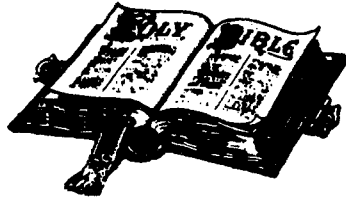


THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

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IS OBEDIENCE REQUIRED?

There are some who teach that **obedience** has absolutely **nothing** to do with salvation. They contend that salvation is **unconditional**. There are others who contend that salvation is conditional but that one is saved at the point of faith without **any** acts of obedience. But what does the **Word of God** teach? **The Word of God** teaches the following.

1. ONE MUST HEAR AND DO IN ORDER TO BE BLESSED! Hear James: "**But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.**" (1:22). Then in verse 25 he says: "**But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.**" (Also read Rev. 1:3).

2. ONLY THE OBEDIENT WILL ENTER THE KINGDOM! Jesus declared: "**Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.**" NOTE: Only the **doers of God's will** will enter into the kingdom of heaven!

3. ONE MUST OBEY THE TRUTH IN ORDER TO BE PURIFIED! In writing to saints the apostle Peter said: "**Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, ...**" (1 Pet. 1:22). NOTE: We learn from Acts 15:9 that **hearts** are purified **by faith!** Therefore, we must conclude that to be purified we must have enough **faith** to **obey the truth!**

4. ONE IS MADE FREE FROM SIN BY OBEDIENCE! In addressing the saints at Rome, Paul declared: "**But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.**" (Rom. 6:17-18). NOTE: They became **free from sin** when they **obeyed from the heart** that **form of doctrine** which they had been taught! They ceased being "**servants of sin**" and became "**servants of righteousness!**"

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THE INSTRUCTOR

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Editorial ...

WHY DO YOU BELIEVE ... ?

(Concluded)

In our past studies we raised the question: "WHY DO YOU BELIEVE WHAT YOU DO? We then asked: **Do you believe what you do because:**

- I. THE MAJORITY BELIEVES IT?
- II. YOUR FEELINGS?
- III. TRADITIONS OF MEN?
- IV. A GOOD CONSCIENCE?

We discussed each of the above reasons in view of **God's Word** and found that **none** of them are **reliable standards!** Let us now resume our consideration of the question: **WHY DO YOU BELIEVE WHAT YOU DO? Do you believe what you do because:**

V. "IT'S A GOOD WORK!" Many people try to justify what they encourage and practice things in religious matters on the basis of that "It's a good work." Many are deceived into thinking what they do about some things because someone says: "It's a good work! We are taught to be "... fruitful in every good work, ..." (Col. 1:10); "zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14) and "... ready unto every good

work" (Titus 3:1). Churches are "collectivities" and Christians as "individuals" should engage in every "good work" ordained of God for them. However, we must be careful that we allow the **Scriptures** to be the **standard** in determining what are truly **good works**. Paul declared that "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Also see such passages as James 1:25; 1 Peter 4:11; Col. 3:17; 2 Peter 1:3; Eph. 5:10 and 2 John 9-11. Without doubt, for a practice to truly be a **good work** it must be **authorized** by the Word of God! Ambitions, impressions, popularity, emotions, etc. do **not** make a thing a **good work** in the sight of God. The **ways and thoughts of God** are as much superior to **our** ways and thoughts as the heavens are higher than the earth! (Cf. Isaiah 55:8-9).

The following is a list of some things that some people try to "justify" on the basis that "It's a good work!"

1. Sprinkling infants.
2. Celebrating Christmas as the birthday of Jesus Christ.
3. Churches having "Honor the clergy day."
4. Starting "**Ministries**" such as PTL, TBN, The Oral Roberts Ministry, The Jimmy Swaggart Ministry, etc.
5. Churches sponsoring Boy Scouts and Blood Drives.
6. Churches donating funds to organizations such as the Red Cross and The United Givers Fund.
7. Churches raising money for their work by begging campaigns, pie suppers, rummage sales, car washes, selling flowers or candy or engaging in some other secular business. (Cf. 1 Cor. 16:2).

