

Taking Obedience Seriously

INTRODUCTION.

- A. It is the purpose of this lesson to consider the subject of obedience. This is easily seen in the lack of attendance, lack of love, lack of study, etc.
- B. It is the purpose of this lesson to show how serious God is about obedience and to show why we are to obey.
- C. When I use the term “obedience,” I am referring to a person following the commands of the scriptures, living their life based on the principles taught in God’s word, and avoiding those things that are wrong. A person who lives obediently is a person who puts obedience to God above all else.

I. THE NEED TO OBEY GOD’S WORD.

- A. We must do the will of God. (Matthew 7:21-23)
 - 1. The will of God the Father is revealed to us in the inspired word. (II Timothy 3:16,17)
 - a. God revealed His will through the writings of the apostles who wrote by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. The will or word of God is contained in the New Testament writings. If we are to know the will of God, then we are to study His word.
 - c. His words are profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness.
 - 2. Not doing God’s will is practicing lawlessness or iniquity. (Matthew 7:23 - *“And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”* KJV)
 - 3. If we do not obey the will of God, then we will not enter Heaven. (Matthew 7:21-23)
- B. Obedience puts one into a loving relationship with God. (John 14:21-23)

II. THE NEED TO OBEY THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS CHRIST.

- A. Jesus taught the will of God. (John 14:24) Also, John 5:19 reads, *“Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.”* (KJV)
- B. We must obey the teachings of Jesus since we will be judged by Jesus. (Romans

2:16; II Timothy 4:1)

- C. Obedience to the words of Jesus will bring salvation. Consider the promise made in Mark 16:16.
- D. Obeying Jesus will keep us from seeing spiritual death. John 8:51 reads, "*Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.*" (KJV)

III. THE NEED TO OBEY THE TEACHINGS OF THE INSPIRED WRITERS.

- A. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to the apostles to help them remember all that Jesus had taught them. (John 14:23-26; 16:13)
- B. The apostles taught the gospel of Jesus Christ. (Galatians 1:6-9, ". . . *that which we have preached unto you. . .*" ". . . *than that ye have received . . .*" Cf. Galatians 1:10-12 - example of Paul preaching via revelation.)
- C. The teachings of the apostles were confirmed by God through signs and wonders. (Hebrews 2:2-4)
- D. If we reject the apostles, then we reject Jesus. If we reject Jesus, then we reject God. (John 15:18,23; I John 2:23)

IV. OBEDIENCE MUST WORK WITH FAITH.

- A. Without faith, one cannot please God. (Hebrews 11:6)
- B. Jesus taught belief (faith) and obedience.
 - 1. John 3:16 and Matthew 7:21
 - 2. John 8:24 and Mark 16:16
- C. James 2:14-26 teaches that faith without works is dead.

V. OUR OBEDIENCE MUST BE IN WORD AND IN DEED.

- A. Obedience begins by believing (John 3:16), repenting of one's sins (Acts 2:38), confessing one's faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9-10), and being baptized into Jesus Christ (Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-4)
- B. After a person is saved, he should then live a life of obedience to God and His word. Paul wrote, "*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*" (Colossians 3:17, KJV)

CONCLUSION.

- A. Obedience is required by God from every person.
 - 1. The person who is not a Christian must make the decision to obey the Gospel's call.

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2. The person who is a Christian must continue to live obediently to the word of God.
- B. Do you take obedience to God seriously? If not, then you should change because God takes obedience to His Word seriously.

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by John M. Duvall – Lawton ,OK