

For Our Information

Joyce Venable is still dealing with bouts of coughing. Bill's brother continues to slowly improve.

Dan & JoBeth were sick most of this past week, but both are better now.

Thanks to Bill Venable for taking the Wednesday evening class in Dan's absence

Dan's brother, Jeff, flies out this Tuesday to help their parents load up and move. They will be on the road for about a week.

Keep our brothers & sisters in mind

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

can certainly pray publicly [Jesus did, John 11:41, 42], but not just for the purpose of having others see us and praise us. We can certainly do good deeds in a public way but, again, not if it is just for the purpose of drawing attention to ourselves. If we do what we should be doing, the glory will all go to God, as it should (Matt. 5:16).

I can come here every Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and every Wednesday evening and never miss one Bible class, but I must ask myself why I am here. If it is simply because I want to have perfect attendance or to have others praise my faithfulness, I might as well just stay home because my prayers go no higher than the ceiling! Am I here because I love Jesus Christ? Am I here because I want to edify and encourage my brethren? Am I here because I want to learn more of God's will that I may grow? These are some legitimate reasons why I should be here, and some valuable reasons why I should be here, but only I know my motivation. Just remember God knows your motivation, too, and one day you will have to give an answer for not just what you have done, but why you did it (1 Cor. 4:5). Am I here for self, or for God and my brother?

If you haven't learned this yet, please take note that it is rarely the "big things" [as man sees it] that matter most; it is most often the "little things."

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

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Seeking His Righteousness

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It IS The 'Little Things'

Steven Harper

Someone wrote a book a few years ago called Don't Sweat The Small Stuff with the subtitle being And It's All Small Stuff. According to the author, there really isn't anything worth a great deal of concern and those who are serious about anything to the point of actually sounding urgent are asked to step back and ease up a little bit. I am reminded of some brethren who complain about other brethren who [as they say] "major in minors." What they mean is, these other brethren spend way too much time discussing topics that just cannot be as important as what it seems to be. To these brethren who complain about the ones "majoring in minors," the only thing we should stress is the need to love God and love your brother and "not divide over trivial matters." What they don't bother to tell you, though, is what they define as "trivial" and "unimportant."

Friends and brethren, I must strongly disagree with those who say "It's all small stuff" or that so much of God's will is "minor." While many people in the world believe anything to do with our spiritual condition is "minor" or "small stuff," such talk among believers is disturbing! Where do we get the idea that any of God's commands are "unimportant" or



So you shall observe to do just as the Lord your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right or to the left.

Deuteronomy 5:32



Meet With Us

Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

TannerSt.com

"minor"? Has God revealed some scale on which some commands are more weighty than others?

"But," someone protests, "even Jesus said there were such things as 'the weightier matters!'" True. But does their significance so outweigh the other commands that we may ignore them altogether? Certainly not, for in that same context (Matt. 23:23), He concluded His instruction by telling the Pharisees, "These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others." It wasn't a matter of doing one and omitting the others [doing that very thing was part of their condemnation], but doing some things first while keeping the rest, too. Yes, there may have been 'weightier matters' but the 'other matters' still had to be done, too!

"Sounds like you're being picky to me." Well, I guess it does sound a little "picky," but I consider it being careful to obey God's commands. After Moses had delivered the law of God to the Israelites, he commanded them that they should "be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'" (Deut. 4:6). Their carefulness with the law would have an impact on those about them, not just on themselves! He would later say they were to "be careful to do as the Lord your God has commanded you" and not turn aside from them that they would live and that it would be well with them all their days (5:32, 33). But is there such a need as this today? I believe so, from what I read within God's word. Consider that the apostle Paul, when writing to the Galatian brethren, took time to make a distinction between the word "Seed" and "seeds" (Gal. 3:16) because a proper interpretation was needed to understand through whom those blessings would come that were promised long ago to Abraham. One letter made a difference!

I must believe that loving God and loving my neighbor as myself is important, if for no other reason than the fact Jesus said they were the two greatest commandments (Matt. 22:37-40). But He also said all the laws hung on those two commandments, meaning every other commandment is somehow covered by these two ideas. Unfortunately, most all of those who parrot the idea of "just love God and one another" have difficulty understanding just what they are saying. These very ones who argue against "making a big deal" out of the commandments they have arbitrarily determined to be "lesser commands" somehow have missed the point that

Store In My Heart

1Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Temptation is never easy to overcome, but knowing that God wants to help us certainly takes some of the difficulty away.

No matter what we face, God will be there to help us if we put our trust in Him.

This passage give us courage to seek a way without temptation. We know God will help us find a way to flee from the path of sin. Our responsibility remains the same, study His Word carefully and guide our steps only by what is revealed.

loving God requires that we keep all of His commands — not as a checkoff list of things to do, but as an obedience to His commandments that is motivated by love of God and Christ. After all, it was Jesus Himself who said, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments" (John 14:15). Do I love Christ? Absolutely, but let's get down to those "little things" like obeying Him and let's really do what we claim. Love without obedience is not really love at all, is it?

But maybe these individuals somehow missed this "little thing" because they really weren't focused on Christ at all. Maybe this isn't anything about keeping "the weightier matters" [the "more important" commands] at all, but a clever ruse to get people to believe they love God more than we do, even as they have jettisoned the commands of Jesus so they can do their own will and even as they are rebelling against His authority so they can do whatever they want. They are trying to appear as outwardly righteous — more so than anyone else, in fact. Does this behavior ring a bell? [See Matthew 23 for a obvious example.]

I know you have probably heard it before, but it's the "little things" that matter to God. One "little" touch by one man moved God to strike the man dead (Uzzah, 2 Sam. 6:1-10); it was only after this unfortunate event that anyone bothered to notice they had not obeyed the command of the Lord as to how the ark was to be transported. When David did things the way God wanted, they had no further outbreaks of His wrath (cf. 1 Chron. 15:11-29). In fact, it says God even helped them! What a difference one "little thing" can make!

And let us not become like the Pharisees and think even obedience in these "little things" are — by themselves — what justifies us. [Remember the Pharisees tithed down to the smallest spices, Matt. 23:23.] Jesus condemned the Pharisees for appearing outwardly righteous while their hearts were full of "greed and self-indulgence" (v. 25). Jesus also condemned hypocrites for praying on street corners and doing good deeds in the sight of other men just so they could garner their praise (Matt. 6:2, 5). It wasn't the praying in itself or the doing good deeds in itself that was the problem; it was their motivation for doing it. You see, the motivation for why we do what we do is something that matters to God, too. It's another one of those "little things" that makes a difference between acceptable or unacceptable service. Paul said we could do great things but if it is not done out of love, it is worthless (1 Cor. 13:1-3) because we did not do it for the right reason. We