WHY DO YOU BELIEVE ... ?

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8. Churches providing facilities for recreation, entertainment and social activities.

9. Churches donating funds to Sponsoring church arrangements.

10. Churches building and maintaining "Bus Ministry" organizations that gives toys, bubble gum prizes, etc. as incentives to ride the bus, etc.

11. Churches donating funds to schools such as David Lipscomb College.

12. Churches building and maintaining benevolent organizations such as Childhaven, Home For The Aged, etc. for the care of the needy.

There are those who will accept one or more of the above things on the basis of it being **"a good work."** Do you accept any of the above on that basis? If you accept **any** of the above on that basis, why not accept **all** of them? NOTE: **The Word of God is the only standard we must use in order to determine what constitutes "a good work!"**

VI. "I LIKE IT"? Is there anything you believe is right in spiritual matters because you **like** it? Please be honest! What about "faith only" salvation? Praying through? Sprinkling for baptism? Wearing human names religiously? Using mechanical instrumental music in workshop? Calling the preacher "Reverend", "Father", "Master", "Doctor", "Rabbi", etc. as a religious title?

Would you condone smoking, drinking, cursing, gambling, swearing, men having long hair, dressing immodestly, women having short hair, materialism, etc., because you **"like it"**?

Would you contend that churches may

donate funds to so-called "Christian Schools", institutional orphanages, sponsoring church arrangements, recreational, entertainment and social projects or engage in secular businesses because you **"like it"**?

Neither your nor my "likes" or "dislikes" should ever be used as a standard to determine right or wrong? Keep in mind that the **Scriptures** are sufficient to guide us in **all** spiritual matters! (Cf. 2 Tim. 3:16-17; James 1:25; 2:12; 2 Peter 1:3; 1 Cor. 4:6; Rev. 22: 18-19 and 2 John 9-11).

You should **not** believe anything is right because of **the majority**, your **feelings**, **traditions** or **men**, a **good conscience**, **"it's a good work"** or because you **like it!** None of these things will judge us in the last day. We will be judged by the **Word of Christ!** (Cf. John 12:48)

"So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty." (James 2:12).

(CRS)

WE SHOULD BE ...

1. We should be **conservative**, but **not covetous!**

2. We should be **realistic**, but **not pessimistic!**

3. We should be **concerned**, but **not conceited!**

4. We should be **humble**, but **not helpless!**

5. We should be **sober**, but **not soft!**

6. We should be **harmless**, but **not heartless!**

(CRS)

IS OBEDIENCE REQUIRED?

(Continued from page 1)

5. ETERNAL SALVATION IS TO THE OBEDIENT! Hebrews 5:8-9 says: "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." NOTE: Eternal salvation is NOT promised to those who do NOT obey him! To promise eternal salvation on any thing less than **obedience to Christ** indicates a disrespect for the **Word of God** or an ignorance of it!

6. THE OBEDIENT WILL HAVE RIGHT TO THE TREE OF LIFE AND ENTER THE HOLY CITY! John, in Rev. 22:14, declared: "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and

may enter in through the gates into the city." NOTE: Only those who **do His commandments** are promised **right to the tree of life** and an entrance in through the gates into the city!

7. VENGEANCE WILL BE ON THE DISOBEDIENT! The apostle Paul affirms that the **Lord Jesus** will come from heaven with His mighty angels, "In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power." (2 Thess. 1:7-9).

YES, OBEDIENCE IS REQUIRED! One must obey the gospel of Jesus Christ or be lost eternally!

(CRS)

- SENTENCE SERMONS -

Everyone is liable to make mistakes, but only fools practice them.

* * * * *

Our destiny is not determined by what we possess, but by what possesses us.

* * * * *

There is no pillow so soft as a clear conscience.

* * * * *

Worry pulls tomorrow's cloud over today's sunshine.

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