

# OBEYING THE COMMANDS OF CHRIST

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## FOUR IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

May I ask you four very important questions? Please do not raise your hands, but simply answer these questions honestly in your heart.

1. Is Jesus Christ your personal Savior?
2. Is Jesus Christ the Lord of your life?
3. Is there a difference between believing in Jesus as your Savior and believing in Jesus as your Lord?
4. Is a person who ignores the commands of Christ really saved?

## TWO SCRIPTURES

**(Luke 6:46)** "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"

**(Matthew 7:21-23)** 21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"

## SOMETHING IS WRONG IN THE CHURCH TODAY

Consider the words Evangelist Moody Adams concerning the state of the church in America today.<sup>1</sup>

- The church no longer sets the moral standards for America.

- Her baptisms, attendance and finances are on the decline.
- Her pastors have a divorce record as bad as the general public.
- Her youth are dropping out of church and living like pagans.
- This is all despite the church having more buildings and trained staff than any Christians in history.

## THE PROBLEM

These problems are all the result of one failing: the church is only carrying out half the great commission. Jesus not only said to "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15). Jesus also commissioned the church to "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:20).

Adams concluded: "We have been carrying out one half of the Great Commission, preaching the gospel, but not teaching them to obey His commands."

## WE'VE IGNORED CHRIST'S COMMANDS

Some have completely ignored Christ's commands; saying believing on the Lord Jesus Christ is all we need to save us and that is all we want. Others scream "legalism" and "works salvation" if you mention a need for obedience. Obedience is not a condition of salvation, but a result of salvation.

## HENRY BLACKABY

Mr. Adams quotes Henry T. Blackaby,

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<sup>1</sup> Moody Adams Report. June 22, 2009

Southern Baptist's spokesman on "Experiencing God" who said:

"If Southern Baptist want to see a 'Great Commission Resurgence,' they need to focus on the relationship between disciples and the living Lord Jesus, not just launch a new emphasis on evangelism. I have felt for a long time that Southern Baptist have focused on evangelism and missed discipleship," (Baptist Press. May 11, 2009). "The most important part of the Great Commission is to teach them to practice everything I have commanded you.' That's discipleship and that's the heart of the Great Commission."

Moody Adams concluded by saying: "The Commandments of Christ are the key to turning America back to God, transforming our families and business. Study His commands, meditate on them, teach them and above all else, obey them."

## **HOW IMPORTANT IS OBEDIENCE?**

### **1. (John 14:15)**

"If you love Me, keep My commandments.'

### **2. (John 14:21)**

"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.

### **3. (1 John 2:3)**

Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

### **4. (1 John 2:4)**

He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

### **5. (1 John 3:22)**

"And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do

those things that are pleasing in His sight.

### **6. (1 John 3:24)**

"Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

### **7. (1 John 5:2)**

"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments."

### **8. (1 John 5:3)**

"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome."

### **9. (2 John 1:6)**

"This is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it."

### **10. (Matt. 7:21-27)**

24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

26 But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

## **Your pastor has done a very poor job of obeying the second half of the Great Commission.**

We've won people to Christ, baptized them, and added them to the church roll, but we have failed to carry out the second part which says: "Teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you."

**Have you ever noticed** in the qualifications for a pastor given in I Timothy 3 that being able to preach is not even mentioned? However, being "apt to teach" is one of the requirements.

**I have asked God to give me a vision** of how to make some major changes in the way we teach, beginning with new members and continuing until we die or until Jesus comes.

**Sunday School is important** but Sunday School only scratches the surface

**Evangelism is first but teaching** must follow. We cannot afford to "dip 'em and drop 'em." Once a person is saved and baptized, we are to immediately enroll them in the study of God's Word.

**Everybody who joins our church** should become a student of God's Word. There must be a new members class where it all begins (orientation).

**Every new believer should be enrolled** in a Sunday School class. In addition to that, we need to teach believers to study on their own. We must create a way to study at home on our computers, much like our "Switched on Schoolhouse."

