

GSM

Obedience

I. Blessed through obedience

A. I want to stop at this point because I feel there might be some reservation in some minds about being blessed outside of our performance.

B. Some might be thinking, yes, but what about obedience. I have been taught we are blessed because we obey God.

C. To this I say I whole heartedly agree. But we must define the obedience we are talking about.

D. There are two types of obedience talked about in scripture.

1. Obedience to the law
2. Obedience of faith

II. Obedience to the Law

A. Those under the law had to obey all of the law in order to be blessed.

1. [**Deuteronomy 28:1,15**]
2. [**Deuteronomy 6:25**]
3. [**James 2:10**]

B. Those that broke the law were commanded to bring a sacrifice to God.

1. This sacrifice represented Christ as the perfect sinless lamb dying in our place and taking the punishment for our sins. The innocence of the lamb was credited to the person who brought it. Thus they were eligible for God's blessings.

2. **No one** ever got blessed under the law for their obedience to the law. No one ever kept the law except Jesus!

3. **Every person** who was blessed under the law were blessed on the basis of substitutionary sacrifice and trust in God's grace.

III. Obedience of faith

A. God is not looking for outward obedience to laws.

B. God is looking for faith and trust from the heart. This is what God calls true obedience to him.

C. The book of Romans is the first epistle in our bible written to the church for instruction on Christian living. It is the genesis for Christian living. It is our foundation as Christians. Paul opens up this book talking about the obedience Christians are called to

1. [**Romans 1:5**]- We are called to the **obedience of faith**
2. [**Romans 16:26**]- Paul ends the book of Romans with the same thought. We are called to the **obedience of faith**

C. The terms **obey and believe** in the New Testament are interchangeable.

1. [**Acts 5:32**]- The Holy Spirit is given to those who **obey** [believe] God
2. [**Galatians 3:1, 5:7**]- They did not **obey** [believe] the truth
3. [**2 Thessalonians 1:8**]- Do not **obey** [believe] the gospel
4. [**Hebrews 3:18-19**]- Did not enter into rest because they did not **obey** [unbelief]
5. [**Hebrews 5:9**]- Author of salvation to those who **obey** [believe] Him
6. [**1 Peter 4:17**]- **Obey** [believe] the gospel

D. We are blessed by obeying [believing] in God's grace. Living a life of faith and trust in God produces a much cleaner and holy life than those striving to obey outwardly commands. The strength of sin is the law. Living under the law actually produces a double life.

E. What about [**Isaiah 1:19**]?

1. ***"If you are willing and obedient you will eat the good of the land"***. First this was written under the dispensation of Law. The Jews under the law were not willing or obedient to the law so they ate the leanness of the land and then were cast out of the land!
2. We must read scripture in context. Let's look at [**Isaiah 1:16-18**]- God gives the law to them to keep. He tells them to wash themselves and make themselves clean. This is really what the law was given for. It told man to clean, purify, and qualify yourself for God's blessings. However, this is impossible. He then tells them to come to the court and argue their case and prove their innocence. They would have to admit before God's court they were sinners and guilty. God then would legally take away their sins through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ that He would give them. He would make them clean and white because they could not do it themselves.
3. God goes on to say in verse 1:19- Therefore IF you will be willing to do this and obedient to do this then you will eat the good of the land. If you refuse and rebel you will be destroyed. God was calling Israel to believe. When we believe in the sacrifice for us then we are candidates to eat the best of God's land!