

I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.

Psalms 86:12

Store In My Heart Matthew 28:18

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

The first of the four books that tell the story of Jesus ends with this assurance and instruction to tell the world.

Though found first in our New Testaments, Matthew probably wrote his gospel about 20 or 30 years after the death of the Savior with a focus on showing his Jewish brethren that Jesus is the Messiah spoken of by the prophets of old. From the genealogy in the first chapter through this statement of authority at the close, Matthew speaks regularly of the conflict between Jesus and the Jewish leaders as he shows the fulfillment of prophecy in the life and ministry of Jesus.

We would do well to spend time considering these proofs for our own faith even today. Truly Jesus is Lord, and we must submit to His Word!



Enthusiastic Ideas: Expediency

Gary Henry

The "No man is justified in doing evil on the ground of expediency" (Theodore Roosevelt).

Expediency is an unusual word in that it's often used in two different senses, one negative and the other positive. In addition to their denotation, or explicit meaning, many words also have a connotation, a more indirect meaning consisting of a positive or negative "aura" or "atmosphere" that surrounds the words. "Expediency," has two basic meanings, but these two meanings have two different connotations. One is negative, and the other is positive.

The first meaning of "expedient" is "serving to promote one's interests," and this meaning does not give us a good feeling. This kind of expediency is the kind that we associate (whether rightly or wrongly) with politicians. Pontius Pilate, for example, apparently decided to go ahead and have Jesus of Nazareth executed because it was politically "expedient." But as Theodore Roosevelt argued, "No man is justified in doing evil on the ground of expediency." And with regard to this kind of expediency, William Morley Punshon summed it all up this way: "Cowardice asks, Is it safe? Expediency asks, Is it politic? Vanity asks, Is it popular? Conscience asks, Is it right?"

But the second meaning is "appropriate to a particular end or purpose," and this meaning not only has a positive connotation, but it contains an idea that's very valuable for us to think about. Used this way, the word "expedient" means that which is fitting, proper, beneficial, or helpful. And in this sense, we ought to consider the expediency of every action that we contemplate engaging in. Whatever the decision, the crucial question for an honorable person is not simply "Is this

permissible from a legal standpoint?" but more important, "Will this help? Will it do good? Is this the very best that I can do?"

Laws are important, and we can't do without them. But laws are no more than a minimum standard for us to go by; within the law, we must also be concerned with what is expedient. The fellow who is willing to do "anything the law allows" is not the fellow you want for a next-door neighbor. But our neighbor shouldn't have that kind of neighbor either! So we've always got to ask, "Is this beneficial?"

"All things are lawful,' but not all things are helpful. 'All things are lawful,' but not all things build up" (1Corinthians 10:23).

This article gives more focus to action than item, but I thought it was a good compliment to this morning's sermon. It helps us see the importance of expedience. We use them in most areas of our life and really don't think about them much of the time. Handles, windows, phones, and many other everyday items are expedient in particular situations. Many of these are the outgrowth of years of use and refinement for their task.

No matter the expedient, the question should always be, "Does it help without hurt?". No matter how helpful something may be, if it causes harm, it should be avoided. The same is true of such helps in our spiritual life. This is the point Paul makes in his letter to the Corinthians. In that realm we are dealing with the eternal fate of souls, thus we should be very careful in considering expedients that may be available. As our morning lesson emphasized, we first must please God and we must also consider the conscience of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Even lawful actions can lean a brother with a weak conscience astray.

Let us give close attention to the things we might use to 'help' our work in the Lord. Let us make certain that it is truly a help to our spiritual life. DLH

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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For Our Information

John LaValla had an upper respiratory infection last week.

Malcolm Rigsby is still wearing a heart monitor.

Jim Soliday is doing well in his recovery.

Sue Soliday continues to slowly improve.

Paul Simpson (Johathan's father) is in a regular room and doing about the same.

Gracie Simpson has a follow up with a cardiologist.

Sunday Evening – **Isaiah 7** Wednesday – **John 19**

Gospel Meeting announcements are available in the foyer

The
CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study