent, but she is determined not to repent of her fornication. I tell you that I am about to cast her upon a bed of sickness, and I will severely afflict those who commit adultery with her, unless they repent of conduct such as hers. Her children too shall surely die; and all the Churches shall come to know that I am He who searches into men's inmost thoughts; and to each of you I will give a requital which shall be in accordance with 'what your conduct' has been." [Could there be a more direct refute (coming from Jesus Christ, Himself) about a person taking a position of 'once saved, always saved'?]

In the next verse, Jesus gave His promise for those who do put God's Will and Word first in their life (24) "But to you, the rest of you in Thyatira, all who do not hold this teaching, and are not the people who have learnt the "deep things," as they call them" ('deep things of Satan!') "to you I say that I lay no other burden on you."

Jesus then added 'a condition' (vs.25) "Only, that which you already possess, cling to until I come." (Meaning, to 'overcome' in faith and righteousness to the end) (for He said, vs.26), "And to him who overcomes and obeys My commands to the very end, I will give authority over the nations of the earth."

God's Word teaches that we are to be absolutely pure and clean in marital relations. A man is not to look in lust at a woman. Jesus also said, a person's daily prayer is that we be not led into 'temptation'.

A detail in God's Word many times overlooked, and not taught in most Churches, is that God does not expect us to remain pure by our own strength, rather, it is through a sincere commitment on our part, to act in obedient faith on Him, by which we are to be kept pure by God's power. (1 Pet. 1:5 says), you "who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation."

Another detail of God's will to consider, is the relationship between children and their parents. The key to having obedience and

peace in the home, is that the parents must take the place that God assigned 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 within the family.

It is the parents' relationship with God, depending on Him to control their children, and to show them how to discipline in a Christlike way. That is what allows God to control the children.

We should not expect our children to obey us via our threats, hard looks, and mean or threatening words, ... (which are all efforts and methods of the self-life still within our heart). (Ephes.6:4 says) "do not irritate your children but bring them up tenderly with true Christian training and advice."

(Hebr. 12:6) "for those whom the Lord loves He disciplines:" (and that would mean with caring, divine love, because that is God's nature). (Vs.7) "God is dealing with you, as sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?" (We must give God opportunity to teach us how to train our children as He promised.)

Another particular of God's Word to consider, is the matter of 'staying Scriptural on fellowship'. The general rule of God's Word for right fellowship is found(2 Cor.14) "Do not come into close association with unbelievers,". (Close ongoing association is 'fellowship').

An unbeliever would mean anyone who is 'not a true believer' (A believer in the full Gospel Message of Jesus Christ). Jesus said, "by their fruits you will know them" (Matt. 7:20). There are at least three qualifications which define a 'true believer'.

The first is that a person has confessed and forsaken their sins; second, that they have surrendered their lives to God, and have been filled with His Holy Spirit; and third, that they are walking in full obedience to the written Word of God in the New Testament (in all the details of their life). (In other words), a person must be obeying God's Word spiritually by making Scriptural decisions regarding the healing of their body, in their finances, home-life, and other things.

There are many 'true believers' who at first, may not be obeying the Bible in all the details of life (the late Pastor said). They are only 'babes in Christ' ... and do not know all the Bible; nor do they understand 'how to divide the Word of Truth' in all situations; but, in their hearts they are willing; (which means, they have taken a position of full surrender to obey God's Word where it is made plain to them. (That is the attitude that God wants to see).

The moment that a person knowingly and deliberately opposes one Truth of the Bible and refuses to walk in spiritual light in regard to healing, their finances, fellowship, the home, or they use self-efforts in Christian or any type of work, .. at that moment they cease to be a true believer in the true Bible sense. One may think that is a strict and narrow viewpoint, but there are Scriptures to prove it.

The meaning of 'fellowship' is to be in close association with someone; to have people come into our home and we go into theirs; or to be a member of a club (almost always along with unbelievers of whom Scripture tells us to "come out from among them"), or, it means belong to an organization (such as a Church, a lodge, or a union). It is directly against the will of God to belong to an organization that does not practice (nor teach) the full Truth. Apostle Paul illustrated that with his teaching (Acts 18:4-5) "But, Sabbath after Sabbath, he preached in the synagogue and tried to win over both Jews and Greeks.

Now at the time when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul (compelled by the Spirit)"was preaching fervently, and solemnly telling the Jews that Jesus is the Christ."

