

Disobedience

As I mentioned in an email to Vince, I begin praying for the following week's Sabbath lesson right after lunch on the walk home. I pray for God's guidance in sharing a topic that He wants us to study and learn. Sometimes I'll get a nudge during the week either in thought or even a dream. This week I received all three.

Vince had asked if I'd read the weekly essay from CGG titled, "Disbelief," which I had received. After reading it, the thoughts and direction for the week shaped up and perhaps a more pointed title would be "disobedience." Here we are.

As usual, I hit the dictionaries for the definitions associated with the use of the words we use. Cambridge Dictionary offered the most fitting this week and defined "Disobedience" as the quality of being disobedient (= *refusing* to do what someone *in authority tells* you to do). It may be debatable whether or not we'd classify disobedience as a "quality." However, the connection to our use is spot on, "refusing to do what someone in authority tells you to do." There is no greater Authority than God Almighty and Jesus Christ and the churches today refuse what they are commanded to do! It is that simple. Many profess to love God and love Jesus, but they flat out refuse to accept His Word and DO what He Commanded us to do in His Word. We have said it numerous times, God is not Burger King, and

you don't get to worship Him **your** way. Consequences for disobedience are repeated throughout God's Word.

Leviticus 26:14-18- “But if you will not hearken to Me and will not do all these commandments, And if you shall despise My statutes, or if your soul hates My judgments, so that you will not do all My commandments, so that you break My covenant; I will also do this to you: I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and burning fever, consuming the eyes and causing sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. And I will set My face against you, and you shall be slain before your enemies. They that hate you shall reign over you. And you shall flee when none pursues you. And if you will not yet for all this hearken to Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.”

Deuteronomy 8:11- “Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, and His judgments, and His statutes, which I command you today,”

We know God will punish those who are disobedient to His Word, especially those in His Church. (1 Peter 4:17)

Deuteronomy 8:19-20- “And it shall be if you do at all forget the LORD your God and walk after other gods serving them and worshiping them I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish—yes, perish. As the nations whom the LORD destroys before your face, so you shall perish because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.”

1 Kings 9:6-7- “If you shall at all turn from following Me, you, or your children, and will not keep My commandments *and* My statutes which I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them, Then I will cut off Israel from the face of the land which I have given them. And this house which I have made holy for My name I will cast out of My sight. And Israel shall be a proverb and a byword among all people.”

2 Chronicles 7:19-22- “But if you turn away and forsake My statutes and My commandments which I have set before you, and if you shall go and serve other gods and worship them, Then I will pluck them up by the roots out of My land

which I have given them. And this house which I have sanctified for My name, I will cast out of My sight, and **I will** make it to be a proverb and a byword among all nations. And this house, which is exalted, shall be an astonishment to everyone who passes by it, so that *they* shall be appalled and say, ‘Why has the LORD done this to this land and to this house?’ And it shall be answered, ‘Because they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, and laid hold upon other gods and worshiped them and served them. Therefore, He has brought all this evil upon them.’ ”

Psalm 89:30-32- “**If** his children forsake My law and do not walk in My judgments, **If** they profane My statutes and do not keep My commandments, Then **I will** visit their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with stripes.”

Sermons are better received if they’re warm and fuzzy. Discussing the penalties for disobedience won’t fill the pews or collection plates. It is easier to cater to itching ears and water down scripture. But by doing so, pastors are sinning by regarding church attendance more than the truth of God’s Word.

Galatians 1:8-10- “But if we, or even an angel from heaven, should preach a gospel to you *that* is contrary to what we have preached, LET HIM BE

ACCURSED! As we have said before, I also now say again. If anyone is preaching a gospel contrary to what you have received, LET HIM BE ACCURSED! Now then, am I striving to please men, or God? Or am I motivated to please men? For if I am yet pleasing men, I would not be a servant of Christ.”

Romans 2:11-13- “Because there is no respect of persons with God. For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law; and as many as have sinned within the law shall be judged by the law, (Because the hearers of the law are not just before God, but the **doers of the law** shall be justified.”

