

Obedience: a Fundamental Principle

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INTRODUCTION:

- A. We will a portion of the word of God that is often bypassed or skip when we read the Bible or those we seldom study.
- B. We will read a portion of this section, and if anyone is not aware of this text he/she may easily miss the important point.
1. We have the Old Testament for a reason.
 2. We have numerous events in the Old Testament for our very spiritual learning of who God is and what we should avoid in our Christian life (**Romans 15:4**)
 3. The reading of these passages is rather long, reverence and patience I ask. After all, we are not reading from a newspaper or from your favorite magazine, I am reading from the word of God.
- C. The reading:
1. **Exodus 26:1-25** with **Exodus 36:8-30**
 2. **Exodus 29:1, 10-28** with **Leviticus 8:14-29**
- D. Have you ever asked the question, why are these verses here included in the Bible? Have you ever wonder why are these verses included in the Bible in this form? The more I study, read and preach, I am strongly convinced that every passage in the Bible is there for a purpose, therefore it is for OUR best interest that we should find out that very purpose!
- E. In this sermon we want to find out what is the purpose of this type of passage in the Bible
1. We want to see two examples in the Old Testament about obedience and disobedience and how each case brought the approbation of God and His respective punishment.
 - a. The construction of the tabernacle
 - b. The consecration of the priests
 2. Then, from these examples we want to get out the principal from obedience. To be blessed spiritually by God we must:
 - a. Obey
 - b. Obey everything
 - c. We must obey exactly what God has said
 3. Practical lessons from above:
 - a. We cannot pick and chose the commandments of God to obey or not to
 - b. God expects from mankind to understand His commandments
 - c. God is strict

I. TWO EXAMPLES OF OBEDIENCE AND DISOBEDIENCE

A. The construction of the tabernacle

1. Disobedience (**Exodus 32:1-10**; the golden calf)
 - a. Verse 5 - Aaron built an alter for the Lord
 - b. They worshipped wrongfully - they disobeyed by doing what God had prohibited them to do! (**Exodus 20:4-5**)
 - c. God's anger was against them (**Exodus 32:10**) also see (**Exodus 32:34-35**).
2. Their obedience (**Exodus 36-40**)
 - a. Very detailed instructions - these meticulous instructions were met by the people of Israel (see previous passages read previously).

- b. God blessed them! (**Exodus 40:33, 34-38**). The same manner, as Christians we will have communion only when we completely obey Him in all of what God has commanded us (**2 Cor. 6:14-7:1**).

B. The consecration of the priests

1. Their obedience (**Leviticus 8-9**)
 - a. God had given them very detailed instructions
 - b. They had obey God's detailed instructions, commandments exactly as He has ordained them (we already read some of these passages in the introduction)
 - c. God responded with fire as an approval which consumed the offering (**Leviticus 9:22-24**). God was pleased! On the other hand see the fire in the case of Elijah (**1 Kings 18:38**).
2. Their disobedience (**Leviticus 10:1-3**).
 - a. These time they disobeyed for doing something God did not authorized (compared with the event of worshipping the golden calf)
 - b. God responded with fire again from heaven, but this time the fire consumed those who offered the sacrificed to God, God was offended! (See also the fire that came from heaven to destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah (**Genesis 19:24**).

II. TO BE BLESSED BY GOD WE MUST:

A. Obey

1. Hebrews 5:9
2. 1 John 2:3-4
3. 1 John 5:3
4. 2 John 6
5. Matthew 7:21
6. Luke 11:27-28
7. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8

B. We cannot pick and chose what to obey we must obey everything God commands me to do!

1. Matthew 28:20
2. James 2:10-12

C. It is to obey exactly what God has commandment

1. Matthew 5:19
2. Revelation 22:18-19
3. Matthew 15:9, 13

III. SOME PRACTICAL LESSONS:

A. We need to remember that we are NOT givers of the law

1. We tend to classified God's commandments. We think that some of God's commandments are insignificant or small (see **Matthew 5:19** previously refer).
2. Our attitude perhaps at times can be that we will like to determined which of all commandments of God are necessary for us to follow so that we can leave the rest to the side (Notice **Matt. 23:23**).
3. We also if not say it at least we think that the one preaching is too strict, he is too demanding about how we should behave, talk, treat each other, etc. What is prohibited what is not and so on...
4. Let us remember who we are! It is not up to us to pick and chose the commandments that best suit us!! Or which are important and which are not!
5. God is God, let us be reminded who He is! He is the creator of the universe; He is in command, what He says we must do!
6. **James 4:12**

B. God expects for us to understand His commandments

1. Many say, "That is only your interpretation"

2. We all are going to be responsible before God for our understanding or lack of understanding to His word, His will (**Ephesians 5:17**).
3. Sincerity, sincerity by itself is NOT enough!
 - a. Matthew 15:14
 - b. That is one of the reasons why see warning about the false prophet (**Matthew 7:15-16**).
 - c. Matthew 7:21-23
4. The problem begins when we use other base (apart from the word of God) for our obedience, and we base our lives or what we believe like *preference, difficulty* or just seeing the *consequences*.

C. God is strict

1. We ourselves at times are indulgent (lenient), we believe that God must be also. We live in a society that is lenient in many aspects and so we believe that God should be also.
2. Some people truly believe that God is not just because He obligates those who come to Him to obey Him, thus being strict with mankind. Some also believe that God is not just because He will punish those whom have disobeyed even a "small" point of His word.
 - a. First of all, God does not obligate anybody to do anything, it is your choice whether you want to follow Him or not, He does require if you do obedience.
 - b. Second, the punishment of Korah, Dathan and Abiram (**Numbers 16**), see also (**Numbers 16:41**).
 - c. In the punishment of Uzzah of which he touched the ark of God (**2 Samuel 6:8**)
3. **Romans 11:22**, the loving-kindness and severity of God.
4. Hebrews 10:26-31

CONCLUSION:

A. Galatians 5:13

1. The liberty of the many detailed ordinances in the Old Testament
2. But this liberty has not taken away the principal of obedience!
3. With this liberty we should ever more be obedient to God!

B. With regards to the Bible passages in the introduction and similar ones:

1. We have seen that the Bible mentions instructions and the fulfillment of them
2. The mentioned of one of the other would have been sufficient information by God, but His word includes them both.
3. By mentioning both the instruction and fulfillment of them and with so much details, the Bible then teach us a lesson about the importance of obedience.
 - a. We must obey
 - b. We must obey in everything
 - c. To obey exactly

C. What are the reasons?

1. We are not the givers of the law we should be doers of the word of God. We express our love to God when we obey Him (**John 14:15**).
2. God mandates that we should know His blessed will
3. God's loving-kindness and mercy are great but also he is severe! (**Hebrews 10:31**).

Victor Alvarado
Hermiston OR
USA