

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

November 28, 2017

Issue No. 326

Must

"It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light." – Aristotle

"Set a goal that today you must be better than yesterday." – unknown

"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new." – Socrates

"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving." – Albert Einstein

"You must do the thing you think you cannot do." – Eleanor Roosevelt

Isn't it ironic? So often we use the word *must* to signify that something is imperative, yet when it comes to the word of God, many fail to see it. It likely would shock many to know that the word *must* is used 186 times in Scripture.

For example, Jesus said, "Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again'" (John 3:7). Our Lord made it crystal clear that one cannot become a Christian without being born again, or born anew.

Note the imperative even in the matter of worship. "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24). If worship is only in spirit and not in truth, it is not valid. If worship is only in truth but lacks the spirit, it is not valid. Jesus connected spirit and truth. To worship otherwise, is to disobey our Lord.

Here is another imperative. "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Jesus is the only way that man can get to Heaven. The Lord told Thomas, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

When Saul of Tarsus was on the road to Damascus, the Bible says He asked Jesus, "Lord, what do You want me to do? Then the Lord said to him, 'Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do'" (Acts 9:6). The Philippian jailer asked the question, "What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30-34). So often all one hears is that the *must* is to simply believe, but if you read on in the latter text, you will learn that the jailer was taught God's Word (Acts 16:32), he was baptized (Acts 16:33), and then declared a believer (Acts 16:34).

The word *must* should not be taken lightly. Imperatives are not designed to be ignored. They are there for a reason!