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"OBEDIENCE AND SALVATION!"

by Mark Legendre

Have you ever heard of the idea of ***"praying through for salvation?"*** This doctrine is also spoken of with the term ***"accepting Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior."*** Neither one of these ideas is taught anywhere in the Bible. Salvation involves more than just ***"believing that Jesus is the Son of God;"*** it involves ***"believing in Jesus to the point of obeying Him!"*** Hebrews 5:9 tells us that ***"...Jesus is the author of eternal salvation unto all that obey Him."*** You cannot separate salvation from obedience, for **WITHOUT OBEDIENCE YOU CANNOT BE SAVED!** JESUS SAID IN MATTHEW 7:21 THAT ***"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."*** So if you truly wish to be saved, then you must believe in Jesus and obey Him, for He is indeed the ***"...author of eternal salvation unto all that obey Him."***

WHAT SHALL WE DO...?

"WITH THE PAST!"

1. LEARN FROM IT! Rom. 15:4, 1 Cor. 10:1-11)
  - a. We should learn from the past so that we "do not make the same mistakes that others have made."
  - b. We "don't have to learn the hard way;" We can profit from the experiences of others.
2. Forget about it! (1 Cor. 15:8-10)
  - a. This may seem like a contradiction to the first point, but it is simply "looking at the past from a different perspective."
  - b. We can't allow ourselves to "rest on our past successes; we must forget about them and continue to work hard in the future to accomplish even more!"
3. Be motivated By It! (1 Cor. 15:8-10)
  - a. We can't let the past be a "stumbling block to what we might accomplish in the future."
  - b. Paul didn't let "his past mistakes become a hindrance to his work as an apostle of Jesus Christ." (1 Tim. 1:12-16, Acts 9:13-14)
  - c. We "must let go of the past, forgive ourselves for the mistakes that we made, and be more determined in the future not to make the same mistakes again." (Ex. - Peter's denial of Jesus, etc.)
4. Forgive And Forget It! (Heb. 10:15-18)

- a. If we are going to be "truly like our Father in Heaven and like our Savior Jesus Christ, then we must learn to forgive and forget!" (Ez. 18:20-22, Eph. 4:31-21. Col.3:13)
- b. We must "treat others the way that we would like to be treated." (Mt. 7:12, Gal. 6:1)

### CONCLUSION:

Even though the "past is in the past, and we cannot change it, we can profit from it by learning all there is to learn from it!" (Rom. 15:4)

### THE INVITATION!

(What are you doing with your past?)