

OBEDIENCE

Those who say they believe in God, ardently make the claim that they obey God in Word and in truth by total obedience to the one True God. We say one God for there is no other God than the one we call Father of which we have learned from His Messiah, Jesus, the term which should be used in reference to God: ***“And call no man your father upon earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.”*** Matthew 23:9; ***“A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? And if I be a master, where is my fear? Saith the LORD of hosts unto you, O priests...”*** Malachi 1:6a. If we truly acknowledge God as supreme, we will honour Him by our obedience to His Will and this is done by obeying His words which have been made known to us through His Son, and in these latter days, by the Holy Spirit by which we can interpret his teachings from the gospels and other Bible scriptures. ***“I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness. And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.”*** John 12:46 to 50.

The words “am come a light into the world” spoken by Jesus were words also spoken by the gospel writer, John in chapter 1, verse 9: ***“That was the true Light, which ligheth every man that cometh into the world.”*** Jesus was the true light that came into the world by becoming the Word that was manifested in him by the power of God. ***“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...”*** John 1:14a. Men often speak of the Spirit of God as being His Word within us, but with Jesus of Nazareth, it was actually true: he became the Light (or Word) which was witnessed by John the Baptist. ***“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe... And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him... the same said to me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Spirit. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.”*** John 1:6, 7, 32, 33b, 34. So we learn of God’s Word through the teachings of the Christ and today we learn of those teachings through the gospels. This light of truth which descended from God upon Jesus was manifested without measure unto him. It is God’s Word being manifested in us through His Christ by our obedience and submissiveness to God. ***“For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”*** II Corinthians 4:6; ***“But all things that are reprovèd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.”*** Ephesians 5:13.

And to further speak on this matter of our submission to the one True God, there is also one true doctrine, for our Father is not a God of confusion. ***“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.”*** I Corinthians 14:33. In our obedience to God through hearing the voice of His Son by the manifestation of His Spirit in us, we become the children of light. ***“A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.”*** Luke 2:32; ***“Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.”*** Ephesians 5:6 to 8. Jesus loved the Father and proved it in all ways even unto his own death. Our desire of obedience to God is the result of sincere observance of Jesus’ character and his teachings which has brought us into the light of the Father’s Will of what we should be through His Christ.

The darkness in John 12:46 refers to the lusts of the world. It is not only representative of sensual lusts but also the materialistic riches and pleasures of this world. The playing of sports and games and making of money in today’s society is as it was in the time of the Romans, consuming all our time so that there is no time left for fellowshiping or doing good works. Without a doubt, the lustfulness for those worldly pleasures have devoured all our daily leisure time, even for many of those who claim righteousness. Worldly pleasures and riches have become gods to us in that we devote so much of our time to pursuing them. Such things have detoured us from the joy of His Light into the realm of darkness. It is not to say that we cannot have material things but we should maintain our control over them rather than let them control us. We should put godly things first. Jesus understood the omnipotency of the Father and always gave Him the glory and was obedient to Him. ***“The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light... But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.”*** Romans 13:12, 14; ***“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”*** John 3:19; ***“Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*** Matthew 22:13. The word ‘darkness’ in the last verse represents the final death in the Day of Judgment. Those who are evil and still remain on earth at Jesus’ return are destined for eternal death.

Jesus came to know that he possessed a complete understanding of the scriptures and that God had both chosen and anointed him because of his obedience to the Word of God. He also knew through Old Testament prophecy that he was the Son of God, and through the same scriptures we can confirm Jesus was the Messiah. ***“... chosen of God, and precious.”*** I Peter 2:4b; ***“Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?”*** John 7:42; ***“She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.”*** John 11:27; ***“The LORD [YHVH] hath sworn in truth unto David, he***

will not turn from it, Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne.” Psalm 132:11; *“And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)”* Luke 2:4.

We have no doubt that the lineage of the Messiah (or Christ) would come from the seed of David; the Holy Scriptures clearly tells us this. If we do not believe this, we are simply being contrary and ignoring facts clearly stated in Scripture; in other words, we are showing our disobedience in our denial of God’s Word.

This is where the truth of all mankind should begin – the knowledge of knowing that Jesus is the Word or the Christ and to know that the Christ represents. Many people listen and put their life dependency upon mankind and not on the life-saving obedience towards God’s Word of Truth. *“And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.”* Matthew 24:4, 5; *“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.”* II Corinthians 11:13; *“Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.”* Ephesians 5:6. Salvation will come to them that are obedient to God’s Word which can only be found in His Christ. Jesus emphatically expresses the Will of the Father and not his own will. Yet rarely does any one obey the teachings of the Christ that speaks for the One God.