This point may be moot as by keeping man’s Sabbath (Sunday) they have already broken the Fourth Commandment.

James 2:9-11- “But ***if*** you have respect of persons, you are practicing sin, being convicted by the law as transgressors; For ***if*** anyone keeps the whole law, **but sins in one aspect, he becomes guilty of all.** For He Who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not commit murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery, but you commit murder, you have become a transgressor of *the* law.”

The issues we face in our nation today with respect to morality is linked to our disobedience to God and His laws. *Especially in the Church!* Like it or not, it is the elephant in the room nobody wants to address. I caught a news segment on Fox the other night that was about a morality survey conducted. It boiled down to one political party pointing a finger at the other essentially saying the “other” group was less moral than they are. Lunacy...must have been a slow news day. No one ever wants to examine their own self when it is so easy to cast the blame somewhere else...nothing new under the sun as Andrea is always quoting **Ecclesiastes 1:9**. Nobody ever thinks of **Isaiah 5:20** and a lack of God in our nation could be at the core. We can see scripture coming to fruition all around us, but most cannot as **they don't know it!**

Genesis 3:12-13- “And the man said, “The woman whom You gave *to be* with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.” And the LORD God said to the woman, “What *is* this you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Adam and Eve started the “blame game” back in the Garden of Eden after eating the forbidden fruit. Their disobedience to God introduced sin into the world and it's been downhill from there.

The arrogance and “self-elevation” of the survey reminded me of the Pharisee beating his chest in comparison to the tax collector in Luke 18.

Luke 18:9-14- “And to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others, He also spoke this parable: “Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one was a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed with himself in this manner: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men— extortioners, unrighteous, adulterers—or even as this tax collector. I fast twice in the week, and I give a tithe of everything that I gain.’ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat himself on the chest, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner.’ I tell you; this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled; and the one who humbles himself shall be exalted.”

Again, nothing new, especially in God’s own church. The rise and fall of so many church “leaders” has been due to their own self importance and pride. God will tolerate it only so much with trials and storms but eventually, He will remove them. Recently an elder in the church resigned because he didn’t approve of the Biblical way a successor was named. Taking our eyes off of God and focusing on the “self” can be prideful and blinding.

Matthew 23:12- “And whoever will exalt himself shall be humbled; and whoever will humble himself shall be exalted.” (**Luke 14:11**)

Our calling is not about importance or rank within the body; it is about loving God first and servicing those He sends our way. Our arms are too short to pat ourselves on the back anyway.

Matthew 22:36-38- “Master, which commandment *is the* great commandment in the Law?” And Jesus said to him,” ‘You shall love *the* Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is *the* first and greatest commandment;”

Mark 9:35- “And after sitting down, He called the twelve and said to them, “If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.”

Disobedience not only applies to keeping and doing God’s Commandments, but it also relates to our growth in the likeness and character of Jesus Christ. Our faith takes us beyond belief to a completely new direction of obedience and focus.

Romans 8:29- “Because those whom He did foreknow, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His own Son, that He might be *the* firstborn among many brethren.”

2 Corinthians 3:18- “But we all, with uncovered faces beholding the glory of *the* Lord as in a mirror, are being transformed *into* the same image from glory to glory, even as by *the* Spirit of *the* Lord.”

This time of year, when we prepare to celebrate the Passover, the majority of all other “Christian churches,” are getting ready to celebrate Easter (April 5th). We all know that Easter is not in the Bible nor did Christ command anyone to celebrate His Resurrection. It may be in some of the newer translations to support doctrine, but it is and was never Commanded by God. It is a pagan celebration involving Ishtar, Tammuz and more “once upon a time” spring fertility nonsense. No matter how holy the Catholics or Protestants try and make it, it is a lie and false doctrine.

To further add to the disobedience, even this man-made tradition has been polluted with bunnies, colored eggs, and Easter Bonnets. I remember when I was little, we would all get a new Easter outfit for church. Like most, as I got older it became

one of two times a year we would all as a family. Sunday was a day for sleeping late as Saturday morning was committed to cartoons.