Some people will say, "everybody accepts Jesus as the Christ." "But do they?" "I say, 'NO' (the Pastor said). The moment a person accepts a Christ who is not the same Christ today (as He was in Bible times),..."do they truly accept Christ?" When they say that "Jesus Christ has changed", we should ask, do they have any Christ at all?" Some people say that God (in Heaven) will not hear nor answer prayer (on earth) anymore. People who have a Christ such as that in their life, will never receive any answer to prayer. And, we should ask ourselves (in all sincerity), "do they (in reality), have any Christ in their life?" Paul did not think so!!, and his 'spiritual anger' was revealed with his protest of their actions and their words spoken in blatant 'unbelief'. (In the mind of the Apostle) it was the sin of 'idolatry'. *(Unfortunately) many people today have received "another Jesus" and "another gospel", and sad to say, "they put up with it" (as Paul explained 2 Cor.11:4).

(Acts 18:6 states), "But upon their opposing him with abusive (blasphemous) language, he shook his clothes by way of protest, and said to them, "Your ruin will be upon your own heads. I am not responsible: in future I will go among the Gentiles."

When Jesus sent the twelve disciples out, He gave them instructions (Mark 6:11) "And whoever will not receive you (nor hear you), when you depart from there, 'shake off the dust under your feet' as a testimony against them."

People will often say, "I never rejected Christ (nor the Atonement)." However, the truth of the matter is, people have no Christ, unless He is the Lord and Master of their life; (and that is the only thing that counts in the end). The Bible portrays a Christ Who forgives all our sins (and delivers us from the doctors and drugs); a Christ who satisfies our every need and desire right here in this present life. 'Jesus Christ' is not divided; (either 'He' is the 'Lord of our life', or Satan is!) (Rom. 6:16) "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, (that's a choice on our part), you are that one's slaves (whom you obey), whether of 'sin' (which includes unbelief) leading to death,... or, of 'obedience' (which includes 'believing') leading to righteousness?"

As soon as those Jews rejected the Message concerning Jesus Christ, Paul immediately left their fellowship. When they refused (to believe in) the same Christ (who walked on this earth and who was raised from the dead); when they 'rejected' an unchanged Christ, ... Paul walked out of their synagogue. (Vs.7) "So he left the place and went to the house of a person called Titus Justus, a worshiper of the 'true God'. His house was next door to the synagogue."

When those people rejected the Christ that Paul came to teach them about (they refused to 'believe'), Paul left them and went into a man's house where he could teach the full Truth Gospel, .. which he knew was pleasing to God. (Vs.8-9) "And Crispus, the Warden of the synagogue, 'believed' in the Lord, and so did all his household; and from time to time many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and received baptism. And in a vision by night, the Lord said to Paul, "Dismiss your fears: go on speaking, and do not give up." (God left

that organization when Paul left, and He went with Paul into that house next door).

God will go with us (when we separate ourselves 'from any group of unbelievers'). ('The Lord' said to Paul, Vs. 10-11) "I am with you, and no one shall attack you to injure you; for I have very many people in this city." So, Paul remained in Corinth for a year and six months, teaching among them the Message of God."

How foolish of us to think that we can do what God Himself could not do. Jesus Christ, Himself could not reform those people in that Church (against their will); He had to start a new one where people were willing to believe and obey. Jesus said on one occasion that people did not put new wine into old wineskins, (lest they burst, and the wine be lost). The same principle is involved now. If a person wants to live the full Truth, they are to live where it is taught (not in fellowship with unbelievers and those who teach false doctrines) or teach 'another Christ' (ref. 2 Cor. 11:4).

We should also take notice of how pleased God was with Paul's attitude to separate from unbelievers. (Vs.11) "Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul." (12) "and the diseases left them, and the evil spirits went out of them." If there is one thing that pleases God, it is for us to separate ourselves from unbelievers, (and to be clean-cut on the matter of fellowship). (2 Cor.6:14) "Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers." (vs 15-16)" Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?" "And, what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them, And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."

How can anyone who claims to be walking in the light of God's Truth, walk with those who are not?, when their actions prove that they are walking in the darkness of unbelief of the power of Jesus Christ's Atonement sacrifice. "I am the light of the world." (Jesus said, John 8:12) "He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

"Therefore, "Come out from among them, And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean (because of unbelief), And I will receive you." "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty."

['Lord Almighty' is the strongest of language, for it means 'Jehovah', the 'Everlasting Deliverer' of His people. 'Lord Almighty' said that those who are clean-cut (on keeping Scriptural fellowship), will be His sons and daughters. Can anyone of us fully comprehend the importance of having the gift (and presence) of God, Himself in our life? and to receive all the benefits of the Atonement sacrifice of Jesus Christ (as we prove for ourselves) that Jehovah, El Shaddai, is a power that nothing on earth (or in hell) can stand against!]

(These are only some of the details to be learned about God's Will, and Jesus admonished us (Matt:12:50), "Whoever does the will of my Father in Heaven is my brother, sister, and mother."

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