

Gospel Obedience

Intro: As a basis for our study turn to Rom. 6:17-18 ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.” Paul point out several things in these verses.

I. THE STATE OF SINNERS.

A. They are servants of sin.

1. Sin is a raging, commanding king.
2. The sinner is a cowardly slave.
3. His is a slave to the devil and to his own desires.
4. Rom. 6:16 ¹⁶ Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”

B. Rom. 6:13, 19 ¹³ Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God.... ¹⁹ I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.”

1. The members of his body are instruments of unrighteousness.
2. His eyes see evil things; his ears hear evil things; this tongue speaks evil things; his hands work mischief; his feet follow forbidden paths.

II. THE OBEDIENCE THEY SHOULD RENDER.

A. That form of teaching or doctrine.

1. The teaching is the mold; the hearers are the metal.
2. We conform our lives unto the pattern.

B. What the doctrine is: 1 Cor. 15:1-8 ¹ Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; ² By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. ³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: ⁵ And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: ⁶ After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. ⁷ After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. ⁸ And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.”

1. That Christ died for our sins.
2. That He was buried.
3. That He hath been raised.
4. That he hath appeared.

C. The form of it.

1. Death with Christ.
 - a. Rom. 6:3, 6 ³ Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his* resurrection: ⁶ Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”
 - b. Gal. 2:20 ²⁰ I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”
 - c. Gal. 5:24 ²⁴ And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”

2. Burial with Christ; Rom. 6:4 ⁴ "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."
3. Resurrection with Christ; Col. 2:12 ¹² "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead."
4. Appearance in newness of life; Rom. 6:4-5, 8 ⁴ "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of *his* resurrection: ⁶ Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. ⁷ For he that is dead is freed from sin. ⁸ Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:"

III. THE SPIRIT OF ACCEPTABLE OBEDIENCE.

A. From the heart.

B. The heart consists of four functions.

1. Intellect.
 - a. To obey intelligently or understandingly.
 - b. Mat. 28:19 ¹⁹ "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"
 - c. Eph. 5:17 ¹⁷ "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord *is*:"
2. Emotion.
 - a. To obey emotionally or affectionately.
 - b. Mat. 22:37 ³⁷ "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."
3. The will.
 - a. To obey willingly or voluntarily.
 - b. Rev. 22:17 ¹⁷ "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."
4. The conscience.
 - a. To obey from a moral conscience (divine knowledge within oneself).
 - b. Heb. 10:22 ²² "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water."
 - c. 1 Pet. 3:21 ²¹ "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:"

IV. THE BLESSINGS THAT FOLLOW.

A. Freedom.

1. Free from sin.
 - a. From the practice of it.
 - b. From the guilt of it.
 - c. From the bondage of it.
 - d. From the horrible results of it.
2. Rom. 6:14 ¹⁴ "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace."

B. A new master.

1. Ye became the servants of righteousness.
 - a. Rom. 6:13 ¹³ "Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God."

- b. Rom. 6:19 ¹⁹ "I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness."
2. The eyes now see good things; the ears hear good things; the tongue speaks good things; the hands do good things; the feet follow in paths of peace.

C. A fruitful life.

1. Ye have your fruit unto holiness or sanctification.
 - a. Rom. 6:22 ²² "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."
 - b. God plants a tree in the garden not merely for ornamentation but also to bear fruit.
2. John. 15:8 ⁸ "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."
3. Gal. 5:22-24 ²² "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. ²⁴ And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."
4. The community's greatest asset is a Christian.

D. A happy termination.

1. And the end everlasting life.
2. Rom. 6:22-23 ²² "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. ²³ For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
3. An end without an end. The end is a wonderful beginning.

Conclusion: We will answer unto God at last in judgment. We plead with you to accept this great doctrine from the heart, for only the obedient shall see salvation. Mat. 7:21 ²¹ "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"; Heb. 5:8-9 ⁸ "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; ⁹ And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;"