

Not What It Really Means

By Nancy Hughes

“Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the Lord your God that I give you.” Deuteronomy 4:2 (NIV)

The road sign said “curve – 45 mph” but as a sixteen year old driver, I knew what it really meant. After all, my seventeen year old classmate had told me herself. And she had been driving a year longer than I so she was obviously much wiser.

“They just put those numbers on the signs but it’s not what they really mean,” she told me. “They know everyone will drive faster than that. So when you see 45 mph, it REALLY means you can drive 50 or even 55,” she informed me. And I believed her logic and wisdom . . . until I tried it two weeks later.

“Curve 45 mph means 50,” I mentally reminded myself, and decided that I could go around the curve at 50 mph – well within the “they know everyone will drive faster” logic. That flawed reasoning almost caused me to end up in the ditch.

As I turned into the curve, I realized I didn’t have good control at the higher speed and I ran off the left side of the road, over-corrected to the right and threw gravel from the edge of the road out into a field as I managed to slow my speed to – you guessed it – 45 mph.

Thankfully there were no cars coming from the other direction. My friend’s “it’s not what they really mean” advice – and my willingness to believe it – could have ended tragically.

Not believing what the signs in front of us say can get us into so much trouble when we apply it to God’s Word. Sadly for us, we tend to read what He says and then put our own interpretation on it, to fit whatever situation we are in. No?

In Proverbs 16:28 we are warned not to stir up dissension because “a gossip separates close friends” but we justify our conversations with “this isn’t really gossip – just a comment I overheard” as we change God’s meaning of gossip to fit OUR logic. The result? Friends and friendships are torn apart.

We are commanded in Exodus 20:14 not to commit adultery. But the human logic of “I’m not happy anymore, I don’t love him/her like I did, God wants me happy, doesn’t He?” replaces the Word and we put our own spin on God’s commandment for us. And marriages and families are broken in two.

Jesus states very clearly in Matthew 22:39 that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves but we rationalize “surely He doesn’t mean MY neighbor! Their dogs run everywhere, they never mow their lawn right, their kids are too loud” and we ignore the very people that we should be loving as Christ loves us. A possible friendship is replaced by harsh feelings and an unchristian attitude.

My encouragement to you today is to follow Deuteronomy 4:2 in every area of your life. Take Jesus at His Word. Do not add or take away from what He says. He knows what is best for His children. And He truly means what He says.



LIGHTHOUSE

Reach Restore Refine

PO Box 252
500 Rocketdyne Road
Neosho, MO 64850
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March 17, 2019

We welcome you to all our services!

Sunday:	10:00 AM	Sunday School
	11:00 AM	Morning Worship
	6:00 PM	Evening Worship
Wednesday:	6:30 PM	Snacks & Devotion

Announcements

We are still accepting donations to help Sandy Thrasher get on the transplant list. If you are willing to help, please designate your donation on a tithe envelope or memo line of your check. Please place your donation in offering plate or give it to Kevin Tomlin.

Cathy Mosby and Kasey Wiley are coordinating our home visitations & prayer requests. You may contact Cathy (417-456-5025) or Kasey (417-389-9190).

Tonight: Pass the word and invite your friends to come participate in a Nintendo Switch competition tonight, from 6-7pm. Everyone is invited to come and fellowship, and donuts & coffee will be provided.

March 31: This months Special Offering will go to the Don & Myrna Marble Memorial Scholarship.

April 5: The FGCI Missouri Fine Arts Festival will be held on April 5. Entries for the competition are due March 31. Volunteer judges are needed, if interested please call 417-321-0037. More information is on the bulletin board at the back of the church.

April 7: Church ladies are invited to a bridal shower for Chelsey Henry on Sunday, April 7, 2-4pm at the Weston Place on the Neosho square.

Don't forget to discuss Sunday School & Kids Church with your children!

**Pastor Don & Myrna Marble
Memorial Scholarship
2019/2020**

We are currently accepting applications for the 2019/2020 Academic Year.

If you are interested in applying, the application is available on the table at the back of the church.

Deadline to submit your application is Friday, April 26, 2019.

SORRY
RESTROOM
OUT OF ORDER

While our restrooms are being re-modeled, there will be times that they are not available for use. We have restrooms in the basement and there is a single restroom in the hallway at the front of the sanctuary. We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your patience.

Lets Switch It Up
Join Us for a
Nintendo Switch Tournament
Where: Neosho Gospel Lighthouse
500 Rocketdyne Rd Neosho MO 64850
Just East of Oak Tree Mart
When: March 17st from 6-7pm
Agenda: Have teams of 4 compete in 10min rounds to see who can complete the most levels in Super Mario Bros. U Deluxe.
Parents are encouraged to create their own team of 4 to compete against the kids. The Parents who wish to not participate can enjoy some fellowship in a designated area.
We will have two stations setup for two teams to play at the same time. We encourage anyone who has a Nintendo Switch and Super Mario Bros. U Deluxe Game to bring them and we will have two additional areas ready to be setup.
For Any Questions Contact: Candace Cauble
candacemcauble@gmail.com