

DON'T BE DECEIVED (Part 4)

“...about the Importance of Obedience”

INTRO: Satan is an enemy whose strategy from the Garden has been to lie in order to deceive us. It has worked! Examining specific scriptural warnings about where we not be deceived (salvation, God's goodness).

TODAY: Don't be deceived about the importance of obedience, esp. to God's Word (Jam. 1:19-25) – note: (v. 21 “receive with meekness the implanted word”; v.22 “be doers of the Word, not hearers – audit only”; v. 25 “a doer who acts ... blessed in his doing.” Nothing promotes spiritual growth and maturity more than consistent obedience. It's hard to deceive an obedient follower of Christ.

I. WHAT IS BIBLICAL OBEDIENCE?

- A. Not: hearing only (v.22), intellectual only (2:19) verbal only (Lk. 6:46), external only – legalism, transactional (I do ... God does) – not partial or delayed.
- B. Biblical obedience is an internal attitude that produces external action to willingly do what God says, when God says, where God says, and how God says.
- C. A.W. Tozer...Inseparable relationship in Scripture between salvation and obedience (Jn. 3:36; 8:30-31; 10:27; Eph. 2:8-10; 1 Jn. 2:3-6)

II. WHAT ARE MOTIVES TO OBEY?

- A. God's love for us (1 Jn. 4:16; 2 Cor. 5:14)
- B. God ownership (1 Cor. 6:19-20; Rom. 6:15-20) – Salvation is not the elimination of slavery, but a transfer of ownership and obedience.
- C. God commands it (Matt. 28:20)
- D. Salvation appreciation (1 Jn. 2:3-6) – Salvation imparts divine life that desires and seeks to consistently obey God.
- E. My love for Him (Jn. 14:15, 21, 23-24) – have to avoid disciplines, need to for reward, want to out of love. So, why don't we obey? Fear, think we know better, sins, lost.

III. WHAT ARE THE BLESSINGS OF OBEDIENCE? 1:25 “blessed is his doings.”

- A. True Success (Josh. 1:8; 1 Jn. 2:5-6) – God is more interested in our obedience than our victory.
- B. Clear Direction – know His will (Jn. 7:17; Rom. 12:1-2)
- C. Answered Prayer (Jn. 15:7)
- D. Wonderful Joy (Lk. 11:28; Jn. 13:17) – Blessings come in doing!
- E. Blessed assurance (2 Pet. 1:9-11)

IV. HOW GROW TOWARD GREATER OBEDIENCE?

A logical and biblical progression to embrace: The better we KNOW Him the stronger our LOVE for Him and the stronger our love for Him the easier it is to TRUST Him. We tend to more readily OBEY when we trust. All starts with knowing Him better.

ILLUS: A.W. Tozer, “The Lord will not save those He cannot command. He will not divide His offices. You cannot believe on a half-Christ. We take Him for what He is – the anointed Savior and Lord... He would not be who He is if He saved us without the understanding that He can also guide and control our lives.”

CONC: Don't be deceived, our commitment and choice to walk in consistent obedience is absolutely vital to experiencing all God has for us. Jesus' mother Mary gave us the best advice, “Whatever he tells you to do, do it!”