**We may create a program** where I can E-mail a new member their Bible study and they can do the work and mail it back to me for grading.

**Everybody in our church with the Gift** of teaching should be teaching regularly. It is my dream that every class would be taught by lay people. The pastor should teach the leaders and the leaders should teach the congregation.

**The early church met in homes and in the temple.** (Acts 5) "And daily in the temple and in every house they cease not to preach and teach Jesus."

**You must know how to read** in order to study the Word of God. Very few people today can read as well as they should, and many cannot read at all. We must place more emphasis on adult education.

**When we win people who cannot read** well we should be prepared to give them the Bible and the studies on CD's, videos, and etc.

**We need to return to the days** when the church had January Bible Study Week. Churches would take a week (like a revival) and study a book of the Bible.

## **HOW MANY COMMANDS OF CHRIST CAN YOU NAME?**

If I were to pass out a sheet of paper this morning and ask you to list as many of the commands of Christ as you could, how many would there be on your list?

Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments." What Commandments? How many can you name?

These are not fifteen suggestions. They are fifteen commandments.

## **FIFTEEN COMMANDS OF CHRIST**

One of our members gave me a book recently titled, "Fifteen Commands of the Lord Jesus Christ," written by missionary, Mike Keller. Let me give you the list he included in his book.

### **1. Repent.**

Three are seventeen terrible consequences God will send upon people who refuse to repent.

### **2. Follow me**

### **3. Rejoice**

### **4. Do not lust**

### **5. Forgive your enemies**

### **6. Bless them that curse you**

### **7. Pray for laborers**

### **8. Fear Not**

### **9. Beware of covetousness**

### **10. Forgive others**

### **11. Bring in the poor and the handicapped**

### **12. Render unto Caesar**

### **13. Love the Lord your God**

### **14. Take my yoke upon you.**

### **15. Watch therefore and pray always**

## **CONSIDER THE FIRST COMMANDMENT WHICH IS TO REPENT**

**The first sermon** Jesus preached was on

repentance.

**The first sermon** John the Baptist preached was on Repentance.

**The last sermon Paul preached** was on "Repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20).

**The last sermon Jesus preached** to the church was Repentance (Revelation 1-3).

To ignore this commandment will bring seventeen (17) different degrees of punishment upon you and your children. Consider what Missionary Keller wrote on pages 12-16.

**1. You will experience punishment (Proverbs 16:5)**

**2. You will make many errors (mistakes) in your life (Prov. 14:22)**

**3. You will sometime even lack good food (Prov. 13:25).**

**4. You will experience a hard life (Prov.13:15).**

**5. You will experience much violence in your life (Prov. 13:2)**

**6. You will become a slave of your own sin (Prov. 5:22-23).**

**7. You will be stripped of the peace of God (Isaiah 48:22)**

**8. You will reap more consequences than the sin that you have sown (Galatians 6:7-8)**

**9. You will experience many sorrows in your life (Psalm 21:10).**

**10. You will experience awful things that you fear (Proverbs 10:24)**

**11. God will allow evil things to happen to you (Psalm 34:21).**

**12. God will take away your strength (Psalm 37:17).**

**13. Your children and grandchildren (seed) will be cut off (Psalm 37:28).**

**14. God will cause you to fall (Psalm 147:6).**

**15. God will curse the place where you live (Proverbs 3:33).**

**16. Sooner or later you will lose your mind and begin to imagine things (Proverbs 28:1).**

**17. God will allow the Devil to delude you and you will believe his lies because you refuse to turn to God and His love (2 Thess. 2:10-12)**

#### **I AM ASKING THREE YOU TO DO THREE THINGS**

**1. Pray for me** as I try to "create" a plan of study, beginning the day a person joins our church and continuing until they die or until Jesus comes.

**2. Get serious about Bible study.** Every member of our church should be involved in some kind of Bible study, somewhere every week.

**3. Repent of your sins today** and begin to follow Jesus as the "Lord of your life and not just a Savior from hell? Or "tighten your seat-belt" and get ready to suffer the 17 consequences God promised to those who refuse to repent.