

# That Which God Had Not Commanded

## Sunday PM 03/06/22

### Introduction:

**Deuteronomy 18.15-22** early part of **Deut. 18** deals with the priest and Levites. Then instructions to the Israelites as they enter the land of Canaan. Especially not to follow the practices of the people and their idolatry. Our text and the Old Testament contain many valuable lessons and principles that are helpful to us who serve God under the New Covenant.

**Romans 15:4** *For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.*

**1 Corinthians 10:6** *Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.*

People might think we are being too picky and sticklers for demanding book, chapter, and verse for what some want to do. Are we right in rejecting and condemning all human practices in religion? Our text says yes. To speak what the Lord has not commanded results in death. To offer to God what he has not commanded is sinful. The applies in both the O.T. and N.T.

### I) The Principle in The Old Testament

#### A) Prophets of God were limited to that which God had commanded.

1. Note the evidence

a. To Moses

**Exodus 7:1** *So the LORD said to Moses: "See, I have made you as God to Pharaoh, and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet. 2 "You shall speak all that I command you. And Aaron your brother shall speak to Pharaoh to send the children of Israel out of his land.*

b. To observe what God has commanded

**Exodus 34:11a** "Observe what I command you this day.

**Deuteronomy 12:28** "Observe and obey all these words which I command you, that it may go well with you and your children after you forever, when you do what is good and right in the sight of the LORD your God.

2. Not add to the word I God has given

**Deuteronomy 4:1** "Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you. **2** "You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

## B) Examples of ignoring this principle in the Old Testament

1. Cain's sacrifice was rejected.

**Genesis 4:1** Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD." **2** Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. **3** And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. **4** Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, **5** but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. **6** So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? **7** "If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

2. Nadab and Abihu offered "strange fire"

**Leviticus 10:1** Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. **2** So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

3. King Saul in **1 Samuel 15.1-23**

**1 Samuel 15:22** Then Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.

## II) This Principle in The New Testament

- A) We are limited to the doctrine of Christ



**2 John 1:9** Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. **10** If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; **11** for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds.

1. Without this principle, the law of Christ becomes irrelevant.
2. It becomes a pretext for what we want to do.

- B) We are to observe all things that Christ has commanded



**Matthew 28:18** And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

1. We cannot throw out the parts we don't like.
2. For instance – singing, baptism, Lord's Supper every first day of the week, etc.

C) Doctrines and commands of men make worship vain

**Matthew 15:9** *And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."*

1. There is the Apostles doctrine

**Acts 2:42** *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

2. Any different doctrine is from man.
3. Must not add to or take from the scriptures.

**Revelation 22:18** *For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; **19** and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*

D) To ignore what God has commanded can result in:

1. Being religious but not a Christian.

**Acts 8:26** *Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert. **27** So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, **28** was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. **29** Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot." **30** So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" **31** And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with*

him. **32** *The place in the Scripture which he read was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth. **33** In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth."* **34** *So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" **35** Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. **36** Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" **37** Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." **38** So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.*

2. Being morally good, but not saved.

**Acts 10:1** *There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, **2** a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. **3** About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!" **4** And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, "What is it, lord?" So he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God. **5** "Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. **6** "He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do."*

**Acts 11:13** *"And he told us how he had seen an angel standing in his house, who said to him, 'Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon whose surname is Peter, **14** 'who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved.'*

3. Being religious and zealous, but wrong.

***Galatians 1:13*** For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. **14** And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

### III) Some Things God Has Not Commanded

A) Application for today.

B) God has not commanded

1. Sprinkling and pouring for baptism, baptism is a burial.

***Romans 6:3*** Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? **4** Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,

2. Infant baptism- all those who were baptized had to hear the Gospel, believe Jesus is the Son of God, repent of their sins, confess Him with their mouth, before they were baptized.
3. Prayer as a means of salvation (the sinner's prayer)

***Mark 16:16*** "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

4. Instruments of music in worship.

***Ephesians 5:19*** speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Conclusion:

Let us be content to abide in the doctrine of Christ without addition or subtraction.  
To ask for book, chapter, and verse.

***1 Peter 4:11*** *If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

To do what God commands.