

Bound For Goodness

"The Obedient Man"

(Hebrews 5:8-9)

- Introduction:
1. We often sing a song entitled, "Trust and Obey."
 - a. The words of that song say, "Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus."
 2. The words of that song express the very point of this lesson.
 3. If our life is a life of faithful obedience to God, then the Scriptures affirm that we will be bound for goodness.

I. Passages Which Promise Blessings To The Obedient

- A. "Blessed *are* those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him with the whole heart!" (Psalms 119:2).
- B. "He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul, *But* he who is careless of his ways will die." (Proverbs 19:16).
- C. "Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death." (John 8:51).
- D. "Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." (John 14:23).
- E. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him," (Hebrews 5:9).
- F. There is certainly a promise of goodness to those who will obey the Lord and the Bible furthermore assures us that God will do what he says - "He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it" (1 Thessalonians 5:24).

II. What Obedience Is Not

- A. Obedience Is Not Doing Some Of What God Said.
 1. (1 Samuel 15:10-23).
 2. (Psalm 119:160).
 3. (Mark 16:16) Belief and baptism - sum or some?
 4. (1 Corinthians 5:2-7) Mourn and discipline - sum or some?
 5. (John 15:1-6) Connect to vine and bear fruit - sum or some?
- B. Obedience Is Not Doing More Than God Said.
 1. (1 Corinthians 4:6).
 2. (2 John 9-11).
 3. (Revelation 22:18).
- C. Substitution Is Not Obedience.
 1. (1 Samuel 15:22).
 2. There is an unholy arrogance within one who would look at God and say, "I know you said this, but I thought this would be better."

- D. Doing The Right Thing With The Wrong Attitude Is Not Obedience.
 - 1. (Romans 6:17).
 - 2. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).
 - 3. Ills. of little boy being made to sit down in Bible class.
- E. Knowing Is Not Obedience.
 - 1. (James 1:22-25).
 - 2. (James 4:17).

III. Why We Find Obedience Difficult

- A. Obedience is not always convenient.
 - 1. (Acts 24:25).
 - 2. (2 Timothy 4:2).
 - 3. If we think we can delay obedience until a more convenient time, more times than not, we'll find that delay doesn't make obedience easier, but more difficult.
 - 4. Also, consider the kind of service that must first determine whether serving the Lord is convenient or not.
- B. We Don't Always Understand.
 - 1. Why baptism?
 - 2. (Noah-Genesis 6; Abraham-Genesis 12; Moses-Exodus 3).
 - 3. Understanding can wait; obedience cannot.
- C. Our Preference Is Otherwise.
 - 1. Naaman (2 Kings 5).
 - 2. Genuine obedience is not really tested until you're asked to do something that you don't want to do.
- D. Consequences sometimes follow.
 - 1. (John 12:42) Chief rulers.
 - 2. Obedience has a price.

- Conclusion:
- 1. When all is said and done, obedience is a discipline in which we must all mature.
 - 2. It's not easy, but certainly in the long run, it's a much easier road to travel than the road of disobedience.
 - 3. Remember, the goodness of God awaits those who learn obedience - "He is the author of eternal salvation unto all who obey him" (Hebrews 5:9).

