

*Let your heart therefore be wholly true to the LORD our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments, as at this day.* **1Kings 8:61**

## Store In My Heart

### 2John 4

I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father.

Written by the Apostle John in the late part of the first century, this letter seems to be written to a christian lady regarding the practice of hospitality. John expresses his joy to find those who are practicing hospitality, especially toward those who are spreading the Gospel. His joy is tempered though with concern that they might encourage false teachers if they were not discerning in their actions.

This is certainly a practice that we should emulate. We should also heed this warning because we do not want to lend encouragement or assistance to those who are teaching false doctrine. Discernment is always to be a part of our work for the Lord. Let us give attention to the teaching of the Apostle.



# Blessed Are The Flexible

## Bobby Graham

A few days ago in Canada the following saying appeared on a church sign: "Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape." It is difficult to know always how far people intend for such sayings to be taken. If the saying was meant to convey the idea of flexibility in personal relationships, the saying is well taken. On the other hand, if it included the current idea of being open to new truth, then the religious humanism demonstrated in the saying must be rejected. According to Bible teaching, there is a time when tolerance is no virtue. Fairness demands that we admit that we do not know which of these ideas was intended; however, the two possibilities open the door for profitable study of the Scriptures.

### Some Flexibility Commendable

It is a poor attitude that inflexibly refuses to look not only upon one's own things, but also on the things of others. Such is the mind of Christ described in **Philippians 2:3-11**. Prejudice is that enemy of the soul which decides before hearing the situation or the facts and apart from a weighing of the matter on the scales of God's Word. The Bereans were commended by the Lord for their willingness to hear what was taught them and to search the Scriptures to ascertain its acceptability (**Acts 17:11**). James said that the wisdom coming down from the Lord is marked by a willingness to yield (**James 3:17**), but the Gentiles were said to be guilty of being implacable (unmerciful, unwilling to be agreeable) in **Romans 1:31**. The reason for such unconcern for others and the associated refusal to consider them is self-centeredness. Jesus said we are to love neighbor as self (**Matthew 22:33**). Surely we can see that we must remain flexible in relation to others and in relation to God's will for us, so that we might practice what He desires.

## Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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## For Our Information

David Laubach has been sick the last couple of days.

Brenda Keisler is to have nerve burning on her other hip.

Adelaide Laubach's grandfather, James Leshner's cancer has spread and has gone from stage 1 to 4. Different treatment options are being looked at.

Tonight we start in 1Kings 1:41.

Wednesday we will begin our study in 1Thessalonians 4:13

Pray for safety, courage & healing.



## Some Flexibility Not Good

The attitude that recognizes no certainties, no absolute truth, no finality in what the Lord has revealed is one of unbelief, for the Lord has assured us of these matters. One who wishes to remain aloof from the idea of absolute truth, maintaining a tentative approach to all things, does so because of the shaky ground that he occupies. On the other hand, the firmness desired by God is the result of the firm foundation erected by God in His sure Word. For one to be flexible in relation to the Bible is to manifest uncertainty about God's credibility. Three reasons explain why this kind of flexibility is not desirable.

**God's Word is not subject to change.** Because God has indicated the finality of Scriptures in passages like **2Timothy 3:16-17; Jude 3; Matthew 28:19-20**, we have no basis for expecting any additional word from the Lord. No latter-day revelations, dreams, vision, or gentle nudges are in store for anyone.

**Truth is narrow and unyielding.** Its nature demands this be said. Truth in any field—mathematical, geographical, or religious—does not change because of whim, official decree, or changing conditions. What Peter declared regarding the exalted position of Jesus the Son of God is yet true. Paul's affirmation of the one body (church) is still true. Nor has it stopped being true that obedience is the path to God's favor (**Matthew 7:21-23**). Regardless of man's changed view of these matters, God-given truth does not change.

**The pure gospel of Christ suffers no other gospel (Galatians 1:6-8).** Efforts to please men are responsible for all changes imposed by men. Not only is God not pleased by such attempts, but He declares His anathema (consignment to destruction) upon those doing so.

The Divine pattern is irreplaceable. Under whatever arrangement God has instituted in His dealing with human beings, He has always made it clear that His way is the only way. It is the role of God to show man the way, and it is the role of man to walk in that way. Passages earlier noted suffice for this point.

Flexibility is good in yielding to put others ahead of self and to practice God's will, but it is evil when it leads us to abandon the certainty of Biblical teaching and to look for something else. Are we flexible in those ways that we should be? Do we remain steadfast in belief and practice of the truth of the Lord? May we remember that the highly honored "god" of tolerance must also bow before the great God of the universe.

(We must conform to God's Will for He will not bend to ours. DLH)

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!