

Thank you...Sean Malone
Speaker for today

The Image of God



Welcome! New Member
Josahan Jaime
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CELEBRATE!!
Baptized into Christ!!
Amaya Guerrero

March Birthdays

19 Monserrat Isidoro 23 Lupita Isidoro
30 Regino Arellano

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Website:
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Preacher: Vacant

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*“Trust in the Lord with all
your heart and do not lean on
your own understanding.”*
Proverb 3:5

- *“Fight the good fight”*
- *“Keep the faith”*
- *“Finish the course”*

Details Matter

By John M. Buttrey II

In the busyness of life's mad rush to get everything done that needs to get done, and to get it done on time, there exists a temptation to skip key details. So tempted, many will look for the shortcut, the quick fix, the easy alternative. After all, who wants to get bogged down paying attention to little details that others may never notice? Why spend time reading the instructions? Who has time to consult the manual? One poet described it all very well in these sadly truthful words: This is the age of the half-read page. And the quick hash. And the mad dash. The bright night with the nerves tight. The plane hop with the brief stop. The lamp tan in a short span. The Big Shot in a good spot. And the brain strain and the heart pain. And the catnaps till the spring snaps—and the fun's done.

In our frantic rush and hurried efforts to quickly get things done, details are skipped, ignored, or completely overlooked. This can create serious problems. Apple founder Steve Jobs is quoted as saying, “Details matter. It's worth waiting to get it right.” Yes! Details really do matter! They matter in every area of our lives. Bible commentator, Charles Swindoll, put it like this: “The difference between something good and something great is attention to detail.”

Details are especially important in our service to God. This is seen all through the Bible. Abel's offering was acceptable to God because he paid attention to the details (cf. Hebrews 11:4). It would seem Cain didn't think details mattered all that much and decided to cut corners (cf. Genesis 4:3-5). When Noah was told to build the ark, God gave him very specific details. He was given detailed dimensions as to its size, details pertaining to the materials, and details such as one door and one window (cf. Genesis 6:14-16). Further details included specifics regarding the numbers of animals and their divisions (cf. Genesis 6:19-22; 7:1-5). For Noah, there were no shortcuts allowed. When God gave Moses the instructions for the tabernacle, once again, very specific details were given (Exodus 25-30). Moses was required to pay close attention to the details, both small and large, for this important project. God told him: *"According to all that I am going to show you, as the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furniture, just so you shall make it."* (Exodus 25:9 Emp. Mine).

We are all aware of the example of Nadab and Abihu and how they offered strange fire (Leviticus 10:1-3). Their example should burn in our brains that in our service to God, details matter. Someone might say, "Well, that was the Old Testament. Details are not so important in the New Testament because we are covered by grace." Yes, we enjoy the blessings of God's grace. However, this does not mean details in how we worship and serve God are of no importance!

Regarding our worship, Jesus said: *"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth"* (John 4:24 Emp. Mine). That we *"must worship in spirit and truth"* means we must pay close attention to the details of our worship. There are no short cuts or alternatives. Consider some of the important details we are given pertaining to our worship: *"Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord."* (Ephesians 5:19 Emp. Mine). *"For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until He comes. Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy*

manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord." (1 Corinthians 11:26-27 Emp. Mine).

But all things must be done **properly and in an orderly manner** (1 Corinthians 14:40 Emp. Mine). Each of these verses indicates the importance of paying attention to the details of our worship. In this same way, what we teach and believe in essential areas of our faith matters. Paul told Timothy to, *"command certain ones not to teach a different doctrine"* (1 Timothy 1:3). Paul rebuked the Galatians because they accepted *"a different gospel."* That such details very much mattered is seen in the apostle's strong condemnation of anyone who teaches another gospel. Paul said they were to "be accursed" (Galatians 1:6-9). When it comes to the gospel, there are no shortcuts or quick and easy alternatives. As Jude wrote, we are to *"contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered to the saints"* (Jude 3).

In the book of Acts, we have a scene where Paul encountered some disciples who had only been baptized in John's baptism. Because details matter even in regard to how and why one is baptized, we read that, even though they had been baptized, *"they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus"* (Acts 19:4-5).

One might ask, "What about grace? What role does it play in all this talk of careful adherence to details?" God's grace is essential to our salvation. Without it, we are lost! However, grace is not a license to intentionally ignore or even daringly change the specific details we have been given by God. Jesus said, *"He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much, and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much"* (Luke 16:10).

When it comes to our service and worship before God, let us always take the time necessary to carefully and thoughtfully read the instructions, constantly consulting the manual we call the Bible. We should do so because to God details matter. As such, they should matter to us. *"All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be equipped, having been thoroughly equipped for every good work,"* (2 Timothy 3:16-17)