

August 8, 2021

Announcements
Tommy Wade

Song Leader
Logan Yancey

Scripture Reading
Eli Carter

Opening Prayer
Mason McAlister (A.M.)
Jarvene Shackelford (P.M.)

Closing Prayer
Jodie Criswell (A.M.)
Reed Shackelford (P.M.)

Lord's Table
Rickey Loveless

Count and Usher
Ricky Cissom & Michiel Criswell

Wednesday Night Song Leader
Brice Lindley (08/04/21)

OUR RECORD

August 1, 2021

Sunday Bible Study: 90
Sunday Morning Worship: 118
Sunday Evening Worship: 98
Wednesday Night Bible Study: 79

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WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

1. **Hear** the Gospel (Romans 10:13-17).
2. **Believe** the Gospel (Acts 15:7; Mark 16:15, 16).
3. **Repent** of Sins (Acts 3:19).
4. **Confess** Faith in Christ (Acts 8:37).
5. **Be Baptized** for Remission of Sins (Acts 2:38).
6. **Be Faithful** (Revelation 2:10).



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THE CHAPMAN CHALLENGER

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Loveless, Chris Moore, Kevin Shackelford,
Wayne Vandygriff, Larry Wood
PREACHER: Mark Lindley

DOES GOD MEAN WHAT HE SAYS ABOUT NOT ADDING TO OR TAKING AWAY FROM THE WORD?

Mark Lindley

God means what He says. There is no idea of greater importance. In a time of political-correctness, postmodernism, and tolerance, all need to be reminded that God means what He says. He means what He says about all things, including what He says about adding to or taking away from the Word. What radical changes would take place in the religious world of our day if all would accept and abide by this principle! The following thoughts are presented to impress upon us the magnitude of this topic.

The first thought that needs to be considered is that God has spoken. "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son" (Heb.1:1-2). Please observe from this passage that God has "spoken." The apostle Paul informs us that God now speaks to us through the inspired writings of Scripture: "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord" (1 Cor.14:37). What Paul and other inspired writers wrote constitutes the "commandments of the Lord," not a mere man's opinion or philosophy. Since God created man, it makes good sense that God would want to communicate to His creation. He has done just that. He speaks to us through His written Word, the Bible.

Not only has God spoken, but He also has said precisely what He meant to say. The God of the Bible is all-wise and all-powerful. Surely, such a God could communicate His will to us in an efficient and clear manner. Due to human limitations in communication, we may have difficulty expressing, in words, the thoughts and ideas of our minds. Consequently, we often have to take back things we say or change what we say. Such is not the case with God. Consider the following statement about God: "And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent" (1 Sam.15:29). The word "repent" in this verse denotes the idea of being sorry or having regret. We often say things we regret—God does not. What He says, He means. Peter affirmed that the "word of the Lord endureth forever" (1 Pet.1:25).

In addition, God has said all that needs to be said; God has revealed in His written Word all that we need to know about being saved from sin, living the Christian life, and preparing for eternity. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim.3:16-17). This text indicates that we can be "perfect" (complete), and have a knowledge of "all good works" the Lord would have us do. Now, consider the question: How could an "incomplete" revelation make us "complete" and reveal "all" the good works we are to do? Such would not be possible. Paul's contention, therefore, is that the Scriptures are complete. The Scriptures are as God would have them to be. There is nothing that man could add or take away that would improve God's Word. In fact, any addition or subtraction would corrupt the Word.

Further, God has warned us about adding to or taking away from the Word. Israel was warned: "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you" (Deut.4:2). "What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it" (Deut.12:32). It is written in Proverbs 30:6: "Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar." John, the Lord's apostle, warned: "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book" (Rev.22:18-19).

Please take note that the one who adds to or takes away from God's Word will suffer serious consequences. Consider the following statement which also reveals the consequences of going beyond the Word: "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son" (2 John 9). The one who transgresses (goes beyond) the doctrine of Christ is without God. To be without God is to be without hope (Eph.2:12), and to be without hope is to be lost. Yes, tragic consequences follow when we add to or take away from the Word!

Surely, we can all see the need for doing only what God's Word authorizes, without addition or subtraction. If all would abide by this principle, denominationalism would cease to exist. There would be no one-man pastor system. There would never be another instrument played in the worship of the New Testament church. The unscriptural practice of infant baptism would come to an end. All creeds, manuals, disciplines, and catechisms would be laid aside. The frequency with which the Lord's Supper is observed would be determined by a "thus saith the Lord" rather than by denominational preference. In other words, all denominational names, doctrines, and practices would die because all of these things have been "added" by men.

In view of these thoughts, it should be our heart's desire to abide by the words of Colossians 3:17: "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

But the LORD said
unto Samuel, Look not
on his countenance,
or on the height of his
stature; because I
have refused him: for
the LORD seeth not as
man seeth; for man
looketh on the
outward appearance,
but the LORD looketh
on the heart.
1 Samuel 16:7

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REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Remember count your
blessings, pray for our lost
ones, the sick, the world and
the broken-hearted.

•**SICK:** Juan Stroupe, Doss Brewer

•**HOSPITAL:** Chris Simmons, David Crump

• **SURGERY RECOVERY:** Keith Newby

•**EXTENDED ILLNESS:** Junior Derrick,
Jane Morrison, Patti Hall, Johnny Cissom,
George Doss, Joanie Kate Reese, Louise
Pannell, Thad Berryman

•**CANCER:** April Pounders, Lori Duke, Billy
McBryde, Marie Brumley, Keith Hall, Hermie
Henry (Bonnie Hurt's Mother), Cohen Hurt,
Frank Elliott, Jimmy Smith, Betty Faye
Ledbury, Peggy Boggs, Marsha Jones, Nita
Trotter, Niani Colom-Omotesa

•**SHUT-INS:** *Tippah County Health &
Rehab:* Romia Palmer #204 *Resthaven:*
Oleta Phillips, Johnnie Carpenter

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