

Does It Matter?

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In the world to-day there are many clear-minded business men who understand all about financial calculations. There are also many profound thinkers and logical reasoners who can systematically apply their analytic or synthetic methods of argument in guiding the minds of their fellow-men to desired conclusions. The world has also its mathematicians, men who can measure the heavens, calculate star distances, weigh suns and worlds, tell the hour and moment of eclipse and transit, and demonstrate the proximity of invisible bodies which are to be seen only through the telescope.

Yet again the world has its law doctors, men versed in jurisprudence, who can analyze evidence with the penetration of a Solomon, or the candor of a Blackstone. It has its legislators, who feel equal to the correction of all false or injurious laws, and the creation of all right demands for both social and political welfare.

It must be remembered, too, that the world has its religious leaders, by multiplied thousands, who hold or who profess to hold the Bible as the true guide in all matters relative to Christian life and duty.

Yet for all this, when the business men, the logicians, the scientists, the legislators, or the religious leaders come face to face with the requirements of God's law as found in the fourth commandment, every principle of enumeration, every law of logic, every rule of legal interpretation, and even the command of Jehovah Himself, is either forgotten or set aside, and we are quietly told that the "seventh day" of the fourth commandment "does not matter!"

True, that fourth commandment says distinctly, "The seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God." And a law, above all other things, must mean what it says. Yet the very men who appear logical and reasonable in the application of every principle in business life, will quietly tell us that this does not literally mean "the seventh day," but rather, one day in seven, but as to which one, it does not matter!

Men who would detect the slightest error or failure in the fulfillment of your agreement, and men who would feel insulted if you would even suppose them capable of dishonesty in business, constantly steal the Sabbath of Jehovah, apply the holy day to their own purposes, and then in justification of their wrong action state that it does not matter, for God is not so particular.

Even religious leaders who have preached and written in eloquent terms concerning the beauty and changeless character of the Divine Word, and especially of the marble enshrined dictates from Sinai, seem as though they feared not to cast the falsehood in Jehovah's face, as the}' proclaim first-day sacredness as of divine injunction. They may turn a little pale as they meet the situation-holding a Bible that speaks only of the seventh day as the Sabbath, God's own and only sacred day, while by precept and example they endeavor to establish the claims of the "solar holiday." Yes, even the men who appear jealous for the honor and verity of the God of heaven, will turn with the irresponsible multitude to say and teach that the Creator's sanctification of the seventh day does not matter!

Oh, what foul spirit is it that has to-day so shaded the dignity and veracity of God's Word, that even professed Christian teachers, with that Book in their hands, can stand before their fellow-men and declare, whether in obedience or disobedience, "It does not matter."

In all financial matters, in all scientific calculations, in all measurements among men, one means "one" and seven means "seven," yet men, with all their boasted reason and claim to commonsense, will look you up and down and say that when God says "seventh" He does not mean "seventh," but rather "first" instead. So hundreds and thousands to-day are trying to convince themselves that although God says "seventh," He in some way meant "first," and that after all it does not matter.

But does it matter? Is God such a variable Being that right and wrong do not count with Him? Is He so indefinite that His commands must take a secondary place, and that obedience and disobedience are both alike to Him?

Does it make no difference whether you first obey the King of heaven, or the kings of the earth? Whether you obey the God over all, or the power that has thought to make itself equal with God in changing times and laws? Whether we regard the will of Jehovah or the will of our fellow-men? Whether man yields obedience to the command of God, or to the dictates of his own selfish imagination?

Does it matter then? It did in the case of Adam, he disobeyed and died. It did with the young priests who offered "strange fire" before the Lord-the lightning stroke flashed out in quick destruction. It did also in the case of Uzzah--when unsanctified hands took hold of the sacred ark, the pronouncement of doom followed very swiftly. It surely does matter, for obedience is the way of life, while the way that seems right to a man-the way of disobedience-is the way of death.

Reader, which way are you choosing-the way of life or the way of death? Either you must take. "It does not matter" is the path to ruin, but in the way of life every dictate of Jehovah must be a holy thing.