

The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT OBEDIENCE

Larry R. Ping II

A diligent study of the fifth book of Moses, Deuteronomy, will reveal God’s call and demand for obedience to His will. One would have to work hard to misunderstand this mark of this volume. The true definition of obedience is doing what God says the way God says to do it. Let’s look at what the Bible says about obedience.

1) OBEDIENCE IS CONNECTED TO SALVATION. The Hebrew writer said Jesus “*became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him*” (Heb. 5:9). A clear and Divine connection is established between salvation and obedience, one which should not be broken by those who “*wrest*” scripture (II Pet. 3:16) or handle “*the word of God deceitfully*” (II Cor. 4:2).

2. OBEDIENCE IS AN INDICATION OF OUR LOVE FOR GOD. John wrote “*If ye love me, keep my commandments*” (Jn. 14:15). If one truly loves God, then he

will render obedience to Him. If not, “*they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame*” (Heb. 6:6).

3. OBEDIENCE IS BETTER THAN ANYTHING. Remember the story of Saul and Amalek in I Samuel 15? Saul was told to “*go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not*” (I Sam. 15:3). However, Saul “*took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive*” and brought back “*best of the sheep, and of the oxen*” (I Sam. 15:8-9). Later, Samuel set him straight and said “*Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams*” (I Sam. 15:22). May we learn God’s way is always better.

4. OBEDIENCE WILL, FOR SOME, BE AN ETERNAL DOWNFALL. Paul made it crystal clear in II Thessalonians 1:8 when he wrote this: “*In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord*

Jesus Christ...” Peter penned a pair of questions asking “*For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear*” (I Pet. 4:17-18)?

5. OBEDIENCE IS ABOUT DOING. Some in the Lord’s body today have endeavored to divorce obedience from the act of doing. But this is a Biblical impossibility. The Jews on Pentecost, after Peter’s sermon asked, “*Men and brethren, what shall we do*” (Acts 2:37)? Peter responded by directing, “*Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*” The jailor, after surviving an earthquake and possible suicide asked, “*Sirs, what must I do to be saved*” (Acts 16:30)? May we learn to appreciate the association between obedience and individual action.

THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT EYES

Larry R. Ping II

Eyes appear in every corner of the Bible. They help to describe and define individuals. What sort of eyes do you have? Consider.

1) PLEASURE-SEEKING EYES. Eve was in possession of just these sort (Gen. 3:6). The devil uses this avenue of temptation quite well (I Jn. 2:16). Others in God's Word were led astray by pleasure-seeking eyes, such as Achan (Josh. 7:21) and David (II Sam. 11:2).

2) CONSUMED EYES. A failure to listen to God and His law would result in *"terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes"* (Lev. 26:16). May we always heed the Savior's command, *"He that hath ears to hear, let him hear"* (Matt. 11:15).

3) LAW-FILLED EYES. Regarding His law, God said it should be as *"frontlets between thine eyes"* (Deut. 6:8). This is the equivalent of the Psalmist's words in Psalm 1:2, *"But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law*

doth he meditate day and night." This requires us to read God's Word (Eph. 3:4), study God's Word (II Tim. 2:15) and be as Jesus and *"do and teach"* (Acts 1:1).

4) SELF-RIGHTEOUS EYES. Twice, in the book of Judges, it states *"every man did that which was right in his own eyes"* (Jdg. 17:6; Jdg. 21:25). This activity resulted in the sin cycle notated in Jdg. 2:16-19. The same cycle occurs today for the same reason, men doing that which is right in their own eyes, which leads to the *"ways of death"* (Prov. 14:12; Prov. 16:25).

5) GRACE-FILLED EYES. Ruth wondered aloud to Boaz *"Why have I found grace in thy eyes"* (Ruth 2:10)? Boaz had shown the young widow favor, and was thankful for it. Noah, too, *"found grace in the eyes of the Lord"* (Gen. 6:8). We, too, are offered this saving grace (Eph. 2:5). All men have access to it (Tit. 2:11), but few have accessed it *"by faith"* (Rom. 5:2; Eph. 2:8). We certainly should extend grace to others, and are overwhelmingly

thankful God has shed it upon us (Neh. 9:31). It is important to note we are not saved by grace alone, or any other thing alone. It is a grand combination of many things!

6) COVENANT-MAKING EYES. Job uttered *"I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid"* (Job. 31:1)? This man of faith and endurance made a pact with his eyes not to look lustily upon women. Sounds like a great plan, doesn't it? Jesus noted, *"That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart"* (Matt. 5:28).

7) FASTENED-ON-JESUS EYES. In the synagogue, on the Sabbath, Jesus read from Isaiah 61:1-2. Once finished, the Bible records *"the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him"* (Lk. 4:20). May our eyes be fixed firmly on the Lord, knowing He is *"the Shepherd and Bishop"* of our souls (I Pet. 2:25). What say ye?

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm