“NOT!”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:
A. Deut. 4:2; Prov. 30:5-6; Rev. 22:18-19; Matt. 24:35
   1. The Bible commands us not to alter the word of God.
   2. Our lives must be changed to conform to His eternal word
B. The smallest of words carry profound meaning
   1. “Not” is a small word, but carries with it great importance: The difference between right and wrong.

I. BY WORKS A MAN IS JUSTIFIED, NOT BY FAITH ALONE
   A. James 2:20-26 (read it without the “not”)
   B. Man is justified by faith - Rom. 5:1
   C. Man lives by faith - 2Cor. 5:7
   D. Man is saved by faith - Acts 16:31
   E. But not by faith alone.

II. NOT EVERYONE WHO CALLS JESUS “LORD” WILL BE SAVED
   A. Matt. 7:21-23 (read it without the “not”)
   B. One must be more than moral - Matt. 5:20
   C. One must be more than religious - James 1:26-27
   D. One must be obedient - Heb. 5:9; Luke 6:46

III. BUY THE TRUTH AND SELL IT NOT
   A. Prov. 23:23 (read it without the “not”)
   B. The truth is absolute, more certain than any person, place, material thing; it is not subject to anything in this world; it is from God
   C. John 8:32; James 1:25; John 13:17, 17:17

IV. BE NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD
   A. Rom. 12:2 (read it without the “not”)
   B. James 4:4; 1Peter 4:1-4
   C. Different from the world does not mean distant from the world; it means changed and unlike; new creatures of the spirit, not new creatures of flesh

V. NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING
   A. Heb. 10:22-25
   B. Worship is emphasized because of its vital importance to Christian survival

VI. I KNOW YOU NOT
   A. Matt. 25:12

Conclusion:
A. Someday we will all stand before the judgment seat of God and give an answer for how we treated the least of God’s words, including the “nots.”
   1. Are we living by them, or trying to untie them?