

The Most Comprehensive Statement in the Bible

John Isaac Edwards

The most comprehensive statement in the Bible was made when Moses addressed Israel in these words:

“And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the Lord, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?” (Deuteronomy 10:12-13).

Fear the Lord. To fear the Lord is to respect and reverence Him for who He is. Fear of the Lord is what motivates us to do the Lord’s will in our lives. Solomon said, “Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man” (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Peter preached, “Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him” (Acts 10:34-35).

Walk in All His Ways. Moses, in Deuteronomy, often appeals to the Lord’s people to walk in the Lord’s ways (5:33; 8:6; 10:12; 11:22; 19:9; 26:17; 28:9; 30:16). The Lord’s ways are different and higher than man’s ways. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so

are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:8-9). It is not that we are to walk in some of His ways or even most of His ways, but *all* His ways.

Serve the Lord Thy God. In Deuteronomy 11:13, Moses calls on Israel “to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.” Joshua urged the Lord’s people to serve the Lord “in sincerity and in truth” (Joshua 24:14). David admonished his son, Solomon, to serve the Lord “with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts” (1 Chronicles 28:9).

Keep the Commandments of the Lord. The Lord’s commandments for us today are found within the gospel of Christ. Paul penned, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth....For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith” (Romans 1:16-17). The Psalmist declared, “My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness” (Psalm 119:172). Revelation 22:14 records, “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.” God’s commands are for our good!

Let us do what God requires!

The Must List

John Isaac Edwards

“Must” is the strongest word in the English language.

The New Birth. Jesus told Nicodemus, “Ye **must** be born again” (John 3:7). The new birth is a spiritual birth - “of water and of the Spirit” (John 3:4-6). This spiritual birth is accomplished by the word of God as one obeys the truth. Peter described it this way: “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit...Being born again...by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever” (1 Peter 1:23). The second birth is necessary for kingdom entrance as the Lord said, “Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” (John 3:5).

Worship God in Spirit and in Truth. The Lord informed a woman of Samaria, “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him **must** worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24). This statement knocks the props out from under the notion that it doesn’t make a difference how one worships. There are two vital elements of acceptable worship: spirit and truth. To worship in spirit is to worship from the heart, in sincerity. To worship in truth is to worship according to the word of God as God’s word is truth (John 17:17).

Baptism. Many think being baptized is optional, not really necessary to being saved. The Lord told Saul, “Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou **must** do” (Acts 9:6). In the city Saul was told to “arise, and be baptized...” (Acts 22:16). That makes Bible baptism a spiritual must!

The Judgment. Paul wrote the Corinthians, “For we **must** all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:10). Are we ready for that day?

Qualifications of Elders and Deacons. All of the abilities and qualities revealed in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 are imperative, or the word “must” has no meaning! Don’t overlook these statements in your study: “A bishop then **must** be...” (1 Timothy 3:2). “Moreover he **must** have...” (1 Timothy 3:7). “Likewise **must** the deacons be...” (1 Timothy 3:8). “Even so **must** their wives be...” (1 Timothy 3:11). “For a bishop **must** be...” (Titus 1:7).

When a thing is a must, there are no exceptions or options.

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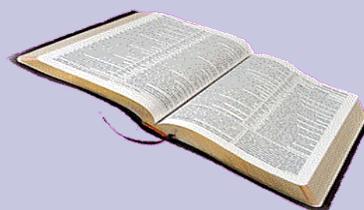
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2645 S Joe Fox St.
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(Exit 11, I-70 & SR 46)

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**The Bible
Is Our
Only Guide!**