



## Where's The List?

The other day I was having a conversation with someone who was, in essence, asking for a list of things that were right and wrong for Christians to do. His contention was that since we believe that we must be obedient to God and live a life that is holy and pure that therefore, we must have a detailed list of things that were right and wrong, so that we wouldn't make any mistakes and know precisely how to be obedient. Does the Christian need such a list in order to live right and be holy? Does obedience to God's word demand such a list of things?

The first thing that we ought to consider in this regard is that God has indeed communicated to us things that are right and wrong in the Bible. But the Bible isn't a right-and-wrong-list. The Bible records the history of God's dealings with man. Within that history God reveals to us how we can live in a way that is pleasing to Him by giving us various different methods of comprehending right and wrong besides a list. As God records his history with man we find attitudes and motives, emotions and desires, and actions and consequences. By dealing with the whole of man's situation instead of simply providing man a "laundry list," God teaches us how to know good and reject evil. God often does this through examples of people, both good and bad, who had a

relationship with God of one kind or the other. Through these examples, God exhorts us to follow the good (1 Corinthians 11:1) and shun the bad. The Bible's central character, Jesus, provides us an example of how to live a perfectly obedient life and we, as Christians, are expected to follow Jesus' example (2 Peter 2:21). In this way God gives us everything that we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3) and for the man of God to be completely furnished to every good work (2 Timothy 3:16, 17). We don't need a comprehensive right-and-wrong-list in order to be pleasing to God.



Now, having said that, the Bible does have some lists of things that are right and wrong. These lists are found in various places in the Bible. Jesus gives us a good start on what is right and wrong in the sermon on the mount in Matthew 5-7. Paul lists several things that are sinful in the first chapter of the book of Romans. He then lists several things that are good in Romans 12. Galatians 5 contains two lists, one good, the fruit of the spirit, and one bad, the works of the flesh.

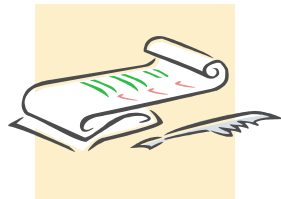
Peter sets forth the Christian graces (good things) in 2 Peter 1:5-7 and then he enumerates several evil things in 2 Peter 2. Here are at least a few places where lists of both good and bad things are present in the Bible. For us to not do the good things (otherwise known as the sin of omission, James 4:17) or for us to practice the bad things (committing sin, 1 John 3:4) is to be guilty of that which is wrong and when we so act (or fail to act, as the case may be) we disobey God.

In contrast, sometimes God simply states a principle upon which he expects us to discern the right from the wrong. For example, the Bible clearly teaches that God's people are to maintain self-control in their life (Titus 2:12, 1 Peter 1:13). If we understand what that means, then that excludes a lot of behavior that would be classified as not having self-control (such as doing drugs, gambling, and pornography, none of which are specifically forbidden in the Bible). The Bible also tells us that we need to have the attitude of humility (Matthew 18:4, James 4:10). If we have this attitude, then that attitude will exclude a lot of behavior that is arrogant and rude in nature (such as inappropriate gestures, language, or behavior). God uses principles to guide our behavior from a higher altitude than the "thou shalt not's" and we must re-

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### Where's The List? (cont.)

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spect those principles by understanding and adhering to them. Using principles, God doesn't have to spell everything out for us; He expects us to be spiritually mature and make appropriate judgments concerning what is right and wrong (Hebrews 5:13, 14).

Finally, our attitude itself has much to do with whether or not we are going to live obediently. This is why the first commandment has always been to love God with all of one's heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:37). When we love God we will desire to keep his commandments and those commandments will not be grievous (1 John 5:3). We won't see them as burdensome, but rather, as the response of a heart that loves God. The person who loves God doesn't need a right-and-wrong-list; he knows, through diligent study of God's word, how God wants us to live and his good atti-

tude ensures that he lives that way. No, God's requirement of our obedience doesn't require that we have a comprehensive right-and-wrong-list. It simply requires that we love God.

If we were to, on our own, develop a list of things that are right and wrong and then require adherence to such a list from Christians throughout the world, then that would, in essence, be contravening the purpose of God's word itself. Why? Because God gave us his word to fulfill this exact purpose, namely, to teach us right from wrong. As has been stated by others, there's only three possible conclusions regarding any religious documents external to the scripture upon which someone basis one's faith: it's either something more than God's word, in which case we don't need it because we're not to add to God's word; it's something less than God's word in which case we don't need it because

we're not to take away from God's word, or it's the same as God's word in which case we don't need it because we already have God's word. God's word is all that we need in order to know what is right and wrong (2 Peter 1:3). God's word is all that we need to be his people (2 Timothy 3:16,17). And as God's word, the Bible, "as is," is wholly sufficient to meet our needs to know right from wrong and to obey it.

Kevin Cauley

**"The Bible, "as is," is wholly sufficient to meet our needs to know right from wrong and to obey it."**

It is said that 20% of accidents occur in cars. 17% occur in the home. 14% happen to pedestrians. 16% to those who travel by train, boat or airplane. And 32% in hospitals! Did you know that only .002% of accidents occur in worship? Even less while studying the Bible! Be accident free! Attend worship and study your Bible! — While I'm certain that these statistics are "stacked," the point is well taken. Of all the things that we could do, serving God never hurts!

### Bible Studies for the week of March 20th, 2005



- AM Sermon..... Dangers of Denominationalism
- Scripture Reading.....Matthew 16:13-19
- PM Sermon.....Questions and Answers
- Scripture Reading..... NA
- Sunday Class ..... The Book of Hebrews
- Wednesday Class..... The Book of Job

### Kevin's Korner

This past week my parents came to visit. Both of them work in the school system in Austin and they were out of school for the week due to spring break. As I write these words, they are on their way home. It was enjoyable to have them for the short time that we did. I know the boys enjoyed them being here and Mary Lynn and I certainly appreciated their visit as well.

This past week on St. Patrick's day, Mary Lynn and I went to a community center volunteer luncheon. John also volunteers at the community center and so he was there too. We had some corn beef, potatoes, several good desserts, and several green things too. John even made some green punch and it was pretty good.

Next week is spring break for us and our children will be out of school. I believe this year Berryville and

Eureka are out the same week. It will be good for them to have a break from the regular routine. The boys have been wanting to camp in the back yard for some time now and this may just be the best opportunity we have to do that.

Speaking of Spring, isn't today the first day of it? That's at least what my calendar says. Old man Winter is more or less behind us now and warmer and longer days are ahead of us. The beginning of Spring marks the day that the Sun is directly over the equator, and the days and nights are equal in length, hence the origin of the word "equinox." From now on, the days will be longer than the nights, at least, until the Fall equinox arrives.

We have several activities for which we need to begin planning for the summer. Friends and Family day is going to kick us off. This year we're going to have it a bit earlier than normal.

Instead of having it in June, we're going to kick it back a couple of weeks and have it the weekend before memorial day. That will put it on Sunday, May 22nd. That means that as of today, Friends and Family Day is only two months away. Now is the time to start letting others know about this event! We had a great turn out last year and we are going to have a great one this year as well. We will have flyers available soon for this event. Stay tuned!

This past Friday night the cub scouts had an annual event that sure was fun. The lad and dad cake auction is a way for us to raise a little money for our cub scout pack. Austin, Charlie, and I each made a cake and we auctioned them off. Of course, everyone bought their own cakes. We decided to share them with you today at potluck, so please have some cake!



"Friends and Family Day is only two months away. Now is the time to start letting others know about this event!"

### Records for the week of March 13th, 2004

Sunday Bible Class .....	63
Sunday AM Worship.....	82
Sunday PM Worship.....	62
Wednesday Night Study.....	49
Contribution .....	\$1545.00
Budget.....	\$1662.00



# Praises, Prayers, and Proclamations

## Announcements

- We are thankful to God for this new Lord's Day. It is the day we honor His Son and the Love that He has shown us through Him. Let us worship in spirit and in truth!
- Please remember the following in prayer: Jessica Anderson, Darrell Atchley, Kathryn Davis, Debbie Duncan, Donna Henderson, Frank Smith, Pat Quigley.
- Don't forget our shut-ins: Curtis and Opal Hull and Edith Mischler.
- Our monthly potluck is this afternoon after our morning worship service. All are invited to come and have lunch with us, especially our visitors.
- Bill and Lucille Fort are traveling this week. Please pray for safe journeys on their behalf.
- Our weekly Bible study at the nursing home is this Thursday at 2:00. Our subject is Matthew 26.
- Next Sunday night is the monthly elders and deacons meeting. If you have any items to be discussed at that meeting, please see one of these men.
- House to House is in, so next Sunday evening, immediately after services, we will meet to label those mailings.
- Our pantry item is: Trash Bags.



## Welcome!

### Family Times for Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class: .....	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship: .....	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship: .....	6:00 PM
Ladies Bible Class: .....	10:30 AM
Wed. Evening Bible Class: .....	7:00 PM

## Serving Each Other

	March 20th, 2005	March 27th, 2005
<b>Sunday Morning</b>		
Songs:	Brent Stevens	Ken Smith
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Bruce Foster	Dan Hand
Scripture Reading:	Bob Moore	Ray Duncan
Lord's Table	George Eddings	Matt Bassing
	Rusty Windle	John Gass
(assist)	Jerry Roller	Ray Duncan
	Brandon Foster	Perry Foster
Closing Prayer	Glenn Williams	Rusty Windle
<b>Sunday Evening</b>		
Songs:	Bruce Foster	Rusty Windle
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dan Hand	Ken Smith
Scripture Reading:	Brent Moore	Bruce Foster
Lord's Table	John Gass	Dale Pinkley
	Ray Duncan	Brandon Foster
Closing Prayer	Dale Pinkley	Irvin Hand
<b>Wednesday</b>		
Songs:	Glenn Quigley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Leon Duncan	Glenn Williams
Invitation:	Bob Moore	Dan Hand
Closing Prayer:	Perry Foster	Bob Moore

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