

## It isn't Like Burger King

In a discussion during a bible study a while I was studying with someone on II Peter 1:5-7. We were talking about being fruit bearers in our service to God. We have a list of some of these fruits in these verses. What is wrong with focusing on adding to and fine tuning these fruits? Absolutely nothing!

However in this discussion we were talking about this is not like you can pick and choose what you want of these fruits. Then the comment was made "This is Not Burger King and having it your way." It got me thinking even more about the comment and that Christianity a lot of times today is believed to have it our way. Many want to pick and choose what they like about Christianity and follow those principles and practices and neglect others.

Let's talk about the fruit for instance in **II Peter 1:5-7** which are: faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love. Notice in verse 8 that if "**these things**" it didn't single out one or the other it says these things and these things were mentioned in verse 5-7. We may struggle with one or more of these fruits but we are to put our best foot forward in fine tuning these skills. Maybe that help comes from our brethren or through our study. If struggle it is not an excuse to give up on and have it our way. We need all these that will help supply an entrance into the everlasting kingdom our God has prepared through Jesus Christ.

We are to add to these measures to improve our life. It is a consistent effort on our part to fine tune and improve and grow in these different skills. Our God has supplied us direction on how to improve these things so we may be a complete person before God (**II Timothy 3:16-17**), of course this is coming from God's word for this direction and walk of life.

There are other parts of this that we also want to examine. For instance calling Jesus our Savior and doing what He says walk hand in hand. There are many who make claims about wanting Jesus as their personal Savior in life. In fact many religious organizations make the claim and offer prayers to make Jesus their personal Savior. Offering this is preposterous nonetheless because obedience isn't taught as being necessary.

Sadly many have forgotten the commands of our Savior on this matter. In **Luke 6:46** Jesus taught in the greatest sermon ever that if you want to have Jesus as your Lord and Savior we **must** do what He says. In another gospel account in **Matthew 7:21-23** for an entrance to be supplied into the kingdom of God one must do the will of God. Many will make great claims in saying that we have done many great and awesome things in the name of God. However, if we forget to do God's will we have worked in vain. That was a common thing in Jesus' time as well as in our time. This isn't something new it is just more common of a desire to pick and have it our way. However it is not the way that Jesus commands (**Matthew 7:13-14**).

It must be taught that we must do God's will. If we speak of one the other is just as important. This is what is taught in **James 2:14-26**. Faith without works is dead. Works without faith is dead. If we have one the other will proceed.

What about other commands? This speaking more toward Christians. As well as those who have a desire to obey the gospel. It needs to be taught that we must remain faithful until death. It is a failed practice that seems to be less taught today. Many who desire to obey are not warned about the need for faithful service to God and sadly because of this many fall away for several reasons. One lack of desire, two a belief of once saved always saved, or three not being told of the need for faithful service.

What about these other commands? Do I need to be faithful in my service to God? Yes! I am to love God with everything (**Mark 12:30**). I am to dedicate my life to Him. God must be my first love and it is a self desiring love by obeying His commands (**John 14:15**). I am to be faithful in my attendance (**Hebrews 10:24-26**). I am to be here with my brethren always. It is a time of edification, a time of encouragement, as well a time of worship and giving back to God. Again, many have come to the conclusion that this isn't necessary. If I have decided this then there are consequences that is knowing the danger of sin and it's consequence. Notice in following verses in **Hebrews 10:35-39** that I am to be faithful and endure "*the just shall live by faith*".

Do I need to love my neighbor and fellow Christians? Absolutely! Jesus taught in His second great command that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves (**Mark 12:31**). As well we see this love continued to be demonstrated toward our fellow brethren in **Romans 12:9-15**. We are to love those and help those in need. We are to share in their times of sorrows and rejoicing in their time of rejoicing.

This isn't Burger King and being able to have it our way. These commands are here for a purpose and our benefit in life. If we decide to pick and choose what we want there are consequences (**Revelation 22:18-19**). I have a responsibility to God, brethren, and myself. I need to keep these commands and keep them all! Are you or have you decided to have it your way without keeping all of God's commands and believe this is acceptable (**Proverbs 14:12**)? **Daniel N. Sanders**