

Intro.

- A. This past week, it has been interesting to see just how much detailed effort many will go to getting ready to be photographed. just right!
1. Photographer also works hard to fine adjust camera, lighting, & positioning of subjects, wanting details\
 2. Rena has been meticulous in checking roster details for the new directory.
- B. Last week someone expressed idea that God's not really concerned with details, but just general principles
1. Obviously, there are 1000's of applications to some Christian principles; each need not be spelled out. (ex. - Not necessary to say, "Don't beat your wife" (c. **Eph. 5:25**))
 2. Still, details are important. -> That's why we don't sing *O Why Not Tonight* for A.M. invitation song.
 3. The omission of details can create real problems & sever misunderstandings: [detailing an accident report for insur. co. - *I pulled away f/ side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law, & headed over the embankment.*]
 4. Let's consider God's regard for detail by looking at His revealed will.

Discuss.**I. IS THERE NOTHING MORE THAN GENERAL PRINCIPLES IN THE BIBLE ?**

- A. Many good, sincere religious folks believe that Christianity boils down to *few broad principles*.
1. The sum & substance of being acceptable to God = *trusting in a loving God, & being a good person*.
 2. Anything more that this is to be *old-fashioned & Pharisaical*.
- B. What many consider "**minor details**" include:
1. Lord's supper -- when, manner of partaking
 2. Baptism -- mode, subjects, & when salvation occurs
 3. Church -- organization, mission

II. GOD WAS INTERESTED IN DETAIL IN OLD TESTAMENT.

- A. Examples --
1. In **Lev. 1:2-9**, 17 details are given concerning sacrifice made to God.
 2. Look on in **10:1-2** to be reminded how significant details were for priests lighting incense in worship.
 3. David had forgotten how important details were in moving the Ark of Covenant, **2 Sam. 6:6**
- B. Some could be sitting here & thinking - *But since that's in O.T., it doesn't apply to us.*
1. True, we \geq under O. T. law, but the *principles* still have signif. appli. (**Rm. 15:4; He. 2:2; 10:28f**)
 2. One little girl said of God's action in O.T., *Well, that was before God became a Christian.*
 3. O. T. God dealt out justice; N. T. God deals out love !?!?!?
 4. Truth is, God has not changed!

III. GOD IS INTERESTED IN DETAILS UNDER THE N. T. LAW, TOO.

- A. Seen in the directions of **Mt. 18:15-17**
1. Lord doesn't say, *just be good to him, & love him*.
 2. Instructions = *Go to bro. Take 2 or 3 witnesses. Take it to church.....Withdraw yourselves.*
- B. We are all pretty familiar with process of selecting elders, **1 Tim. 3:1-7 & Tit. 1:6-9**
1. Paul did not say, *Look about the people & pick out good men*.
 2. He gives at least 17 detailed characteristics to search for or to exclude.
- B. Apollos was wrong on the details of his baptism, **Acts 18:24-26**
1. The fact that he was already *fervant in spirit, mighty in scriptures, & eloquent (& even been put under water in a form of "baptism"* did not make him right / acceptable, w/o appro. obedience.
 2. He was wrong in just 1 important detail, & it was necessary for him to be baptized again, correctly!

- Concl. A. Don't be careless enough to think, **God was once was exacting, but not any more. Ac. 17:30**
- B. Where God has been specific he will not compromise. He doesn't waste words. **2 Tim. 3:16**
- C. God's regard for details & our willingness to obey him boils down to a question of honoring Lordship.

Farmer Joe decided his injuries from the accident were serious enough to take the trucking company to court.

In court, the trucking company's fancy lawyer was questioning farmer Joe. "Didn't you say, at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine'", said the lawyer.

Farmer Joe responded, "Well I'll tell you what happened. I had just loaded my favorite mule Bessie into the....."

"I didn't ask for any details," the lawyer interrupted, "just answer the question. Did you not say, at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine!'"

Farmer Joe said, "Well I had just got Bessie into the trailer and I was driving down the road..."

The lawyer interrupted again and said, "Judge, I am trying to establish the fact that, at the scene of the accident, this man told the Highway Patrolman on the scene that he was just fine. Now several weeks after the accident he is trying to sue my client." I believe he is a fraud. Please tell him to simply answer the question."

By this time the Judge was fairly interested in Farmer Joe's answer and said to the lawyer, "I'd like to hear what he has to say about his favorite mule Bessie."

Joe thanked the Judge and proceeded, "Well as I was saying, I had just loaded Bessie, my favorite mule, into the trailer and was driving her down the highway when this huge semi-truck and trailer ran the stop sign and smacked my truck right in the side. I was thrown into one ditch and Bessie was thrown into the other. I was hurting real bad and didn't want to move. However, I could hear ole Bessie moaning and groaning. I knew she was in terrible shape just by her groans.

Shortly after the accident a Highway Patrolman came on the scene. He could hear Bessie moaning and groaning, so he went over to her. After he looked at her he took out his gun and shot her between the eyes.

Then the Patrolman came across the road with his gun in his hand and looked at me. He said, "Your mule was in such bad shape I had to shoot her. How are you feeling?"

There are times in our lives when we are hesitant to say something out of fear. Not fear of being "shot", but fear of being "shot down", fear of being ridiculed, fear of being embarrassed. As a result, given the opportunity to take a stand for Christ, we choose silence instead. It seems "safe" considering the circumstances.

May God help us to replace our fear of men with the fear of God.

"And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. 'And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.' But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear." (I Peter 3:13-15).

The following are actual statements found in insurance forms where car drivers attempted to summarize the details of an accident in the fewest words.

- 1. Coming home, I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have.**
- 2. I thought my window was down, but I found out it was up when I put my head through it.**
- 3. I collided with a stationary truck coming the other way.**
- 4. A pedestrian hit me and went under my car.**
- 5. The guy was all over the road, I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him.**
- 6. I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law, and headed over the embankment.**
- 7. I had been shopping for plants all day, and was on my way home. As I reached the intersection, a hedge sprang up obscuring my vision and I did not see the other car.**
- 8. I had been driving for forty years, when I fell asleep at the wheel and had an accident.**
- 9. As I approached the intersection, a sign suddenly appeared in a place where no sign had ever appeared before. I was unable to stop in time to avoid the accident.**
- 10. My car was legally parked as it backed into the other vehicle.**
- 11. An invisible car come out of nowhere, struck my car and vanished.**
- 12. The pedestrian had no idea which direction to run, so I ran over him.**
- 13. I saw a slow-moving, sad-faced old gentleman as he bounced off the hood of my car.**
- 14. An indirect cause of the accident was a little guy in a small car with a big mouth.**
- 15. The telephone pole was approaching. I was attempting to swerve out of its way when it struck my front end**

Excuses, excuses! We can come up with some "hum-dingers" in order to make it sound like it wasn't our fault. Making excuses is easy. Taking responsibility is much more difficult. But, in our relationship with God, it is essential.