

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

WITHOUT CEASING

John Edwards

Many cease to do the Lord's bidding (Gal. 5:7). The Scriptures record some things that must be done without pause or interruption. Thus, we study

PRAY. Paul commanded early Christians, *“Pray without ceasing”* (1 Th. 5:17). That simply means don't stop praying! The Lord taught that *“Men ought always to pray”* (Lk. 18:1). When Peter was in prison *“prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him”* (Acts 12:5). May we have the attitude of Samuel when he said, *“God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray...”* (1 Sam. 12:23).

TEACH. When the apostles were beaten and commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, *“they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ”* (Acts 5:40-42). What commitment! We must not cease to teach. After all, we have been taught to teach and saved to save (2 Tim. 2:2; Mt. 28:19-20).

WARN. As Paul said farewell to the Ephesian elders, he stated, *“Therefore watch,*

and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears” (Acts 20:31). Paul warned that grievous wolves would enter in and destroy the flock (Acts 20:28-30). Thus, he could say that he was pure from the blood of all men (Acts 20:26). We must do some warning! *“Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly...”* (1 Th. 5:14). If we cease to warn the wicked of their wicked way, we will be held accountable as their blood will be required at our hand (Ezek. 3:17-21).

THANK GOD. Paul wrote, *“For this cause also thank we God without ceasing...”* (1 Th. 2:13). We must never stop thanking God! Giving thanks to God is one way we give glory unto God (Lk. 17:15-16). We must thank God for Christ (Lk. 2:38), our brethren (Eph. 1:16), for the obedience of others (Rom. 6:17-18), and for those in authority (1 Tim. 2:1-3). How long has it been since you thanked God?

SHOW OUR LOVE FOR THE LORD. Luke 7 finds a sinful woman at the feet of Jesus *“weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment”* (v. 38). The Lord said, *“...this woman since the*

time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet” (v. 45) and *“Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much...”* (v. 47). How much do we love the Lord? May our love for the Lord which is demonstrated by keeping His commandments never cease to be shown (Jn. 14:15, 21; 15:10; 1 Jn. 5:3; 2 Jn. 6).

REMEMBER. Paul said that he ceased not to remember (1 Th. 1:2-3). Spiritual memory is an important thing (2 Pet. 3:1). We must not cease remembering the Lord's death (1 Cor. 11:23-26). How is your memory?

We must not stop or bring an end to these things.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

John Edwards

There are some rights God has given to women.

THE RIGHT TO BE KEEPERS AT HOME. The aged women are to teach young women to be *“keepers at home”* (Titus 2:5). This involves being workers at home and active in household duties. There is no greater career than homemaking.

THE RIGHT TO DRESS

MODESTLY. Paul said, *“In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety”* (1 Tim. 2:9-10).

Women professing godliness will refuse to parade in public wearing apparel that would draw attention to the physical body.

THE RIGHT TO LOVE THEIR HUSBANDS AND CHILDREN. Women are taught to *“love their husbands, to love their children”* (Titus 2:4). This should come naturally, but such is not always the case. Some women rely upon feelings and emotions instead of divine teaching and training. Loving one’s husband and children can be learned.

THE RIGHT TO OBEY THEIR HUSBANDS. God has given women a place of submission (1 Tim. 2:11-15). Women are to be *“obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed”* (Titus 2:5). Abraham’s wife, Sara, serves as an outstanding example. She *“obeyed Abraham, calling him lord”* (1 Pet. 3:6).

THE RIGHT TO TEACH. The aged women are expected to *“teach the young women”* (Titus 2:3-4). Priscilla helped to expound unto Apollos *“the way of God more perfectly”* (Acts 18:24-26). This right to teach is restricted in that the woman is not to teach *“over the man”* for then she would be out of her place, usurping authority over the man (1 Tim. 2:11-12). More women need to be exercising their right to teach.

THE RIGHT TO BE TREATED WITH RESPECT. Peter recorded, *“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered”* (1 Pet. 3:7). The woman is not a slave, or a mere instrument to gratify the passions of man. She is worthy of great esteem and is to be treated with special kindness.

The proponents of women’s liberation may deny that the woman’s place of subjection has anything to do with her salvation. However,

salvation comes to the woman by fulfilling the role of submission assigned to her (1 Tim. 2:15).

A GOOD NAME

When the Civil War was over, some men are reported as having come to Robert E. Lee and asked him if they might use his name to advertise a new brand of liquor. He is reported as having replied as follows:

“Sirs, I have led the valiant sons of my Southland into battle and many of them to death. They have fought with honor for a cause they held in honor. They honored me as their commander. I ever sought to keep faith with them. I am now an old man and the shadows are lengthening. My health is broken, my family scattered, my finances gone. All I have is my good name, but may I tell you, sirs, it is respected and it is not for sale.”

“A good name is rather to be chosen...” (Prov. 22:1).

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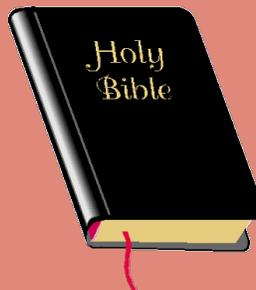
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