

A dramatic mountain landscape. In the foreground, a lush green valley contains a winding river and a small village with traditional stone buildings built on a hillside. In the middle ground, a large mountain range with steep, rocky slopes and patches of snow dominates the view. In the background, several jagged, snow-capped mountain peaks rise against a clear blue sky. Wispy white clouds drift through the valleys and around the lower slopes of the mountains. The overall scene is majestic and serene.

The lost command

of obedience

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In the world we live in, the demand of political correctness is often used to prevent us from saying anything that might cause offense to others who hold a different world view of life. This means we must avoid offending others at the expense of free speech. In this way of deceptive control, the world demands we don't push our beliefs and teaching about God onto them because they don't believe in the same God we do. It demands we don't call people to obedience to the teaching of the Bible, since they believe it is up to everyone to decide what they may do. But at the same time, they contend that their views about life should be accepted by all. As the Bible rightly declares; *'every man did what was right in his own eyes.'* Judges 17:6

Is heaven a worldly place or holy?

With this in mind we can see how it has become common place for worldly people to expect they will go to heaven when they die

on their terms. The heaven the worldly look for is open to all who choose to go there; because they insist we cannot deny them; but the heaven of the Christian is exclusively entered only by those who believe in and obey Jesus Christ. If heaven is to be the place of holy goodness and perfect peace, there must be standards and condition for entry in order to keep it that way. If heaven is a place at all, it must be where God lives as its absolute ruler; who is making His will known for mankind, so all can clearly know the requirements of entry.

If heaven belongs to the earthly minded with no particular requirements to gain entry, there is no God there, there cannot be any real goodness, so it is no heaven at all, just a playing with words and people's minds so they are deceived into missing eternal life with God in His heaven. The idea of a secular heaven is a lie to deceive the unsuspecting who think it is just like a playground in the

sky. But Jesus says, *“My kingdom is not of this world.”*

John 18:36

‘But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.’

2 Pet 3:13

The deception in the world that hides the truth of Christ and His kingdom is promoted by the devil by denying obedience to God's only Son so few will enter into the kingdom of God.

‘The one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.’

2 Thess 2:9-1

God will not take away our free will to choose to go our own way; He will give us the desire of our heart even if we choose to disobey

Him. *'Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonoured among them. For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper.'* Rom 1:24, 26, 28

Meanwhile God still loves all who walk on earth and works for their good

God's remedy for mans disobedience is to make an amazing offer of life to those lost in the darkness of their own defiance. *"Just as through the disobedience of the one man many were made sinners, so through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous."* Rom 5:19

Jesus' victory over sin and death on the Cross was based on his obedience. He said, *"I do exactly what my Father has commanded me."*

(John 14:31) Before the crucifixion He prayed three times to his Father, "*Not as I will, but as you will.*" (Matthew 26:39) Paul tells us that Jesus "*humbled Himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place.*" (Phil 2:8-9) Hebrews says that Jesus "*learned obedience from what He suffered, and, once made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him.*" Heb 5:8-9

Even with His sacrifice in our placed, those who lived in the darkness without God didn't want a bar of God's offer of salvation in Jesus Christ. This is the witness of John. "*This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.*"

John 3:19

The Church is to be a holy people

"YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY." 1 Pet 1:16

Joining the Christian Church as a member of Christ's body is only possible when we turn

from self rule and submit to God's divine authority by denying ourselves, and taking up our cross daily to obediently follow Christ's teaching and commands, and the example of His devoted life as a humble servant of God in the world.

Baptism into the Church symbolises our death to sin and self rule, and then our spiritual resurrection to a new life willingly lived under the supreme dominion and authority of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. However, many who claim the Church do not have the absolute surrender to obey all God's commands on their agenda.

This state of disobedience should not continue in the Church of Jesus Christ. Unlike the first Adam who fell into sin, Jesus came as the second Adam and did not sin. He came as the Son of obedience to do the will of God, and to make it possible for all those who follow Him to obey His commandments and to be perfect as He is perfect.

Matt 5:48

'Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation.'

Heb 5:8-9

Our striving for holiness is only possible because of Jesus' obedience so we might one day be like Him.

'The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.'

1 Cor 15:47-49

That which is unholy is now tolerated in many Church's

The Church is under pressure from the world which does not accept there are absolutes of obedience to be observed, and still wants to take a seat in our congregations, and we, so as not to offend, have denied our faith and sold

out our inheritance in glory, for the acceptance of mere men who don't know God.