If we profess to be the children of God, we would be obedient to what the scriptures says, and not to what men tell us to believe which is often contrary to Jesus’ teachings. *“Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.”* Acts 5:29; *“In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that 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.”* II Thessalonians 1:8, 9. There are many people who, when confronted with scriptures they do not understand, will seek the aid of the clergy of their church to get their particular denomination’s interpretation of the passage in question. This is disappointing in that it demonstrates a lack of ambition to seek the truth by placing one’s dependency on another, which in certain circumstances jeopardize one’s salvation. It is not being suggested that when learning the scriptures for the first time that we can’t ask others for assistance in gaining understanding and to gain a footing in biblical knowledge, however, there comes a point when we are required to expend effort to find the answers we seek and not rely solely on someone else’s interpretation of scripture.

Many people are slack when it comes to studying. They may read the Gospels numerous times over, but many will not study the words to search out its underlying interpretation and deeper meaning. Being slack in the pursuit of truth leads to disobedience by way of being ignorant of Biblical truths. The Word that we know that came down from heaven and was manifested into a man of flesh would speak of our disobedience towards the Word of Truth. The Word represents the spiritual essence of God. Before his resurrection, Jesus walked as

an ordinary man of flesh and blood, born of a woman from the seed of man. But his behaviour and character were the result of his obedience to the Spirit of God that dwelt within him. What is the secret mystery of how God can open our minds? Read the following verses on how Jesus spoke and how he only possessed those Words of Truth from the Spirit of God. ***“For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but he will of him that sent me.”*** John 6:38; ***“For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.”*** John 3:34; ***“Believest thou not that I am in the Father and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.”*** John 14:10; ***“What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? It is the Spirit that quickeneth: the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”*** John 6:62, 63. That Spirit, which is the Word or Will of God manifested upon Jesus because of his obedience to God’s Will. ***“And John bare record, saying, I say the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him... Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost [Spirit].”*** John 1:32, 33b; ***“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...”*** John 1:14a; ***“That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached; how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost [Spirit] and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”*** Acts 10:37, 38; ***“And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”*** Ephesians 6:17.

There are many who claim to follow Christianity, and profess love towards God and Jesus the Christ, yet they are not obedient to his teachings, thus to the Word of God. ***“And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”*** II Thessalonians 2:10 to 12; ***“They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.”*** Titus 1:16. Contrary to what many churches teach, obedience is demonstrated by upholding the Ten Commandments and the sayings of Jesus. ***“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”*** I John 5:3; ***“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.”*** James 1:22 to 24.

Jesus walked upon this earth about 2,000 years ago and preached the message of the one true God, YHVH. By and large, because we can not see or hear Jesus with our own eyes or ears, we do not listen or do this teachings as taught in the scriptures. ***“For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should***

understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.” Matthew 13:15 to 17. How said it is how so many people do not want to hear the truth and continuously struggle against God’s Word. Some seek to hear what they want to hear by inquiring of the heads of their particular denominations but forego learning the truth by not seeking answers themselves. *“But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.”* Jeremiah 7:24.

Our salvation is dependent upon our obedience to the truth, whether we want to believe that or not. We cannot depend on others to obtain our salvation for us; each of us must work to achieve eternal life. *“In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that 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.”* II Thessalonians 1:8, 9; *“Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent.”* Acts 13:26; *“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”* Romans 8:6, 7; *“For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry...It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.”* Luke 15:24, 32; *“He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”* I John 2:4; *“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”* Revelations 21:8.

Obedience requires action on our part. Obeying as a Christian involves following the Ten Words of God and the teachings of Jesus the Christ. Jesus upheld the Ten Words in his teachings: *“Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”* Matthew 5:19. Disobedience runs rampant in many of the mainstream Christian churches of today. If you are serious about salvation, don’t just read the words of Jesus but take the time to study his teachings and understand their deeper meaning. *“Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.”* Matthew 22:29; *“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”* Acts 17:11. If we truly love our Father in Heaven, we will obey him knowing that he loved us first, and listen to His Son’s words who manifested our Father’s Will. *“For as by one man’s disobedience*

many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.” Romans 5:19.