

NOT AFTER THE DUE ORDER
(1 Chronicles 15:12-15)

I. There is a right way to do the Lord's will.

- A. In this case there was a right way to carry the ark.
 - 1. Exodus 25:14 tells that it was to be carried.
 - 2. Numbers 4:15 tells that it was to be carried by the sons of Kohath.
 - 3. It also says that even they were not allowed to touch it.
- B. God had laid out how He wanted the ark transported and that was the only way it was to be done.
- C. Today, God has said He is to be worshiped in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).
 - 1. We are to worship with the right attitude of heart in the right manner.
 - 2. God has never told us to do something without also telling us how to do it.
- D. The New Testament reveals what the right manner is.
 - 1. The early church approached God in five avenues of worship:
 - a. They sang (Ephesians 5:19; Hebrews 13:15).
 - b. They prayed (Acts 21:5).
 - c. They gave (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
 - d. They preached (Acts 20:7).
 - e. They partook of the Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7).
 - 2. These are the only avenues of worship that are found in the New Testament.
 - 3. To attempt to worship God in any other way is not seek God after the due order.

II. We must do right and not what seems right.

- A. I am sure that it seemed right to David to place the ark on a new cart.
 - 1. He was seeking to give to show reverence by transporting it on something new.
 - 2. He knew that God's ark deserved the very best.
- B. I am sure that it seemed right to Uzza to touch the ark to keep it from falling.
 - 1. He did not want God's ark to be damaged.
 - 2. In his mind, he was caring for the ark of God.
- C. However, just because something may seem right or "feel" right does not make it right.
 - 1. It seemed right to the one talent man to bury his talent.
 - 2. It seemed right to Ananias and Sapphira to lie.
 - 3. It seemed right to Peter to not eat with the Gentiles once those from Jerusalem showed up.
- D. Today, it seems right to people to add instrument to worship.
 - 1. They want to make the music sound better.
 - 2. They want to offer what is best to the Lord.
- E. God requires us to do what is right according to Him and not to us.

1. We might think drama skits are right, but there is no authority for it.
 2. We might think building a gym and starting an exercise program to bring people to Christ is right, but there is no authority for that.
 3. Colossians 3:17.
- F. We need to better understand the law of exclusion.
1. This law simply states that whatever is left out by God when He has given a command is to be excluded.
 2. For the Lord's Supper, Jesus gave unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine.
 - a. This excludes all else.
 - b. No hot dogs and coke.
 3. God said sing.
 - a. This excludes all else.
 - b. No humming, clapping or instruments.
 4. God said preach.
 - a. This excludes all else.
 - b. No Mimes for Jesus, clowning for Christ, no drama skits or passion plays.
 5. These other things may seem right but they are not authorized.

III. **Ignorance is no excuse.**

- A. Remember the question David asked (1 Chronicles 13:12)?
- B. It seems that David was ignorant of God's commands concerning transportation of the ark.
- C. God still punished the sin that took place.
- D. Someone may say, "I never knew" on the day judgment.
- E. That is not a valid reason for breaking God's law.
 1. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8.
 2. Those that don't know God will be punished as well.

IV. **Tragedy results when we go our own way.**

- A. Uzza died because David wanted things done his way.
- B. Proverbs 16:25.
- C. When you and I add to or take from what God has commanded we sin (Revelation 22:18-19).
- D. Sin is born from our own lusts and our sin brings forth death (James 1:14-15).
 1. The death mentioned is spiritual.
 2. Sometimes it may be physical as well as spiritual.
- E. What a tragedy it would be to lose our souls going about things the way we want to when God has laid out the right way for us.

V. **God blesses us when we do things His way.**

- A. Notice 1 Chronicles 15:26.
 1. When the Levites did what was right God helped them.
 2. How He helped them, I don't fully understand and none of the commentaries enlightened me on this.
 3. But however it was, God blessed them for doing things His way.
- B. When we do things God's way, He blesses us with spiritual blessings

(Ephesians 1:3).

- C. When we live faithfully for Him, meaning carrying out His will in His way, we will receive the crown of life (2 Timothy 4:8).