

Expedients

An expedient, as it will be used here, is defined as “a matter of choosing the best way to fulfill what God has commanded within the limits and context of His authority.” In other words, an expedient is an aid in helping us to fulfill an obligation bound upon us in God’s word.

Expedients are those things by which we must determine how best to carry out a command or otherwise authorized action in the most feasible way possible.

Let me illustrate. If I were given the general command “go” I have an obligation to do so. However, if not given specific instructions, I must seek an authorized “way” to go.” I can go by car, by foot, on a bicycle, by plane, by boat, or any number of other methods of travel. The “best” way to do so for me would be the most “expedient.”

We have numerous general commands provided for us in the Scriptures. One we will examine here will be “to assemble.” We are authorized and have the obligation to meet each first day of the week. However, we are not told anywhere in the NT where we are to do so. The early church met in various places. We choose to worship in a building. We can build it, rent it, buy it or meet in some open air facility. That which is the most expedient for a given congregation is for them to decide.

We must make sure, however, that we do not confuse an expedient with an addition. An expedient helps us carry out a command or perform an obligation. An addition adds to an action that is authorized. For example, a piano is NOT an expedient to be used in meeting our obligation to sing. An instrument is played, not sung.

May we be those are cautious in our approach to such matters. May we diligently seek to be pleasing to him in realizing that there are areas in which we are granted some room to expediently fulfill His will. May it be His will that is done rather than ours.

Sunday A.M. – Authority and Permission (2)

1. Inference

- A. Definition
- B. Met with mixed emotions
- C. Legitimate means of obtaining truth (2 Chron. 7:12)
- D. Application (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 1 Cor. 16:1-2)

2. Expedience

- A. Definition
- B. Examples (Heb. 10:24-25; Matt. 28:19-20; Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19)

P.M. Lesson: Luke (2)