

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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BIBLE OUGHTS

Larry R. Ping II

The word “ought” in the Bible conveys the idea of “something necessary or needful.” Not all things are necessary or needful. But some are. Notice with me some “Bible Oughts.”

1. OUGHT TO WORK. This was encased within the synagogue’s ruler’s response to Jesus. He said, “*There are six days in which men ought to work*” (Lk. 13:14). Some men do not work as they should. They are slothful and lazy, and such should not be so! Paul wrote, “*Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth*” (Eph. 4:28). The apostle cautioned, “*But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel*” (I Tim. 5:8). Be not afraid of work. Rather, be happy about it. Recall, the Psalmist said, “*For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee*” (Psa. 128:2). It is needful and necessary one should work. What are you doing?

2. OUGHT TO ALWAYS PRAY. Jesus spoke the parable of the persistent widow in order to teach “*that men ought always to pray, and not to faint*” (Lk. 18:1). We should always see prayer as something needful and necessary. Without it, our relationship with God will slowly wither and die. We should be as David who admitted, “*Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice*” (Psa. 55:17). We should mimic the habits of Daniel who “*kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God*” (Dan. 6:10). The New Testament urges its readers to be “*continuing instant in prayer*” (Rom. 12:12), to “*Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God*” (Php. 4:6) and to “*Pray without ceasing*” (I Thess. 5:17). How is your prayer life? Be sure it is great!

3. OUGHT TO WORSHIP. The famous Samaritan woman at the well

used this phrase (Jn. 4:20). John 4:24 identifies three worship requirements. “*They that worship him*” indicates God is the object of our worship. Worship must be “*in truth,*” that which is in accordance with the Bible. It also must be “*in spirit,*” meaning with the right attitude and excitement. Each first day of the week, Christians all around the world worship God through five channels. They sing (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16), they pray (Acts 12:12), they teach (Acts 2:42), they commune during the Lord’s Supper (Acts 20:7) and they give (I Cor. 16:1-2). We must recall, too, it is entirely possible to worship God in unacceptable ways. Jesus told the Pharisees, “*But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men*” (Matt. 15:9). It is needful and necessary to worship God, and to do so acceptably. How are you doing?

4. OUGHT TO WASH ONE ANOTHER’S FEET. In supplying a grand example to His apostles, Jesus said, “*If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another’s feet*” (Jn. 13:34). The act of

BIBLE OUGHTS *(continued)*

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washing others' feet was one of kindness, courtesy, and hospitality. The normal mode of transportation in the Bible was walking in open-toed shoes. Hence, after a long journey, a host would either wash his visitor's feet, or be sure to provide the necessary supplies for them to do so. It was a sign you were concerned for your guests. A "widow indeed" was worthy of support if "*she have washed the saints' feet*" (I Tim. 5:10). Abraham provided this necessity to his three guests (Gen. 18:4). We are to be "*given to hospitality*" (Rom. 12:13). We are to "*Use hospitality one to another without grudging*" (I Pet. 4:9). You most likely will not wash the feet of others. But be sure to show kindness, to be courteous, and to exhibit hospitality. It is needful and necessary.

5. OUGHT TO OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN.

This was the impressive response of Peter when he and the others were told, "*ye should not teach in this name*" (Acts 5:28-29). Our only aim in life is to obey and please God. If we have done such, it matters not what other men think or say. Paul remarked

to the church at Thessalonica, "*Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more*" (I Thess. 4:1). It must be noted here, though, the impossibility of pleasing man and God simultaneously. Paul warned the Galatians, "*For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ*" (Gal. 1:10).

When we come to the crossroads of choosing man or God, may we always select God. Always!

6. OUGHT TO SUPPORT THE WEAK.

In conversing with the Ephesian elders, Paul mentioned, "*I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive*" (Acts 20:35). Most every individual in his lifetime will be "weak" in some form. It might be physically, financially, or even spiritually. In such cases, those who are stronger need to be a support system for the weaker. Among

the many things Paul commanded the Thessalonians was to "*support the weak*" (I Thess. 5:14). The Holy Spirit ordered, "*Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted*" (Gal. 6:1). When strong, may we be of help to the weak. When weak, may we be receptive to the help coming from the strong.

7. OUGHT TO ANSWER EVERY MAN.

The apostle stated, "*Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man*" (Col. 4:6). There will be others who have questions about our faith. Some are genuinely interested, others simply have selfish motives. In any case, we must "*ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear*" (I Pet. 3:15). This will require us to "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*" (II Tim. 2:15). May we be ready to answer all men!

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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