

Do I Have To?

How often do we hear our children ask the question, “Do I have to?” Take a bath. Do I have to? Clean your room. Do I have to? Eat your vegetables. Do I have to? It is a common occurrence in our house and I’m sure it is in most households with children. They see these things that we ask of them as unpleasant, boring, or unnecessary and want to know if they are really required to do them or not. As parents, this is often frustrating because we want our children to come to understand that we know what is best for them and that we expect them to do what we ask of them. We view the question, “Do I have to?” as an attempt to avoid our instructions and maybe even to rebel against our authority.

What does any of this have to do with us and our Christian lives? I believe that it has a great deal to do with our relationship with God as His children. How often do we find ourselves asking the question, “Do I have to?” when it comes to our Christian lives? Do I have to be baptized? Do I have to attend worship services? Do I have to give a portion of my earnings to God? Do I have to live by God’s word concerning marriage? Over and over again, we take on the role of unruly children trying to buck God’s authority and avoid His guidance and commands.

But think about this – what does the question, “Do I have to?” say about our attitude toward God? Does it not send the message that we really don’t want to be obedient at least in that one area, but that if we absolutely must, we will, though grudgingly? Is that not exactly what our children are saying when they ask the question? How does it make us feel as parents and how must it make God feel? Yes, God desires our obedience but even more so, He desires our hearts. He wants us to obey because of our love and devotion, not because of obligation.

Could it be that the question, “Do I have to?” indicates a heart problem as it pertains to our relationship with God. Whether we intend it or not, could this attitude show a lack of commitment and submission toward God that endangers our relationship with Him? Consider this example: When it comes to attendance at services other than the Sunday morning worship, many people want to know: Is it required? Is it necessary? Do I have to? The differential between Sunday morning attendance and any other service is surely an indication of the scope of this situation. But what are we told about worship in the Bible? We are told that, as we gather together, we are in the presence of Christ (Matt. 18:20). We are told that God desires and commands heartfelt and truthful worship (John 4:24). We are told that, in our worship, we give praise and thanksgiving to God (Heb. 13:15). We are told that, as we gather together, we have the opportunity to encourage and exhort one another (Heb. 10:24-25). So, again, consider the questions rephrased: Is it required that I be in the presence of the Lord? Is it necessary that I give God the worship that He desires and commands? Do I have to give praise and thanksgiving to God?

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Chase Park Church of Christ

Ministers

Rusty Hills Pulpit
Nathan Adams..... Outreach
John Denney Education
Andrew Lamica..... Youth Minister

Elders

John Denney
Curtis Hill
Sam Kachelman
Dennis Lawson
Greg Parker
Barry Todd

Missionaries

Jaime Mendoza Chalco, Mexico
Liborio Encarnacion. Ecatepec, Mexico
Slava Savkovsky Ukraine
Barton Kizer..... Peru
Dewayne Tapscott..... Southwest

To Our Guests

We are so pleased and honored that you have chosen to visit with us today! Chase Park is a wonderful Christian family, devoted to serving God through our lives and work. We are excited to share our love for Christ with others and we are thankful to have the opportunity to meet you and to have you join us for worship.

As we worship together today, our desire is to worship God according to the New Testament pattern and in a way that is pleasing and acceptable to Him. It is also our prayer that our time together is uplifting to those who are here including you, our guest. If you have any questions about anything that you see or hear today, please ask us. We would love to speak with you about those things and help you in any way that we can.

Lamifications—*Andrew Lamica*

If you had a general idea of where some very valuable treasure might be, how much time would you spend looking for it? Treasure hunters sometimes spend years or even multiple decades tracking down an elusive treasure trove!

It is not uncommon for treasure hunts to take place in uncomfortable environments due to location and other factors. Even when the hunt is less than a pleasant experience, treasure hunters press on. Why? Because they know the value of what it is they are looking for. They realize if they are able to find the treasure they are seeking, it will change their lives and the lives of their family members for generations to come. So they press on.

It is amazing what lengths we are willing to go to when we see the value in what it is we are doing. If

we know that what we are searching for has untold value, we are willing to persist in any circumstances.

Did you know that the Bible describes the word of God as treasure? Treasure brings with it the idea of something worth being sought after. Consider what Proverbs 2:4-5 says about the word of God, *“if you seek it like silver and search for it as hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.”* The word of God is something to be sought after, something that we ought to pursue!

The treasure of the word of God could not be accessed any more easily that it is today. Most families have multiple copies of the printed word of God in their home and in a variety of translations. Additionally, there are free Bible apps we can

access easily on our smart phones and tablets. Has the fact that the words of Scripture can be accessed so easily allowed us to view it as common or ordinary? I sure hope not!

It is in the pages of the Bible that we learn about the love God has for us, the nature of God, what type of life He commands that we lead, and the precious gift of His Son. It is within the pages of the Bible that we learn about true wisdom and understanding. There has never been a literary work so beneficial to mankind as the one authored by God. May each of us diligently seek out what is easily accessible, the word of God!

