

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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BIBLE OBEDIENCE

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The Bible has much to say about obedience. Unfortunately, many in the world, including some who are of the Lord's Body, have recently began to say a man who teaches the need for obedience is a man who teaches one is attempting to earn his salvation. Such is not true. Let not any man peg you nor me into such a hole!

Let us take a brief view of what the Bible says about obeying, and obedience.

1) Obedience Brings Blessings. God said to Abraham, “*And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice*” (Gen. 22:18). Notice the connection between Abraham's obeying and God's blessing. Later, Moses penned, “*And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and*

kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws” (Gen. 26:4-5). Abraham was not attempting to earn his salvation. He was clearly pleasing God through His obedient behavior.

2) Obedience Yields Magnificent Relationships. God told His people, “*Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation*” (Exo. 19:5-6). Notice the connection between obedience and being a treasure to God. Peter similarly wrote, “*But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light*” (I Pet. 2:9). God was not, nor is He today, calling upon His people to earn their salvation. He clearly is commanding their obedience. Can we see that?

3) Obedience Contains Several Parts. Notice these words of the meek Moses. “*Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him*” (Dte. 13:4). Obeying is not merely and simply doing what God commands. In totality, it is doing what God says the way God says to do it. To do so requires me to “*Fear God, and keep his commandments*” (Eccl. 12:13), to “*serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear*” (Heb. 12:28) and “*with purpose of heart...cleave unto the Lord*” (Acts 11:23). Obedience will not come until one respects, serves, or cleaves to the Lord. Is one doing these things to earn salvation? No. However, one does these things to please the Almighty.

4) Obedience Insists The Doing Of All The Lord Commands. The new leader Joshua declared, “*Ye have kept all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, and have obeyed my voice in*

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all that I commanded you" (Josh. 22:2). Again, notice the connection between obedience and doing all the Lord commands. There is no such thing as partial obedience. I am commanded to do all the Lord commands. God said of the ark-builder, "*Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he*" (Gen. 6:22). A very short time later God would reiterate, "*And Noah did according unto all that the LORD commanded him*" (Gen. 7:5). You might recall Saul did nearly all God commanded him as to the destruction of the Amalekites. However, he brought back "*Agag the king of the Amalekites alive*" (I Sam. 15:8) and "*the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them*" (I Sam. 15:9). Though Saul had done nearly all the Lord commanded, he was asked, "*Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD*" (I Sam. 15:19)? Great question, isn't it! May we learn well from the

success of Noah and the failure of Saul. To obey God is to do all He commands.

5) Obedience Requires Elevation Of God Over Man.

When threatened with further imprisonment and punishment if he and the others insisted on teaching the Gospel, Peter boldly responded, "*We ought to obey God rather than men*" (Acts 5:29). There may come a time and place we must choose between God and man. God's Word must always be elevated above all others. The Psalmist penned, "*Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way*" (Psa. 119:128). We must blush when abomination occurs, and be satisfied to "*Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls*" (Jer. 6:15-16).

6) Obedience Is Required To Escape

Damnation. Paul clearly warned the Thessalonians, God will take "*flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know*

not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (II Thess. 1:8). This verse settles all questions as to whether or not we should obey or teach about the need for obedience!

7) Obedience Is Directly Tied To Salvation.

The writer of Hebrews composed, "*Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him*" (Heb. 5:8-9). There is a clear and unmistakable relationship between salvation and obedience in these verses. One would have to work hard to not see such there.

To those who foster the idea teaching about obedience is the same as teaching one is earning his salvation, please answer these questions.

1. *What happens if I do not do the things commanded in the New Testament?*

2. *If disobedience will not be punished, which laws of the New Testament may I ignore and still be fine?*

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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