

## “YOU SHALL NOT TURN ASIDE TO THE RIGHT HAND OR TO THE LEFT”

### INTRODUCTION

**A. Deuteronomy 5:32**

The commands of God are meant to be adhered to strictly. Any variation from His will is condemned.

**B. Deuteronomy 4:2; Revelation 22:18-19**

Tampering with God’s word in any way is wrong and will be punished.

**C. 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:16-17**

The scriptures are sufficient without alteration.

**D. Deuteronomy 27:17**

Just as it would be theft to relocate the boundary between you and your neighbor’s property, so it is sinful to change what God has established in His Word.

### I. THE WORD OF GOD MUST NOT BE DIMINISHED.

**A. Jeremiah 36:21-23**

Many are guilty of taking away from God’s word, not by cutting it up and burning it like king Jehoiakim, but by simply failing to fulfill all of the commands.

**B. Matthew 23:23**

It is presumed that because there are “*weightier matters of the law*” that the lesser things may go undone. However, Jesus said, “*these you ought to have done **without leaving the others undone***”.

**C. Matthew 22:36-40**

Again, it is presumed that because there is a “*first and great commandment*” (38) and a “*second like it*” (39) that other commands may go unheeded. Christ explained, though, that these two commandments are the greatest because they represent the categories into which all other commandments

may be classified (40). Thus, by obeying all of God's commands, the first and second are fulfilled.

**D. Psalm 119:160**

All of God's will is important, such that nothing should be disregarded.

**E. James 2:10**

God holds man accountable to His every precept.

**F. God does not tolerate disobedience.**

**1. Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-24**

Adam and Eve ate fruit that God had forbidden, so He expelled them from Paradise.

**2. Numbers 20:7-12**

Moses struck a rock he had been told to speak to, so He was prevented from entering the promised land.

**II. THE WORD OF GOD MUST NOT BE ENHANCED.**

One need not write additional books to include in the Bible to be guilty of adding to God's word. Just practicing more than He has authorized in religion is adding to His word.

**A. Proverbs 30:6**

No truth is found in adding to God's word. Thus, it is directly forbidden.

**B. Galatians 3:15**

This principle is true among men, so why not with God?

**C. 2<sup>nd</sup> John 9**

To go beyond the teaching of Christ is to be without God.

**D. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4:6**

We must learn "*not to think beyond what is written*".

**E. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:11**

We should have nothing to say if God has not already said it.

**F. God's silence must be respected.**

1. **2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 7:1-7**

God clearly indicated that David had no authority to act by asking him, *“Have I ever spoken a word to anyone... saying, ‘Why have you not built Me a house of cedar?’”*

2. **Hebrews 1:1-13**

Angels are prohibited by God’s silence (5, 13) from assuming prerogatives given only to God’s Son.

3. **Hebrews 8:4; 7:14**

God’s strictness applies even to His Son, who, *“if He were on earth, He would not be a priest”*. The reason He could not have filled that role during His earthly lifetime is that *“our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses **spoke nothing** concerning priesthood”*. When nothing is said in scripture, there is no authority to act.

G. **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:12; 10:23**

The fact that we must not add to God’s word should not be interpreted to mean that everything that is authorized is **specifically** authorized. Some things are authorized generically. Within the realm of what is *“lawful”* is that which is *“helpful”* or *“expedient”*.

## CONCLUSION

A. **Matthew 15:7-9**

Jesus plainly said that it is possible to worship in vain, that is: uselessly. God is not obligated to accept just anything that is offered to Him.

B. **Genesis 4:3-5**

The first recorded example of worship demonstrates that not all worship is acceptable, for God had no respect for Cain’s offering.

C. **Leviticus 10:1-3**

Nadab and Abihu, priests of God, were destroyed by Him when they presented unholy worship.

1. Is it appropriate to diverge from God's will to any degree (Deuteronomy 5:32)?
2. What are the consequences for tampering with God's word (Revelation 22:18-19)?
3. Are the Scriptures sufficient as they are (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:16-17)?
4. Is it acceptable to falsify the boundary with a neighbor's property (Deuteronomy 27:17)? Applying the same principle to the word of God, may we change what God has established?
5. Since there are "*weightier matters of the law*" may supposed lesser things be neglected with the Lord's approval (Matthew 23:23)?
6. What did Jesus mean when He said, "*On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets*" (Matthew 22:36-40)?
7. For what transgression were Adam and Eve expelled from the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-24)? Is there severity with God?
8. How was Moses penalized for hitting a rock God told Him to talk to (Numbers 20:7-12)? Is God strict?
9. What is someone who adds to God's word (Proverbs 30:6)?
10. May one party alter a contract that has already been signed (Galatians 3:15)? May any man alter the covenant God has already confirmed, then?
11. In what condition is the one who goes beyond Christ's doctrine (2<sup>nd</sup> John 9)?
12. Does the silence of the Almighty amount to license or restriction on the part of man (2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 7:1-7; Hebrews 1:1-13; Hebrews 8:4; 7:14)?
13. Can God be worshiped in vain (Matthew 15:7-9)?
14. In the first recorded instance of worship, how many of the worshippers were accepted and how many rejected (Genesis 4:3-5)?