

“Accentuate The Positive”

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Text: II Corinthians 1:19,20

Theme: To show that indeed our message is a very positive message after all.

Introduction:

1. Jesus Christ and his word are “Yea” - Positive, no doubts, no uncertainties.
2. There is an element of certainness that ought to pervade our teachings.
 - a. We should be very clear, distinct and positive.
 - b. But this is not to de-emphasize the negativism’s of the Bible.
 - c. But this (morning/evening) we wish to accentuate the positive.
3. Our people have long understood the principles associated with the positive statements in the Bible.
 - a. God is the creator and ruler of the universe.
 - b. This being true, he has the option of directing us at his will.
 - c. We can trust and rely on the wisdom of God.
 - d. God is loving and desirous of our well being.
4. Sometimes we might not see sense in a positive divine commandment, but we adhere anyway casting our care and trust on Jehovah God.
 - a. (Ill. II Kings 5 - Naaman the leper.
 - 1) Go dip in the Jordan River seven times - no negatives.
 - 2) He saw no sense.

- 3) We can as we look retrospectively.
 - b. We must rely on the wisdom of God.)
5. Both testaments are full of illustrations of positive divine commandments.

Discussion:

- I. The Old Testament.
 - A. God told Noah to build an ark - no negatives.
 1. He told Noah what to build - he did not say - "Do not build a tower."
 2. He told him of what to build it - he did not say - "Do not build it out of pine."
 3. Dimensions - one window, one door.
 4. Genesis⁸:22 - Noah understood the restrictions of positive law.
 - B. God set up a priesthood - Numbers³:6.
 1. Levites were chosen as the priestly tribe because they had stood on the Lord's side with Moses earlier.
 2. Once again - no negatives involved - not needed.
 3. Moses understood the restriction.
 4. Hebrews⁴:4; 7:14 - Christ could not have been priest.
 5. God did not say - "Levites only," or "No Rubenites" etc.
 - a. Not necessary.
 - b. The positive decree specifying which tribe automatically eliminated the others.
 - C. Sacrifices - Leviticus¹⁰:1,2.
 1. God specified what type of fire he wanted.
 2. The Lord had not commanded it - **strange fire** - accentuate the positive.

3. They died because of the strange fire.
 - a. Maybe they were presumptuous.
 - b. May have been afraid of being consumed by the fire of the altar.
 - c. Maybe they were intoxicated (v. 9).
- D. Sabbath day - Exodus 20:8.
 1. Some negatives expressed - do not work - v. 10.
 2. But God did not specify to keep every Sabbath.
 - a. But the man picking up sticks on the Sabbath indicates God's intention that every Sabbath day be observed.
 - b. Numbers 15.
 3. Nor did God say not to keep the third day holy - accentuate the positive

II. The New Testament.

- A. Lord's Supper - Matthew 26:26-29.
 1. Told what to eat and drink - accentuate the positive - no negatives.
 - a. Did not say "No hamburger and Coke."
 - b. Did not have to say these things.
 2. Regularity - Jesus didn't say how often.
 - a. Acts 2:42 - doesn't say.
 - b. Acts 20:7;
1 Corinthians 11:20
(1 Corinthians 16:1,2) -
Remember the regularity of the Sabbath.
- B. Baptism - Romans 6:3,4;
Colossians 2:12 - burial and resurrection (positive).
 1. But the Lord didn't say - "Thou shalt not sprinkle."
 2. Remember O.T. illustrations.

- a. God didn't tell Noah - "no pine."
 - b. "No Judaite."
 - c. "No strange fire."
- C. What kind of music does God want in worship of the N.T. church?
Ephesians 4:19; Colossians 3:16.
 - 1. No negatives.
 - 2. God did not have to say - "Do not use mechanical instruments of music in the worship" - positive decree - accentuate the positive.
 - 3. Nothing in the N.T. said negatively or positively on the use of them - it said nothing - cf. Hebrews 7:14.
 - 4. Objection – David.
 - a. But God instructed him also in other acts of worship.
 - b. God has always dictated positively his worship which eliminates the negative.
 - c. See II Chronicles 29:25.

Conclusion:

- 1. Respect the positive statements of the Bible.
- 2. The Lord has revealed the plan of salvation.
 - a. It is not negative.
 - b. Positive.

Invitation:

