

The Terre Haute SPEAKER

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

Volume 6

March 05, 2017

Number 10

Do you know what matters? The Bible says, “Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters” (NKJV). To help us appreciate what matters, I’m calling our attention to some things connected with keeping the commandments of God.

1) **Blessing.** God informed His Old Testament people, “If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; Then I will...” and He proceeded to announce blessings for obedience (Lev. 26:3). In the book of obedience Moses said, “Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God...” (Dt. 11:26-28). In the final book of the Bible, John gave the final exhortation to commandment-keeping in these words: “Blessed are they that do his commandments...” (Rev. 22:14). It’s been true in the past, is today, and always will be — if you keep God’s commandments, He will bless you; and if you don’t, He won’t.

Does it matter to you whether you are blessed or not?

2) **Added Years.** Folks are always looking for ways to add years to their life. It’s not in a lotion or a potion! It’s in what matters! Listen to these words: “Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes, and his commandments, which I command thee this day...that thou mayest prolong thy days upon the earth...” (Dt. 4:40). “That thou mightest fear the Lord thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son’s son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged” (Dt. 6:2). It is written in the book of wisdom, “My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life...shall they add to thee” (Prov. 3:1-2).

3) **Well With You.** Do we want things to be well with us? How about with our children? It is God’s desire, “O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!” (Dt. 5:29). We may keep

some of God’s commandments some of the time, but keeping all His commandments always is what matters! If we want things to be well with us and our children, this we will do.

4) **Whole.** As Solomon searched for meaning and purpose in life he said, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man” (Eccl. 12:13). Other translations render this: “For this is man’s all” or “this is the whole of man.” It’s sad that so many wander through life aimlessly and hopelessly, not knowing what matters. We are not complete without God. A life lived without keeping the commandments of God is all vanity (Eccl. 1:2)!

5) **Peace.** In a home Bible study with an elderly lady, we were told, “I just want peace.” Some people’s lives are always in a state of turmoil. A reading of Proverbs 3:1-2 will show that keeping God’s commandments will add “peace” to us. Isaiah 48:18 records, “O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of

the sea." Jesus declared, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation..." (Jn. 16:33).

Through keeping the Lord's commandments, we can have peace "...which passeth all understanding..." (Phil. 4:7).

6) Fellowship With God. The book of First John emphasizes fellowship with God. Here is the test of fellowship: "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 Jn. 2:3-4). 1 John 3:24 continues, "And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him...." To know God and to dwell in Him is to

be in fellowship with God! How sad that many will hear the Lord say, "I know you not" (Mt. 25:12) because they didn't give attention to what matters.

7) Answered Prayer. Do you ever pray to God and wonder, "Did God really hear my prayer?" He does, if we meet His conditions. One of the conditions of acceptable prayer has to do with His commandments. The apostle John taught, "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight" (1 Jn. 3:22). If we're not keeping His commandments, then our prayers are going no higher than the ceiling! Remember: "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and

his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil" (1 Pet. 3:12).

8) Entrance Into Heaven.

John the revelator revealed, "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" (Rev. 22:14). We ought to be moved and motivated to keeping the commandments of God, "... knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance" (Heb. 10:34).

Let's not get worked up over things that don't matter. As we go through life, with all its ups and downs, twists and turns, always remember what matters!

Just 6 Weeks Away!

Our April 16-21 Gospel Meeting with Connie W. Adams is now just 6 weeks away! Brother Adams will do his job well in preaching the word of God. Let's be sure we do ours! Plan to attend every service. Invite and bring others. Arrive early to greet visitors. Be friendly to all. Sit near the front. Sing out. Listen attentively. Apply the sermons. Practice hospitality. This meeting will be what we make it. Let's all work diligently to make this gospel effort the very best possible!

The Terre Haute SPEAKER

is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

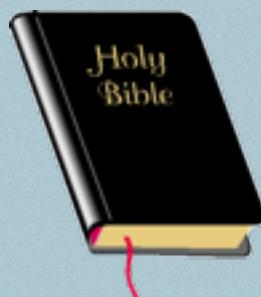
Assembling At:

4017 E Margaret DR
Terre Haute, IN 47803
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,
West on Margaret DR 1 mile]

Assembling Times:

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Come be with us!



**We Speak Where the
Bible Speaks.**

**We Are Silent Where the
Bible Is Silent.**

**We Do Bible Things in
Bible Ways.**

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