What the Bible says will not be allowed into the kingdom of God is now established in many churches which are supposed to be light to His kingdom. Those who are especially called as leaders to preserve the teaching of the Bible and protect the people of faith have failed in their responsibility to obey all God's commands. It is now a free for all in many places as Churches become the play ground of heretics, nonconformist and the apostate.

'You yourselves wrong and defraud. You do this even to your brethren. Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.'

1 Cor 6:8-10

'Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.'

Gal 5:19-21

'And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.' Eph 2:1-3

Therefore, obedience is probably the most critically important part of our life as Christians. Without obedience there is no life or light. The lesson we get from Adam's sin,

and the obedience of Christ, is that disobedience separated us from God, but absolute obedience unites with God. *'Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation.'*

Heb 5:8-9

Sin divides us from God's presence, while obedience joins us to Him. Disobedience leaves us alienated from God, obedience reconciles to God. Disobedience will leave us stranded in darkness and death. *'These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.'*

2 Thess 1:9

The Salvation of God which only comes through Christ's obedience requires our obedience to the Son of God, just as He obeyed the Father. Therefore, fellowship with God and His chosen people is impossible without obedience to the God. Sanctification, that is, the process of being continually

changed into Christ's image and likeness, requires obedience. The work of Evangelism in reaching a world lost in sin and disobedience can only be done through the obedience of God's people who are in Christ themselves through obedience. Jesus said *"teach them to obey all I have commanded you"*
Matt 28:20

Therefore, Obedience is the very foundation on which the narrow path to heaven is built. *"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it."*
Matt 7:13

The Lord's prayer says, *"Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven."* (Matt 6:10) This means we obey all of God's commands. It therefore makes sense that Jesus' teaching is expressed as commands for us to obey. That means we obey all the teaching for all His disciples, which includes everyone who wants to get to heaven. This

need for obedience is necessary because Jesus' teaching leads us to holiness, without which we cannot please God. Heb 12:14

As Jesus teaches us, He is teaching us about the life He lived on earth, this is the way; this is a life of holiness through obedience, and the perfect example showing us the way to follow Him. The commands Jesus gives mean we should walk as He walked so we can join Him in heaven. Without obedience to Him there is no hope for the lost, and no glory for the disobedient that neglect the command to go and make disciples.

Jesus expects us to obey Him

Jesus told His disciples, and consequently us, *"If you love Me, you will obey what I command."* (John 14:15) *"Whoever has My commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves Me."* (John 14:21) *"If anyone loves Me he will obey My teaching."* (John 14:23) *"If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father's*

commands and remain in His love." (John 15:10) He said, *"Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord' and do not do what I say?"* (Luke 6:46) He said that when the storms of life come, *"everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice"* will remain standing, while *"everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not put them into practice"* will fall. (Matt 7:24-27) He wrote the church at Sardis, *"Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent."* (Rev 3:3) The book of Revelation also speaks of *"patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus."* Rev 14:12

Obedience is necessary for our witness in the world

'Be Subject to Government Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists authority has

opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake.' Rom13:1-2, 5

By his continuous activity the devil has disempowered many in the Church, so that it cannot be partners in creating life in the lives of the lost. He has effectively removed most of the Churches' vitality and life by taking away the only thing that would keep her sound in the things of God, obedience.

Jesus said we are the light of the world. *"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."* (Matt 5:14-16) How would anyone look at the state of the Church in many places,

and conclude that it has the light of God and the way of salvation?

We are commanded to obey Church leaders if we are to grow and have effective faith

'Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.'

Heb 13:17

Leaders aren't given to glorify themselves; they are servants of Christ who work for the maturity of believers so they lack nothing pertaining to good works.

'We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.'

Col 1:28

'But we request of you, brethren, that you appreciate those who diligently labour among you, and have charge over you in the Lord

and give you instruction, and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone.'

1 Thess 5:12-14

'We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.'

2 Cor 10:5-6

'But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.'

1 Tim 1:5

'We have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake, among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ.'

Rom 1:5-6

Until Jesus Christ returns for His people, Satan will continue to work in opposition to

God, even in the Church, especially through its leadership and weak people who will not persevere in the faith. *'For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires.'* 2 Tim 4:3

So there will continue to be aggressive opposition to obedience in the world and in the Church. The lawless people of the world are not being excluded from the people of God. The weeds will continue to grow in the wheat. The devil is sowing his lies to keep people from obedience to Christ. And we are told he will increase His activity as the return of Christ comes even closer.

'Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with

all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. For this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they will believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.'

2 Thess 2:8-12

But we can't just blame the leaders. All the people of God are responsible for maintaining obedience to His word. There are many who will not listen to their leaders, making the argument that the leaders don't know it all anyway, insisting what they say is only their opinion and doesn't need to be obeyed.

'But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers

of pleasure rather than lovers of God, holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these. For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.' 2 Tim 3:1-7

While many leaders do not know their Bible well enough, and live corruptible lives, it is not true of all, and is best avoided by having a number of godly people keeping watch over what is taught, and the way all those in the Church live, leaders included.

Everyone is responsible for maintaining obedience to the holy word of God. We cannot abdicate or retire our responsibility to obey all Jesus commanded by saying our leaders are the only ones who carry this burden, and let them suffer the consequences of calling on people to obey God.

If we are to be faithful to God we must find a way to obedience, otherwise we are as guilty as those who openly disobey. We must encourage our teachers and leaders to, *'Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.'*

2 Tim 2:15

We must do our own work and follow the example of our forefathers in the book of Acts. *'They received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.'*

Acts 17:11

We have to be willing to measure our lives by the word of God to maintain His holiness in ourselves and in the Church. *'For what have I to do with judging outsiders? Do you not judge those who are within the church?'*

1 Cor 15:12

To know God and want His holy presence means we obey Him because He is God.

'By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.'

1 John 2:3-6

To know God and still disobey Him is to lose His presence. Jesus used the big 'IF' word. "*If you keep My commandments you abide in My love.*"

John 15:9

The Holy Spirit enables our obedience

We have sufficient help from God so we can obey as He requires. It is the Holy Spirit living in us who teaches us and guides us if we obey. (John 16:7-15) It is the Holy Spirit living in us who gives us power to overcome sin and witness to Christ. (Acts 1:8; Eph3:20) It is the Holy Spirit living in us who enables us

to overcome our spiritual enemy if we obey. (1 John 4:4) It is by the sanctifying work of the Spirit that we are cleansed and can become holy if we obey Him. 1 Peter 1:2

It is the Holy Spirit living within us who enables us to live the new life in Christ so we can obey. (Gal 5:16) Having the Holy Spirit in us makes all the difference. But He only actively lives in those who obey God. Peter tells us "*the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.*" (Acts 5:32) If we want the Holy Spirit to live within us, guide us, teach us, and empower us, we need to obey God. As John said, "*Those who obey his commands live in Him, and He in them. And this is how we know that He lives in us: we know it by the Spirit He gave us.*" 1 John 3:24

God will not be mocked

We are warned, "*Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one*

who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life." Gal 6:7-8

'Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light.' Eph 5:6-8

'God who will render to each person according to his deeds: to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life; but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation.' Rom 2:6-8

'Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience.' Heb 4:11

'As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world

and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.' (Eph 2:1-2) *'For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience.'* Col 3:6

There are eternal consequences for disobedience

"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

John 3:36

The Bible has made it very clear what the consequences of disobedience are. *"If you live according to the sinful nature you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."* (Rom 8:13) Consequently, obedience leads to life; disobedience to death.

In the last day Jesus will be *"revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know*

God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord."

2 Thess 1:7-9

Therefore "No immoral, impure or greedy person... has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient."

Eph 5:5-6; Col 3:6

The choice is made very clear. Disobedience leads to God's wrath, and to exclusion from the kingdom of God, to eternal destruction and to spiritual death. Obedience leads to eternal life. If the love of God and the desire to imitate Jesus' life in obedience are not sufficient to motivate us to obedience, we need to give serious consideration to the awful consequences of disobedience.

Continue to freedom

"I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have

the Light of life.” So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” John 8:12, 31-32

We all still have a choice; we can be "slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness." (Rom 6:16) Will we obey sin, or will we obey righteousness? When the Lord Jesus gave this command: *“If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.”* (Luke 9:23) It was another way of telling us we must make the right choice every day, we must die to the passions and desires of the world to live for God every day; we must choose to obey Him daily.

There is only one true heaven, its gate is the way of obedience to Christ, if we desire to be in heaven one day with God, we need to obey Christ Jesus who is Lord of all.

Abide in Him

Living Water Resources



Come to the river

“If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

John 8: 31-32

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