

## Undone - cont.

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Parents do this when they provide for their child's physical needs and education, but neglect their spiritual needs (Genesis 18:19; Proverbs 22:16; Ephesians 6:4; 2 Timothy 3:15).

Spouses do this when they provide for their mate's physical needs, but neglect their roles, and their emotional and spiritual needs (Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians 3:18-19; 1 Peter 3:1-7).

Religious people do this when they preach faith and confession, but neglect baptism (Mark 16:15-16; 1 Peter 3:21) and when they preach Christ and the cross, but neglect the church (Acts 20:28; Ephesians 1:22; 5:27).

### **We Must Do All That God Commands**

Brethren, balance must be maintained. Let's not go through the New Testament picking and choosing what we will do and what we will leave undone, if God intends for all Christians of all times to do it (Matthew 28:20). Sins of omission are just as damning as sins of commission (James 4:17)!

- Chris Reeves -

## - Word of the Week -

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"Liberty" (Gr. ἐλευθερία) refers to the freedom that a Christian has in Christ. As Americans celebrate their 250th anniversary of freedom this year, let us as Christians always celebrate the liberty and freedom we have in Christ (2 Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 2:4; 5:1, 13; James 1:25; 2:12; 1 Peter 2:16). We have freedom from the Old Law, freedom from human traditions, and freedom from sin. Jesus paid the price for our freedom on the cross (freedom is never free) and we owe him a deep debt of gratitude for it.

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# THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

# Not Left the Other Undone

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*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye tithe mint and anise and cummin, and have left undone the weightier matters of the law, justice, and mercy, and faith: but these ye ought to have done, and not to have left the other undone. Ye blind guides, that strain out the gnat, and swallow the camel!*  
- Matthew 23:23-24 -

In Matthew 23 and Luke 11, Jesus rebuked the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. Many times they would say one thing and do something different on the same matter. One area of their life where they were hypocritical had to do with their emphasis and priorities.

The Pharisees often focused on the “light” or “small” things (gnat), but ignored the “heavy” or “big” things (camel). They would engage in tithing but ignore other things in the Law of Moses. Tithing (giving a tenth) of herbs and spices was commanded (Leviticus 27:30, 34), but, so was justice, mercy, and faith (Hosea 2:19-20; 6:6; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 7:9-10).

Jesus charged the Pharisees with neglecting the “weightier matters of the law”. So, what are “weightier matters” and how can we apply this same lesson to us today?

Are the “weightier matters”, the “more important” (NIV) matters of the law? No. For example, some today claim that grace and faith are more important than baptism for immersion, a cappella singing, church organization, etc. Sometimes we in the Lord’s church are accused of “majoring in minors” and that we fight for “nonessential salvation issues”. But, this is not true.

What then are “weightier matters”? “Weightier matters” are matters that are fundamental to all people; matters that involve one’s relationship to our fellow-man and to God. Tithing was limited in scope (the Jews), in application (given to the Levites), and in duration (the Old Law). Justice, mercy and faith, on the other hand, are fundamental to all people of all time.

## **Not Left the Other Undone**

Jesus said that the Pharisees should have tithed, but also “not left the other undone”. They should not have neglected justice, mercy, and faith. Can this be done today? Can people today leave undone what God wants done? Yes. Let’s see how.

Preachers do this when they preach all positive lessons, but neglect the controversial and militant topics, or vice-versa (Acts 10:33; 20:20, 27; 2 Timothy 4:2-4).

Elders do this when they watch over the church finances and building, but neglect the souls of the members (1 Timothy 3:5; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1-3).

Church members do this when they come for the Lord’s Supper, but neglect the other acts of worship (Matthew 26:26-30; Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11-14).

Church members do this when they excel at the acts of worship and the work and organization of the church, but neglect such things as gratitude (Luke 17:17-18), selflessness (Philippians 2:3-4), hospitality (1 Peter 4:9), and humility (Proverbs 27:1-2).

Bible class teachers and parents do this when they encourage young people to learn Bible facts, but neglect godly daily living and personal application (Matthew 19:16-22; Luke 10:25-28, 37; James 1:22-25).

Local churches do this when they promote edification (pulpit sermons, Bible classes), but neglect benevolence, evangelism (reaching the lost, personal work), or discipline (Acts 11:26; 11:29; 13:1-3; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13).

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