

Deuteronomy 26:16

This day the LORD your God commands you to observe these statutes and judgments; therefore you shall be careful to observe them with all your heart and with all your soul.

In California there are chains of stores called “Pick N Save”. In these stores they advertise that you can go in and find good bargains where you can pick the items you want, and save money by buying them from their store. But if you think about it, doesn't all stores say that?

The problem is that we try and do the same thing with God's word. We will pick the verses we like and throw out the ones we don't like. If they make us feel good then we keep it, post it on Social Media, buy the coffee mugs with the scripture on it, and even wear the tee shirts.

But if it convicts us, we tend to overlook, or ignore it, and we definitely would not post it on Social Media. I mean how many times have you read someone posting some of the following straight from the bible, which are part of the Ten Commandments:

† *“You shall not murder.”*
“You shall not commit adultery.”
“You shall not steal.”
“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”
Exodus 20:13-16

We know we are to share God's word, yet we tend to only share those that will make people feel good about themselves, and will make them feel snuggly, and the warm fuzzies. Yet if you read the bible, we are also to share the warnings of God for those who are not following God and Jesus and His Word, because you can actually warm and fuzzy others with God's word straight into hell by refusing to tell them that without Jesus they will not be going to heaven. Also we must remember that some of these encouraging and comforting verses are for believers, not the lost.

There are also times when we will try and question God's word. Someone else tried to do this as well, way back after the beginning of creation.

† **Gen 3:1** *Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"*

Has God really said not to look at that woman or don't think about that man sexually, and as long as you don't commit the physical act with him or her, then it's ok to think of them sexually or see them nude in movies and other places?

Has God really said not to take anything that doesn't belong to you, or did He just mean anything over \$5.00?

Did God really say to tithe, or did He give you a job and paycheck so you could spend it on whatever you wanted?

Did God really say that lying is ok, as long as it's a white lie?

Did God really say to obey the law of the land, but if I'm late for church it's ok to speed?

I know some of these sound ridiculous, but you get the idea.

So as you read God's word, don't pick and choose what you think is good for you, or what will make others feel all warm and fuzzy. But rather allow God to pick and choose what He wants to say to you through His word, and even those hard verses that others may need to read on Social Media.

You can think of it this way; Sometimes when you read God's word, you'll get a chocolate bar, other times it will be a spinach.

Chocolate tastes good, but spinach is good for you.

† **Psalm 119:103** *How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth!*

† **Romans 7:7 (NLT2)** *Well then, am I suggesting that the law of God is sinful? Of course not! In fact, it was the law that showed me my sin. I would never have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, "You must not covet."*

† **Ezekiel 3:20-21 (NLT2)** *"If righteous people turn away from their righteous behavior and ignore the obstacles I put in their way, they will die. And if you do not warn them, they will die in their sins. None of their righteous acts will be remembered, and I will hold you responsible for their deaths. But if you warn righteous people not to sin and they listen to you and do not sin, they will live, and you will have saved yourself, too."*