

## ONE GREAT THING THAT GOD REQUIRES

Deuteronomy 27:9-10

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** It is not enough to hear God's voice, as great as that is, but one must obey. Obedience is a part of the honor owed to God. Obedience without knowledge is a blind, lame, empty thing. "To obey is better than sacrifice." King Saul thought he could just offer a sacrifice now and then and all would be well, but he just didn't obey God's commands. God has given His laws to be obeyed. Why would God give commands except that they would be obeyed?

### I. WHAT DO WE GO BY THAT WE MAY OBEY GOD?

1. God has given to us His written Word.
  - Traditions do not replace God's written Word.
  - Worshiping angels sounds alright, but it is not found in God's written Word.

### II. IN WHAT WAY IS ONE'S OBEDIENCE ACCEPTABLE TO GOD?

1. Obedience must be willing, deliberate and cheerful.
  - Hypocrites "obey" but grudgingly, against their will.
    - Remember Cain, he brought a sacrifice but his heart was not in it.
  - When one's heart is not in it, it is not really done.
  - Willingness is the heart of obedience.
  - Cheerfulness reveals that there is love in obeying.
2. Obedience must be warm, glowing and with feeling.
  - Why shouldn't obedience be lively and sincere?
    - Doesn't God deserve such an attitude?
    - Elijah prayed sincerely and fire fell from heaven.
3. Obedience must cover all that God commands.
  - Everything God commands has His authority.
  - If one of God's commands is obeyed, then all of His commands are to be obeyed equally.
  - True obedience sums up all one's duties to God.
  - Sadly, some obey God in some things but leave other things undone, unobeyed.
    - Some will pray, but not tithe.
    - Some will tithe but not pray.
  - God does not care for such "partial" people who do only certain things and leave other things undone.
4. Obedience must be sincere.
  - One must not obey God only to appease his/her conscience or to gain applause or attention.
    - "Do all to the glory of God.."
  - Remember the Pharisees who before giving their alms would blow a horn to get attention from others.
  - The intent of obedience is NOT to gain attention from others but simply to do what God wants.
5. Obedience must be in and through the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - Obedience is like arms of faith.
    - Unless one serves God in faith, in hope, in what Jesus Christ has done for him/her it is not the kind of obedience God is looking for.
  - Remember the king who offered incense himself instead of the priest and God struck him with leprosy.

- We are to come to God, even in obedience, through Jesus Christ.

6. Obedience must be constant.

- Right obedience is like the fire on the altar which was always burning.
- A hypocrite's obedience is on and off, now and then, but true obedience is constant.
- Upon baptism, one enters a covenant with God and from that moment on, he/she is a child of God and partaking of the Lord's Supper is a reminder of one's commitment and promise.
- Believers are to imitate the Lord Jesus Christ and He was constant in His obedience to His Heavenly Father.

### **III. WHEN PEOPLE KNOW GOD'S COMMANDS, WHY DON'T THEY OBEY?**

1. People don't obey God's commands because they don't believe God, they don't have faith.

- If people believed sin was as bitter as God says and hell was as real as God says, would they continue on without Jesus?
- Satan drags millions to hell every year because he keeps them from believing the truth.

2. People don't obey God's commands because they don't want to be denied anything.

- God commands one thing but people (old sin nature) commands another.
  - People had rather die than deny their wants.
  - To have what one wants causes God to not be obeyed.

### **IV. WHY SHOULD GOD BE OBEYED?**

1. Obedience makes one acceptable to God.

- "If ye obey my voice, ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people..."

2. Nothing is lost by being obedient.

- To obey God's will is to do what one wants to do.
  - Want a material blessing? Obey God.
  - Want a spiritual blessing? Obey God
- To please God is to please one's self.
- There is nothing to lose by being obedient to God.

3. What kind of sin is disobedience?

- It is irrational. It is saying one is stronger, wiser than God.
- It is destructive - Those who refuse to obey God will eventually obey God when he/she stands before Him in the Great White Throne of Judgment.
  - When asked by God why there was not obedience when one knew to do it, one's own blood will be upon his/her own head.

### **V. HOW SHOULD ONE OBEY GOD?**

1. With serious consideration one should obey God.

- Consider that God's commands are not unreasonable.
  - It is easier to obey God's commands than to sin.
  - It is less painful to obey God than it is to go to hell.
- God commands nothing but what is good/best for one.
  - To obey God is not so much a duty as it is a privilege.
  - Why repent as God commands? That one's sins may be blotted out.
  - Why believe as God commands? That one may be saved and have eternal life.

2. With earnest supplication.
  - Ask for the help of the Holy Spirit to help obey.
  - The Holy Spirit makes obedience easier and more pleasant.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. Obedience to God has far greater advantages than not being obedient.
2. Satan is determined to keep everyone from obeying God and uses one's weaknesses to keep one from obeying God's commands.
3. One's own old sin nature is against obeying God or anyone else.
4. To obey God is to obey in the manner God accepts.
5. To obey God is to obey EVERYTHING God commands, not hunt, pick and choose.
6. Let each of us work at being the obedient person God wants each of us to be.