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THE SURE WORD By Jonnie Hutchison

WHICH ONE MAY I DISREGARD?

Is There any command given by God in the New Testament that is not a part of His plan to save man from the eternal consequences of sin? Faith or belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God is a command of God. "**Believe** on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved..." (Acts 16:31). Is faith in Jesus necessary to salvation? May one disregard this command and still be saved? Jesus answers, "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if **you do not believe** that I am He, you will die in your sins." (John 8:24).

Repentance is a command of God. "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now **commands** all men everywhere to **repent**" (Acts 17:30). May one disregard the command of God to repent and still be saved? Jesus answers, "I tell you, no; but **unless you repent** you will all likewise **perish**" (Luke 13:3).

Confession of faith in Christ is a command of God. Romans 10:9-10 reads, "that if **you confess** with your mouth **the Lord Jesus** and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth **confession** is made **unto salvation.**" May one disregard this command of God and still be saved? Jesus answers, "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever **denies Me** before men, him I will **also deny before My Father** who is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32-33).

Water baptism is a command of God. "Can anyone forbid **water**, that these should not be **baptized** who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have? And he **commanded** them to **be baptized** in the name of the Lord" (Acts 10:47-48). In Acts 2:38 the command was given to sinners, "Repent, and let every one of you be **baptized** in the name of Jesus **Christ for the remission of sins**; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." May one disregard this command of God to be immersed in water for the remission of sins and still be saved? Many would answer yes. But Jesus answers, "he who **believes and is baptized will be saved**; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16).

Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14:15). Which of the commands of God above may one disregard and still truthfully claim to love Jesus? May God help each of us to love Him with all of our heart and humbly submit to His every command.