If we take a hard look at the moral condition of our nation, complacency in the church can be found at the root. Does anyone honestly believe we would have a gender identity crisis or promotion of transgender ideologies in our schools if the church stood fast on God's truth? Inclusion and fear has yielded a watered down theology that opens the door to the enemy. When such practices are condoned or accepted, any moral foundation will crumble, even though God is extremely specific in His Word regarding these topics.

Genesis 1:26-27- “And God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of heaven and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that crawls upon the earth.” And God created man in His *own* image, in the image of God He created him. He created them male and female.”

Genesis 5:1-2- “This *is* the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and

female and blessed them, and He called their name Adam in the day when they were created.”

If we read this correctly, there is only TWO genders, nothing added or in between. God has thoughts on those who think they can be either.

Deuteronomy 22:5- “Anything that pertains to a man shall not be worn by a woman, neither shall a man put a woman’s garment on. **For all that do so are abominable to the LORD your God.**”

Abominable! We have witnessed God’s wrath on those He loves but it will not go well for those who are an abomination to Him. He chastises those whom He loves.

Hebrews 12:5-8- “And you have already forgotten the admonition that He addresses to you as to sons: “My son, do not despise *the* chastening of *the* Lord, nor grow weary of being reproved by Him; For whom *the* Lord loves He chastens, and He severely disciplines every son whom He receives.” If you endure chastening, God is dealing with you as *a Father* with *His* sons. For who is the son whom *the* Father does not chasten? But if you are without chastisement, of which all are partakers, then you are bastards and not sons.”

This scripture should have been ringing in our ears since Tabernacles. If you've been having repeated trials and storms, it is definitely time for self-reflection, especially as we draw close to Passover. As the weekly essay discussed "disbelief," looking deeper into us, is it really "disbelief" or our own arrogance and "disobedience" in wanting to worship God in our own way? Believe me, He knows your heart and your motives.

Luke 6:46- "And why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' but you do not practice what I say?"

Titus 1:16- "They personally profess to know God, but in *their* works they deny Him, **being abominable and disobedient**, and reprobate unto every good work."

Obedience goes beyond mere belief. Belief can occur *without* being obedient. We have discussed numerous times that fear and pride are tremendous obstacles to move further than simply believing. God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, love, and sound mindedness.

2 Timothy 1:6-8- "For this reason, I admonish you to stir up the gift of God that is in you by the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but

of power, and of love, and of sound mindedness. Therefore, you should not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner; but jointly suffer with me for the sake of the gospel, according to the power of God,”

When we obey God’s Commandments, we keep and do them. They are a delight and are not burdensome.

1 John 5:2-3- “By this *standard* we know that we love the children of God: when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God: that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.”

Our obedience will come under fire the closer we grow in the likeness of Jesus Christ and closer in our personal relationship with God the Father, especially in these trying times. To those baptized and those being called, it is our responsibility and we have been charged to enlighten those God sends our way with The Truth, God’s Truth. For these reasons, it is crucial we have His Word written in our hearts and we are fully obedient to our call.

Ezekiel 33:1-7- “And the Word of the LORD came to me, saying, “Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them, ‘When I bring the sword

upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from among them, and set him for their watchman; If, when he sees the sword come upon the land, he blows the ram's horn and warns the people, Then whoever hears the sound of the ram's horn and does not take warning, if the sword does come and take him away, his blood shall be on his own head. He heard the sound of the ram's horn and did not take warning. His blood shall be on himself. But if he had taken warning, he would have delivered his life. But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the ram's horn and the people are not warned; if the sword comes and takes *any* person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity. But I will require his blood at the watchman's hand.' And you, son of man, I have set you as watchman to the house of Israel. Therefore, you shall hear the Word from My mouth, and warn them from Me."

When the time comes or the opportunity presents itself, do you have the faith, the courage, knowledge, and obedience to share the Word of God?

Isaiah 1:17-20- "Learn to do good; seek judgment, reprove the oppressor. Judge the orphan, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be like wool. **If you are willing and obedient,**

you shall eat the good of the land; But if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured *with* the sword;” for the mouth of the LORD has spoken *it.*” Amen.

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