

# UNTO THE END

Jul/Aug 2007  
Volume 2, Issue 4

“BUT HE THAT SHALL ENDURE UNTO THE END, THE SAME SHALL BE  
SAVED” (MTH. 24:13)

## The “Non- Essentials”

By Bro. Jim

Spend any amount of time listening to “Christian Radio” these days and you will undoubtedly hear the term “Non-Essentials” over and over again. There are many preachers today that like to make such statements as “We don’t really need to agree on the Non-Essentials” or “Let’s not fight over the Non-Essentials” etc. There are two questions we need to ask at this time: Are there really any Non-Essentials and secondly, if so, what are they? We will, by the grace of God answer these two questions in this edition of Unto the End. First things first; are there any Non-Essentials for Christians? Are there things we shouldn’t worry about or argue about? Are there things that do not affect our Christian walk, fellowship with other believers and ultimately, our salvation? The answer to this question is “yes”. This would naturally lead us into the next question, “What are the Non-Essentials”? Let’s start by looking at what they are NOT before we answer the question as to what they are. Lord willing we will obtain the grace of God on this subject upon completion of reading this article. May God give you eyes to see, ears to hear, and a heart to understand in Jesus name. Amen.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all

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**good works.” 2Tim. 3:16**

Let’s break this passage down into separate parts for the purposes of examination. The first message that is given in this scripture is that ALL scripture, including this one, (that’s everything contained in the Holy Bible) is given by God. The first question we have to ask is would God spend time giving us things, in writing, that really have no purpose and that He really doesn’t care about? You know, for the fun of it as they say. The clear answer to this is a resounding No! Only an idiot would do such a thing and God is no idiot. In fact, as we keep reading, this point is clearly made. The passage goes on to say that ALL scripture is given by God and is profitable. So EVERYTHING God gives us in His Word is for our profit. Further clarity is made as we learn that the Words of God are profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction of righteousness. The passage concludes with the big why- so that the man of God may be perfect. Yes, it says perfect. “Nobody is perfect” you yell in defiance. Wrong again. Let’s take a brief diversion from the topic at hand and look at the issue of perfection.

“There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.” Job 1:1.

“These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.” Gen. 6:9.

“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” Mth. 5:48.

“Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.” 2Cor. 13:11.

It is beyond the scope of this particular issue of Unto the End to get into the doctrine of perfection precept upon precept. Just know that Job and Noah were perfect; in addition, both Jesus and Paul commanded Christians to be perfect as well. Bringing this back to the issue at hand, the Words of God are given so that men and women of God can be perfect (of course, this happens when one hears/reads the Words of God and obeys them). So in this light, would God give us written instructions that are “non-essential”? The passage in 2 Timothy we looked at clearly states that ALL scripture is given by God so that we can be perfect. Clearly God didn’t give us any passages in the Bible “just for fun”. Rather God gives us instruction with the expectation that we will hear and obey;

“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” Lk. 6:46.

Again God gives us His Word with the expectation that we will do what He says. Looking at things in the Bible and calling them “Non-Essential” contradicts the above passage in Luke.

Continuing on, there are things for the Old Testament that do not apply today for sure. The Levitical priesthood has been done away with. We no longer need the blood of bulls and goats to cleanse us from our sins. How do I know? The New Testament clearly states that salvation is now in the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Along with this, the tithe has been done away with. Yes! The tithe was for the priest under the Levitical Priesthood. The New Testament Church contains no priest at this time. There are Prophets, Pastors, Teachers, Evangelists, etc. but no Priests. God expects you to give 100% now, not a measly ten percent. We will open this particular issue up in another issue of Unto the End by the grace of God, Amen. So yes, there are things that do not apply today in the New Testament Church but they would not fit under the banner of “Non-Essential” but rather “Done away with”. Amen.

All scripture is given to men and women of God and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness so that men and women of God can be perfect. Why? Because only the perfect will make it into heaven. Jesus said this in the following passage:

“And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.” Mth. 5:29.

“And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life.” Rev. 22:21.

Jesus Christ said, to Christians, that if thy eye offends, pluck it out, it’s better to go to heaven maimed than hell whole. He is preaching perfection right here. This is supported by the fact that according to the passage in Revelation 22:27, nothing that defileth or offends will make it into heaven. That’s why we are admonished to be holy, for without holiness no man shall see God (Heb. 12:14). Now we see even more the importance of reading and obeying the Word of God for, as we have seen time and again so far, it is given for our profit that we may be perfect. Why? Because only the perfect will be allowed into heaven. That’s what Jesus said in His warning to the church in Sardis:

“Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.” Rev. 3:2.

And again...

“Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.” Rev. 3:4.

So we have seen that the “Non-Essentials” are NOT things contained in God’s Word. I did say at the beginning that there are “Non-Essentials” that do not affect salvation and we, as the body of Christ should not argue or worry about these things. Let me list some examples of what I’m talking about here.

1. I like green beans and my brother in Christ does not. This is “non-essential”.
2. I like to wear the color red and my brother likes to wear the color blue. This is “non-essential”.
3. I enjoy playing the piano and my brother would rather play the guitar. This is “non-essential”.

Get the picture? Notice none of these items are contained in Scripture as in, there are no passages that say it is sin to eat green beans or not; there are no scriptures that say it’s wrong or right to wear the color red, etc. So yes, there are “Non-Essentials” for Christians. Amen.

Let's now get down to the heart of the matter. The "church world" has basically drawn a line at the blood of Jesus and calls everything contained in the Bible on the other side of that line "Non-Essential". I've heard countless preachers say, "As long as we agree on the blood of Jesus and salvation through the blood alone, then everything else doesn't matter.....it's 'Non-Essential.'" Dear brother and sister, THIS IS A LIE!! If the Bible speaks about it, it's important. For example, the Bible says NOT WITH gold, jewels, or costly array concerning the sisters and the wearing of jewelry. Sisters in the Lord are NOT TO WEAR Jewelry (1Tim. 2:9-13). But the liars in the pulpits say, "That's Non-Essential". But God SAID it's important, thus He inspired Paul to write it to the church for our correction, and reproof so we may be perfect (provided we obey the command). The "Church world" says that it doesn't matter what day you rest on; or that Sunday is Sabbath for the Church. But God said to rest on the SEVENTH day. Why? Because it's important to God. It is essential. The "Church world" goes to the beach and runs around naked, yet God has spoken about covering your body. It's ESSENTIAL. Anything God says to do in His Word is ESSENTIAL! If you are sitting in a dead to the neck up "church" where the pastor is telling you that as long as you believe in the blood, everything else is "Non-Essential" YOU are being lied to and will lead to you being disobedient to the Word of God. This results in defiling our garments, and as we have seen, nothing defiled will enter into New Jerusalem. God has given us His Word for ONE reason: to obey it so that we may be perfect in His sight and acceptable. Think ye that Paul wrote in vain,

**"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men;..."** 2 Cor. 5:8-11 emphasis mine.

So in wrapping up, we have seen that there are indeed "Non-Essentials" for Christians but these "Non-Essentials" are not things contained in the Holy Bible. "Non-Essentials" are things like foods we eat, color of clothes we wear, etc. If something is contained in the Word of God it is Essential. It's essential because God felt it important enough to tell us about it. The things contained in God's Word are put there by God for our correction, admonition, and instruction in righteousness so that we may be perfect. Why? Because God isn't going to allow sin into heaven. Please consider the things you've read here today. I pray you will view the things contained in the Word of God as essential to your salvation and understand that only through dying to self and being obedient to the command of God we can be saved. Amen and Amen.

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