

The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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ALL THINGS

Larry R. Ping II

The two-word phrase “all things” is located in the New Testament 171 times. Consider just a few of those with me in this brief article.

1) ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE. The Savior said, “*With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible*” (Matt. 19:26). In the context, Jesus was teaching even a rich man can go to Heaven, although it was said “*a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven*” (Matt. 19:23). When it comes down to it, getting to Heaven and overcoming any obstacles in the way of it is an issue of faith and trust in God. It stands to reason then the Holy Book of God says, “*without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him*” (Heb. 11:6). Whatever you desire spiritually today, it can be accomplished. Be as Paul and say, “*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me*” (Php. 4:13).

2) ALL THINGS ARE READY. In the parable of the wedding feast it is iterated, “*Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage*” (Matt. 22:4). This parable is about God’s invitation to live with Him for eternity. He has made all things ready for you to go! He has bestowed His grace and mercy (Psa. 103:8). John 3:16 reports, “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*” Additionally, God has furnished us with His Word, which is “*able to save your souls*” (Jam. 1:21). Knowing that God, Jesus, and the Spirit have finished their part in the salvation equation, it is up to us to fulfill our end. Man must be willing to hear the Gospel (Matt. 17:5; Rom. 10:17), believe it (Heb. 11:6; Jn. 8:24), repent of his sins (Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus as the Son of God (Matt. 10:32), be immersed

in the watery grave of baptism (Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12), and remain faithful to God and His Word (Rev. 2:10; Mk. 13:13). As we often sing, “All things are ready, come to the feast!” Have you come yet?

3) ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. In totality the Great Commission states, “*All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen*” (Matt. 28:18-20). Jesus made His expectations very clear in this declaration. All of His Word is to be kept! Nothing should be left undone. The same was expected of the Jews under the Law of Moses. Moses wrote, “*Ye shall observe to do therefore as the LORD your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left*” (Dte. 5:32).

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Not long after, Moses authored, *“What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it”* (Dte. 12:32). Saul tried to partially obey God in I Samuel 15, but was later told, *“Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams”* (I Sam. 15:22). May we know God expects full cooperation with His Word!

4) ALL THINGS COMMON. It is reported of the early Church, *“And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need”* (Acts 2:42-45). What a beautiful picture of God's Family, the greatest family of all! This is the family which

stands together, studies together, works together and prays together. This is the family which will *“Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep”* (Rom. 12:15). One is added to this wonderful family by God adding him through baptism (Acts 2:47). Are you a part yet?

5) ALL THINGS INDEED ARE PURE. In a chapter dealing only with matters of conscience and opinions, Paul wrote, *“For meat destroy not the work of God. All things indeed are pure; but it is evil for that man who eateth with offence”* (Rom. 14:20). Of course, in a broad sense, not all things are pure. But in the context of Romans 14, they are. This chapter expounds, *“He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks”* (Rom. 14:6). Be confident in your opinion, but be careful not to press it on others.

6) ALL THINGS WITHOUT MURMURINGS. In his letter to the church at Philippi, Paul ordered, *“Do all things without murmurings and disputings”* (Php. 2:14). This is a difficult command to obey, but obey it we must. God thinks very little of complaining and murmuring. He said through Moses, *“How long shall I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me”* (Num. 14:27). Paul penned, *“Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come”* (I Cor. 10:10-11). Adopt the attitude of Paul who said, *“I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need”* (Php. 4:13). Be content; don't murmur. Life will be better!

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm