



“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:20

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THE BIBLE SPEAKS OF THINGS BEING “LAWFUL” AND “EXPEDIENT,” WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Garland M. Robinson

Paul said, “All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient...” (1 Corinthians 10:23).

When we speak of something being expedient, we are talking about something which “expedites” or helps us carry out a particular work we are trying to do. When God commands us to do a thing and then tells us **how** to do it, we have no option but to do it the **way** He said to do it (Colossians 3:17). The **how** becomes as binding as the obligation. However, in many cases, God did not specify “**exactly how**” a matter is to be carried out. In such cases, we are authorized to proceed in a way in accordance with our best judgment so long as we do not violate the general instructions of Scripture or specific modifications that might be stated. This is what we call the realm of human judgment, the realm of expediency.

However, for anything to be expedient, it must: 1) give advantage in doing what God would have us do, and 2) be authorized by God’s Word. For a thing to be expedient, it must first be lawful, i.e., authorized. A person may feel a particular thing would give advantage in carrying out God’s instructions, but if that thing is not authorized by the Bible, it is not an expedient. In other words, **there is no expediency where there is no obligation!** A song book is an expedient because of the obligation to **sing** (Ephesians 5:19). The Bible class is

an expedient because of the command to study (2 Timothy 2:15). A church building is an expedient because of the obligation to assemble (Hebrews 10:25).

How can we know when something is really expedient? When it helps us carry out a command God has given and does not violate any principle of Scripture.

Are all things lawful bound on us? No, all things lawful are not bound on us. The command to *sing* and *give* are commanded, they are lawful. We have no option in the matter. They are bound on us. However, an expedient (an optional matter), such as song books and collection plates, are lawful because they are authorized by the command to sing and give, but they are not bound on us because we can sing and give without them.

THE LAST DAY OF YOUR LIFE

Bobby Dockery

Knowing that the end was near, Joshua, the valiant soldier of God, used his last day of life to solemnly address the people of Israel. He began by saying, “Now behold, today I am going the way of all the earth...” (Joshua 23:14). He went on to remind the people of God’s goodness in the past and to warn them that unfaithfulness to God in the future would bring ruin (Joshua 23:15-16). He closed his farewell address by urging: “Now fear the Lord and serve Him with all faithfulness...” (Joshua 24:14).

How would you spend your time if you knew that this was your last day on earth??? It is a sobering thought! Consider the following:

1. **You Don’t Know When Your Last Day Will Come.** Few of us will be as certain of the arrival of our last day as Joshua was. We know that the day will come, but we do not know when. The future, at best, is uncertain. We have no guarantee of tomorrow. The Bible compares this life to a vapor which appears briefly and then vanishes (James 4:14). That is why it is so important that we make immediate preparation for the day when we will “go the way of all the earth...” (2 Corinthians 6:2).
2. **Your Last Day Will Probably Be a Day like Today.** It is likely that the last day you live will be much like this one. The things you are doing now are probably the things you will be doing then. The great songwriter and preacher, Will W. Slater, spent the last day of his life preaching and leading singing in a small south Arkansas town. One of the songs he sang was entitled: “This is Someone’s Last Day.” He commented on the appropriateness and truthfulness of that title. Later that night he collapsed. He died on the way to the hospital in an ambulance. It was a typical day of his life – a fitting

end to a life of faithful service to God. If today were to be your last day, would it be a day that you would willingly accept as being typical of your life...?...?

3. **How Have You Lived Today?** This is the real question! Have I used today for good or evil? Have I tried to help or hurt others? Have I sought to grow personally and spiritually, or have I been content to drift? Have I used the day to sow kindness or unkindness? Have I tried to live for God, or have I simply ignored Him? When I was in school, one of my Bible teachers taught me to pray: “Lord help me to live every day as though it were my last day.” That is the real secret to successful living!

If you could know that this was your last day, would you wish to make changes in your life? This day has been given to you for preparation and self-improvement. Use it wisely!

Ten Simple Steps to a Happier Life

- 1. Stop feeling sorry for yourself and start counting your blessings (Ephesians 1:3).
- 2. Do not worry about what everyone else is doing wrong. Just make sure **you** keep on doing what is right (Psalm 69:19).
- 3. Perform one totally selfless act each and every day. And do not tell anyone about it (Galatians 6:10).
- 4. Pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- 5. Let others be right once in a while and sometimes even let them be wrong without correcting them (as long as Bible Truth is not involved, Ephesians 4:31-32).
- 6. Take care of yourself. Eat right, exercise, and get plenty of sleep. Your body cannot function at its best (as God intends) if you will not let it (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).
- 7. Choose to be kind in all situations. There are only two choices: kind or unkind. Why not choose kindness? (Ephesians 4:32; Romans 12:21).
- 8. Treat your loved ones like there is no tomorrow. (There may not be, James 4:14).
- 9. Listen more than you talk. (You’ll be surprised at what you learn, James 1:19).
- 10. Take pleasure in the small things in life. (A good book, a jigsaw puzzle, a steaming cup of coffee, the sound of a child’s laughter, the glory of God’s creation all around us, Zechariah 4:10).

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Observations and Concerns

March 8, 2023

Welcome Visitors! We are delighted to have you as our guests.

“To God only wise, *be* glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.” (Romans 16:27).

Expression of Gratitude: Let us remember to give thanks to God this week for courteous and thankful people.

Roy Goddard from the Bible Institute of Missouri will be our guest speaker next Sunday morning.

Daylight Savings Time begins this Sunday. Remember to spring ahead (forward one hour).

Our monthly **potluck** has been moved to coincide with our lectureship. Please remember, there will not be a potluck this Sunday.

The annual Oologah lectureship this year is March 24-26 on the theme of “***Hold Fast...***” Flyers are available in the foyer.

Azalea Gospel Meeting is April 2–5, 2023 with Toney Smith on “The Christian Life.”

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ **Dicie Jackson** has a spot in her Thymus gland. She is scheduled to meet with a surgeon for consultation on March 13th.
- ▶ **Lisa Earl** is scheduled to have double hernia repair surgery on March 16th.
- ▶ **Dan Dennis** had a CT scan to check the spot on his lung. He should get the results soon.
- ▶ **Nelda Hudson** learned her heart is not pumping properly causing episodes of defibrillation.
- ▶ **Ed Dindy**, father of Tia Swearingen, has cancer and is waiting to begin radiation treatments.
- ▶ **Ed Clark**, who many of us know, fell recently, was injured, and taken to the ER.

Schedule of Services	Assignments			
		Wednesday, Mar. 08	Sunday, Mar. 12 AM	Sunday, Mar. 12 PM
	Announcements	Russ Earl	Paul Praschnik	Russ Earl
	Song Leader	Doyle Jackson	Ross Swearingen	Doyle Jackson
	Prayer	Chuck Northrop	Chuck Northrop	Chris Nelson
	Lord's Supper (speaker)		Doyle Jackson	Paul Praschnik
	Lord's Supper		Chris Nelson	
	Lesson	Paul Praschnik	Roy Goddard	Chuck Northrop
	Prayer / Door Attendant	Chris Nelson	Paul Praschnik	Ross Swearingen
Sundays				
Bible Classes. . . 9:30 AM				
Worship 10:30 AM				
Worship 5:00 PM				
Wednesdays				
Bible Classes. . . 7:00 PM				
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