

THE BIBLE TEACHES OBEDIENCE

Colossians 2:6; 1 Samuel 15:22

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Many think that honoring the Lord means to join a "church" somewhere and be active in some of its activities. Others think that honoring the Lord means to "witness" about him to their friends and still others think that honoring the Lord is to make financial contributions to the Church. Sadly, not every Christian realizes that to honor the Lord is to live totally and holy to and for Him. The Bible has a lot to say about being obedient to the Lord.

I. THE WORD OF GOD REVEALS INSINCERITY

1. One is not a true Christian unless he/she has fully surrendered to and **"received Christ Jesus the Lord."**
 - Satan is good at deceiving and leading people to think that they are trusting in the work of the Lord while their hearts remain unchanged and sin still rules their lives.
 - **"..Salvation is for the wicked from the wicked; for they seek not thy statues..." (Psalm 119:155)**
 - **"...He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him..." (1 John 2:4)**
2. Obedience to the Lord in one's entire, total life is what the Lord requires, not just good sounding words from one's lips
 - **Luke 6:46; James 1:22**
 - There are many who "hear" the Word, interested in the Word, but what they hear is not put into practice in their lives. They are not "doers" of the Word.
3. Many suppose that because they "know" that salvation is by grace that they are saved.
 - Many think that because they hear sermons every Sunday that they are growing in grace.
 - Some think that because they can quote scripture that they are spiritual.
 - Where there is not living one's life according to what he/she has learned from the Scriptures there is only condemnation, not salvation.
4. People attend seminars, hear preachers, attend conferences, read books on Biblical subjects, yet many have never put into practice in their daily living what they have heard, seen or read that the Lord requires.
 - The more they hear, the more they want to hear but they never put into practice what they hear.
 - Many are "puffed" up with knowledge but do not walk humbly with the Lord.
5. God has given the Bible, the Scriptures for the purpose of reveal, instructing and directing to live as one is supposed to live.
 - Jesus said, **"...Ye are my friends IF ye do whatsoever I command you..." (John 15:14)**

II. THE BIBLE TEACHES OBEDIENCE

1. A person profits from God's Word when he/she learns what God demands.
 - God does not lower His standards for He does not change.
 - The sum, of what God wants and expects is: **"...Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might..." (Deuteronomy 6:5)**
 - Paul said about the same thing; **"...If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema" (1 Corinthians 16:22) (cursed)**
2. A person gains much when he/she learns from God's Word how much he/she has failed to meet God's demands.
 - No person can see what a sinner he/she really is and how short he/she has fallen in measuring up to God's standards until he/she has seen from God's Word his/her true condition as God sees it.
 - Once a person sees where he/she really stands in God's eyes and how he/she has completely failed to meet/do God's requirements, then that person recognizes what a desperate situation he/she is in.

3. A person benefits from God's Word when he/she learns that God, in His Grace, has already provided for people to meet His requirements.
 - God's Son, Jesus Christ has made it possible for one to be able to be accepted by God as if that person him/herself met God's every requirement, although Jesus secured God's favor for each person who believes in Him (Jesus).
 - Upon one believing in Jesus, he/she is infilled with the Holy Spirit who then enables that believer to live as God demands.
 - There is a transforming work that happens within those who believe and in God's eyes they have been "born again."
 - They are made *"...new creatures in Christ Jesus..." (2 Corinthians 5:17)*
 - When God pardons a sinner, under His amazing grace, that person's heart is purified, life is changed and the person is sanctified (set apart).
 - The obedience that God requires can only come from a person who LOVES Him.
 - It is one's heart's free response to and in gratitude for the unmerited grace and love which God has given.
4. A person gains from God's Word when he/she develops a love for God's commandments.
 - *"...Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in His commandments..." (Psalm 112:1)*
 - By obedience to God's commands, one reflects his/her love for the Lord.
 - A person who thinks that he/she is saved but has no genuine love for God's commandment is only fooling him/herself.
 - Unless one's heart delights in the "law of God" there is something dreadfully wrong with that person.
5. A person profits from God's Word when he/she yields totally, completely to ALL of God's commandments.
 - Partial obedience is NO obedience at all.
 - If one picks and chooses which law to obey, then he/she is also picking and choosing where he/she is going to submit to God's authority.
 - True spiritual obedience is impartial.
 - A renewed heart does not pick and choose from God's commandments.
 - If one does not sincerely desire to please God in ALL things, then that person does not really wish to do anything to please the Lord.
6. One benefits from God's Word when he/she learns to pray earnestly for more of God's grace.
 - A true Christian's heart has been totally won by God and there is a deep and sincere desire to please the Lord.
 - Paul said, *"...To will is present with me; but HOW to perform that which is good, I find not..." (Romans 7:18)*
 - God requires perfect obedience from every person and does not lower His standard for anyone.
 - The true Christian's desire is to obey God in all things and to be completely conformed into the image of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - God knows one's heart and knows when a person is desperately wanting and trying to keep His commands and to live like the Lord Jesus but still fails at times for God will accept the efforts of such a person.
7. A person gains from God's Word when he/she is receiving God's rewards for his/her obedience.
 - *"..By obedience we obtain the ear of God; ...By obedience we obtain precious and intimate manifestations of Christ unto the soul..." (1 John 3:22; John 14:21)*

CONCLUSION:

1. Apart from the written Word of God, one cannot ever know all that God demands, therefore a person must get into God's Word and see for him/herself what is revealed in the Scriptures of God.
2. Apart from the written Word of God, one cannot know how he/she can live as God wants.
3. With the Word of God, the guidance of the Holy Spirit and a deep desire to be what God wants and to do what God wants, one can live as God wants.
4. What do YOU think of the Word of God, the Scriptures, the Bible? How important is it to YOU?
- Remember, apart from the Word of God, YOU can't live your life as God wants you to.
5. The Word of God teaches that one must be obedient to all that God commands. ARE YOU?