

Have you obeyed the gospel?

*"... the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those **who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus**" (2 Thessalonians 1:7-8). Have you? Have you obeyed the gospel? Are you obeying the gospel? All who do not obey the gospel of Christ will suffer eternal punishment. Obeying the gospel is important to the salvation of your soul.*

This gospel is God's good news of salvation. It is His power to save. Paul confessed, *"I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes"* (Romans 1:16). The gospel is powerful because it is the heavenly Father's word of truth (Colossians 1:5) - the truth which sets men free (John 8:31-32; 17:17). Failure to obey the gospel is a failure to live in accord with the truth so as to be saved. Rejection of the truth is to choose bondage - enslavement to sin leading to death.

This gospel is not only the good news about who Jesus is and what He did, but the gospel is also the Lord's teaching and commandments. *"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age"* (Titus 2:11-12). *"Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God"* (2 John 9). Not only must a person believe in Jesus, but he must also adhere to His teaching, do what He has spoken, obey what He has commanded.

The good news that the Son of God died for man's sins but then arose from the dead is revealed and preserved to this day *"to bring about the obedience of faith among all"* (Romans 1:5). The eternal God has made known the gospel of Jesus Christ to lead receptive hearts *"to obedience of faith"* (Romans 16:26). *"And having been made perfect, He [Christ the Son] became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation"* (Hebrews 5:9). A faith that does not obey Jesus will not save. Jesus challenges hearers, *"Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"* (Luke 6:46).

There is rejoicing when one obeys the gospel. *"Thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed"* (Romans 6:17). What teaching was obeyed to put away the body of sin? What did believers do to be freed from sin? *"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life"* (Romans 6:3-4). Newness and freedom are after obeying the Lord's commandment of baptism.

Therefore, the gospel of Christ is meant to be preached to every generation so they can learn what they must do to be saved. *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned."* (Mark 16:15-16) The gospel of Christ must be preached, heard, believed and then obeyed.