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“FOR THE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH!”

In Romans 16:25-26 the Apostle Paul wrote that the gospel was “...*made known to all nations for the obedience of faith.*” When we teach the gospel today, it is not simply in an effort to get people to believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, but to “**believe in Jesus to such an extent to as to obey Him!**” In Matthew 7:21 Jesus said the following: “*Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*” People have a tendency to separate faith from obedience and teach that “**salvation comes by faith only.**” But the Bible truth is that it takes an “**obedient faith**” to save people from their sins. And this is true from start to finish in the Bible; it has never been any other way. To believe in Jesus only separate and apart from obeying Him is to do nothing more than the devil himself does according to James 2:19. James 2:14-26 clearly teaches that “**faith apart from works of obedience is a dead faith and is useless.**” On the other hand there are numerous scriptures that show us that an “**obedient faith along with God’s grace**” enables us to be saved. (Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 6:16-18; 1st Peter 1:22-23) Furthermore we read in Hebrews 5:9 that Jesus is the “...*author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him.*”

And so if you believe in Jesus as the Son of God, that’s great. But remember this, believing in Jesus without truly obeying His commandments will not save anyone regardless of what the religious world says. The Bible clearly shows us that it is those individuals that have an “**obedient faith**” in God and in Jesus Christ who alone will be saved! Does this describe the kind of faith that you have? This is something that is surely worth your time to think about carefully.

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S BIBLE QUESTIONS:

God brought ten plagues upon Egypt before Pharaoh let the Israelites go. The final plague was the death of the firstborn in Egypt, including even Pharaoh's own house. (Exodus 1-12)

Joseph is the man who interpreted the dreams of Pharaoh. (Genesis 40-41)
Daniel is the man who interpreted the dreams of Nebuchadnezzar. (Daniel 2-4)

Ananias and Sapphira are the husband and wife who sold a piece of land and then lied about how much the land had been sold for. (Acts 5:1-12)

QUESTIONS FOR THIS MONTH:

What chapter in the Bible is 26 verses long with each verse ending with the statement "*for His mercy endureth forever?*"

What two men does Paul mention by name who were guilty of teaching false doctrine about the resurrection of Christ? (What was that false teaching?)

WILL JESUS EVER LITERALLY SET FOOT ON EARTH AGAIN?

To hear most religious people talk you would think the answer to this question is "Yes." But if you carefully study the Bible you will find out that the answer to this question is actually "No." The scriptures will not allow Jesus to literally come back to earth for two reasons: (1) His ancestry, and (2) His priesthood. Jeremiah 22:28-30 speaks of the descendants of Coniah and how they will not rule in Judah and prosper upon the throne of David. Jesus is a descendant of Coniah according to Matthew 1:1-12. (Jechonias is the same as Coniah.) Therefore He cannot come back to earth and rule on David's throne in Judah and prosper without this prophecy of Jeremiah being violated. Furthermore, Jesus is spoken of as a "*priest forever after the order of Melchisedec.*" (Hebrews 5:6) Yet Hebrews 8:4 says this about Jesus: "*For if He were on earth, He should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law.*" Jesus would have to give up His priesthood in order to come back to earth, and yet the scriptures say that He is a "*priest FOREVER after the order of Melchisedec.*" The truth of the matter is this: Jesus is both a "*king and a priest at this present time*" according to the scriptures. (Colossians 1:13 & Hebrews 1:8 along with Hebrews 8:1) Peter taught in Acts 2:29-36 that Jesus was upon "*David's throne in heaven*" at the very time he was speaking on that occasion.

Therefore the teaching that says that Jesus is coming literally back to earth in the future is simply not true. When Jesus returns, it will be "*in the clouds and in the air*" (1st Thessalonians 4:13-18), and it will be to "*judge all mankind*" according to John 5:28-29. ARE YOU READY FOR HIS RETURN?

HAVE YOU OBEYED THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST?

In Romans 10:16 the Apostle Paul makes the following statement: ***“But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?”*** Why did Paul mention **“obeying the gospel”** in this verse? Because **“obeying the gospel”** is essential to salvation and is equal to **“calling on the name of the Lord”** as spoken of by Paul in this same chapter. (Romans 10:13) Consider what happens to a person who **“does not obey the gospel of Christ.”** In 2nd Thessalonians 1:7-10 we read the following: ***“...when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power...”*** A person must **“obey the gospel of Christ”** if he or she wants to go to Heaven when they die. This is, as I said before, the same thing as **“calling on the name of the Lord”** according to Paul in Romans 10:8-17.

How does a person **“call on the name of the Lord?”** When we figure this out, we will have also figured out how a person **“obeys the gospel of Christ.”** Listen to what Ananias said to Saul of Tarsus in Acts 22:16: ***“And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”*** Saul had already believed in Jesus back on the road to Damascus and yet he was still in his sins and according to this verse had not yet **“called upon the name of the Lord.”** This clearly teaches us that believing in Jesus is not within itself equal to **“calling on the name of the Lord.”** This means of course that Paul had not yet **“obeyed the gospel either.”**

When a person **“obeys the gospel of Christ”**, his sins are **“washed away by the blood of Jesus Christ”** according to Revelations 1:5 and Acts 22:16. Furthermore Romans 6:3-5 teaches us that we are **“baptized into the death of Christ”** where Jesus shed His blood. It is then that God applies the blood of Jesus to our sins and they are forgiven; thus we are raised to **“walk in newness of life.”** This is why Paul spoke of the importance of **“obeying the gospel”** in Romans 10:16. And this is why I tell you of how important it is that you **“obey the gospel of Christ today!”** Proverbs 27:1 says ***“Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day my bring forth.”***

Don't wait until it's too late; time is running short. We don't know the day of our death or the day when Christ will return in judgment. Therefore we need to be ready each and every day of our lives. As you read this article, Jesus may be getting ready to make His return. **WILL YOU BE READY WHEN HE COMES?** Isn't it time for you to **“OBEY THE GOSPEL?”** (Mark 16:15-16)