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also,” Matthew 6:21.

Deep Faith In A Shallow World—*Nathan Adams*

Daniel and his three friends are some of the best examples of being faithful in very difficult circumstances. They show us how to deal with the world in a way that enables us to be truly faithful to God. In Daniel 1 (Read) they show us what to do when the world calls for us to compromise. We need to understand that not all compromise is wrong. Daniel and his friends compromised on many things that did not affect their faith. Yet, when the compromise required them to sacrifice principles of faith, they resisted. Let's examine four aspects of how they refused to compromise their faith.

First, they were reasonable. We must know the difference between wrongful compromise and allowable concession. Many disagreements have hurt congregations because members were unreasonable regarding allowable compromise. “I like it” or “I want it” should never come before the good of others or the church. Likewise, we must never fail to see that there are aspects of faith that we must never

compromise under any circumstances. It is important that we honestly and carefully discern between allowable concession and wrongful compromise as Daniel did.

Second, they were resolute. Daniel 1:8 states that Daniel “made up his mind,” which is from a Hebrew word for making a rope. Daniel took all the strands of his resolve and made them into an unbreakable rope of conviction. Too many people know in their heart that something is wrong but they never follow Daniel's example of making up their minds. They beat around the bush, hope the need for a decision will just go away, or try to somehow accommodate both through compromise. It is like the man who could not decide which side he wanted to be on in the Civil War. He decided to wear a gray coat and blue pants. He went out onto the battlefield and was shot from both directions. When we know what is right in the eyes of God, we need to “make up our minds” and be resolute in our stand for that right.

Third, they were respectful. Our culture needs to learn this. Daniel did not protest, vandalize, or go on a hunger strike because someone was trying to force him to do something against his will. Verse 8 tells us that he went and explained his situation to the commander over him. He showed a respectful attitude. Being right is never a license to disrespect others.

Fourth, they were resourceful. Daniel and his friends clearly spent some time deciding how they were going to approach the commander. We sometimes are reckless with the manner in which we address issues. Our best course of action is to spend some time in prayer and contemplation about how to resolve situations that will be best for us and for others involved. This will help us make a right determination about what we can or cannot do. Jesus warned us to be “wise as serpents and cautious as doves” (Matthew 10:16).

May we learn from Daniel how to faithfully deal with the world when it calls for us to compromise.

News Of Interest

Sick

Home

Don Cox, Jim Dalton and Glenn Carmack.

Sympathy

We express sympathy to **Kristy Cothren** in the death of her grandmother, Nellie Hollon.

We also express sympathy to **Cathy Peacock** and **Kay Sims** in the death of their father, Eugene Renfro.

Balance Class

Tue., Mar. 14; Thur., Mar. 16; 1:30 p.m.

Pantry Item

Sugar

Library Information

BIBLE 101, written by Mike Johnson, is a 13-week study designed for new Christians but is helpful for anyone who wants to be sure that they are worshiping properly. The book opens with the foundational study of biblical authority, including a discussion of the Old and New Testament. It also addresses the establishment, organization, mission, worship, involvement in the church and the role of women in worship and Bible teaching.

Today and Upcoming at Chase Park

Regency Retirement Service

Today: 1:30 p.m.

Speaker: **Barry Todd**

Song Leader: **Michael Sims**

Regency Retirement Village Singing

Thursday, March 16, 6:00 p.m.

Hospital Visitation

Team #2 (**Emerson**), please pick up your assignments following evening worship.

Super Seniors

Wednesday, March 15. Cooks will prepare lunch.

Thank You

“I want to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to my fellow members at Chase Park for your many cards and prayers during my recent hospital and Regency Rehab stays. I firmly believe those prayers guided the thoughts of the doctors and the specialists at Regency in providing the proper treatments for me. Yours in Christ.”

Jim Dalton



March 13—17

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When phrased in that way, I think that we would all agree that these questions are preposterous. What must it do to the heart of God when we ask these questions and make the conscious choice to neglect this important facet of our relationship with Him?

When it comes to our worship or any other aspect of our spiritual lives, our actions should never be based on the answer to the question, “Do I have to?” Rather, we should enthusiastically and joyfully look for opportunities to praise, serve, and glorify God in our lives and yearn for opportunities to grow closer to Him and to help others do the same. May God help us to constantly grow in our devotion to Him as we strive to submit to His will in all things.

Rusty



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Statistics

Sunday, March 5, 2017

AM Worship	384
Month Average	384
Bible Class	324
PM Worship	250
Wed., Mar. 8 Bible Classes	272
Regency Ret. Worship	39
Offering	\$21,882.59
Budget	\$18,000
Average '17	\$18,139
Over Budget for year	+\$1,394
Building Fund	\$226.00

Services

Sunday

Worship	9:00 a.m.
Bible Class	10:15 a.m.
Worship	5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Super Seniors	10:00 a.m.
Bible Class	6:30 p.m.

Web Site Home Bible Studies

<http://bible.us/e/Hdj>
(Lesson 1 Link)
The Bible—God's Holy Word