

Have You Not Read?

Obedience to God

Introduction

1. **The worldly people today are going astray - but I can understand that.**
 - A. **Many are Atheists, Evolutionists, Self-Centered, etc.**
2. **The Religious people today are going astray - but I can understand that.**
 - A. **They believe in God, but do what their leaders say.**
3. **The Lord's church is going astray - once again, I can understand that.**
 - A. **We have the truth, but some fail to read it and heed it!**

◆◆◆ **6 Times Jesus answers questions with "Have you not read?"**

Mark 12:26-27....**Have you not read** in the book of Moses, in the burning bush passage, how God spoke to him, saying, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not the God of the dead, but **the God of the living**.

- B. **Here, Jesus is responding to the Sadducees' question concerning the resurrection.**

- 4. This morning I want us to understand that God established His law from the very beginning.**
 - A. We have a law.**
 - B. We can choose to keep it or disobey it.**
 - C. We know the consequences of disobedience and the blessings of obedience.**

God's Established Law of the Old Testament

- 1. As God created the world and all the things that are in it, to include man, He established a law in which man was expected to abide in.**
 - A. How has man known and now knows what the law is?**

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- 1) Patriarchal, Mosaic, Christian/Gospel**

2. He established his law from the very beginning.

A. Adam and Eve (Don't eat of the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil)

Genesis 2:17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil **you shall not eat**

B. Cain (told how to properly sacrifice)

C. Man gathering sticks on the Sabbath (keep the Sabbath Holy) (Numbers 15:32)

Exodus 20:10 but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. **In it you shall do no work:** you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates.

D. Uzzah (Don't touch any holy thing)

Numbers 4:15 And when Aaron and his sons have finished covering the sanctuary and all the furnishings of the sanctuary, when the camp is set to go, then the sons of Kohath shall come to carry them; **but they shall not touch any holy thing.**

3. These are just a few examples of those in the Old Testament times that knew God's law yet, disobeyed.

A. **DISOBEDIENCE :**

An unwillingness to comply with the guidance of authority, especially a neglect of God's will. In most every case of disobedience it becomes a matter of **setting the desire of the flesh above the will of God.**

- B. God established His law and in these four examples the law was broken.**
- 1) **Adam and Eve** (ate of the tree of K of G & E)
 - 2) **Cain** (sacrifice not according to God's Word)
 - 3) **Man gathering sticks** (doing it on the Sabbath)
 - 4) **Uzzah** (touched the Holy Ark)
- 4. God has given man a law to go by and with that law has always furnished us with directions on how to abide in His law.**
- A. Not only that, God has told us what the consequence is for disobedience and the reward for obedience.**
- 1) **Adam and Eve** (death - separation from God -- banished from the Garden of Eden)
Genesis 3:16-18, 24
 - 2) **Cain** (death - separation from God (sent to a different land)
Genesis 4:10-13, 16
 - 3) **Man gathering sticks** (stoned to death)
Numbers 15:33-36
 - 4) **Uzzah** (struck dead)
1 Chronicles 13:9-10
- 5. Friends and brethren, God has not changed! When He establishes law, He fully expects His law to be obeyed.**

God's Established Law of the New Testament

1. **Just as God established laws in which men had to obey in the Old Testament times, God has established laws in which man must obey today.**
2. **We have the Old Testament so that we can learn. "Have you not read?"**

Romans 15:4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

1 Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition.....

3. **The following are four areas in which men have departed from the established law of the New Testament.**

A. **Singing.**

Ephesians 5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

Hebrews 13:15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

- 1) **God's established law:** (SING)
- 2) **Violation:** (Instruments, Clapping, Stomping, Humming,)
- 3) **Result: (Heaven or Hell? Is there an in-between?)**
 - 1) **God told us what to sing and how to sing.**

B. Worship in Spirit and Truth

1) God's established law: (Worship in Spirit and in Truth)

John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

John 8:32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

a) How do we know what truth is?

Psalms 119:160 The entirety of Your word is truth....

John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

b) How do we learn truth?

2 Timothy 2:15

2) **Violation:** (Celebrating Christmas and Easter through special worship experiences; Allowing things to take part in the worship service other than the singing, praying, teaching/preaching, giving and Lord's Supper)

3) **Result:** (Heaven or Hell? What do you think?)

C. Women not to lead in the Assembly.

1) God's established law: (Women not to speak in church)

1 Corinthians 14:34-35 Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak; but they are to be submissive, as the law also says. And if they want to learn something, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church.

1 Timothy 2:11-15

- 2) **Violation:** (Women speaking in church, designated as a preacher and preaching in the public worship, Women teaching adult Bible classes where men are present)
- 3) **Result: (Heaven or Hell? Surely God will understand our rational for doing what he has NOT authorized)**

D. Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage.

- 1) **God's established law: (Can only remarry in the case of sexual immorality or death of spouse)**

Matthew 19:9 "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries her who is divorced commits adultery."

Romans 7:2-3 For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.

- 2) **Violation:** (Divorced without scriptural reason and remarries)
 - a) **Would this not be called "Adultery?"**
- 3) **Result: (Heaven or Hell?) Have you not read?**
1 Corinthians 6:9-10

Churches of Christ are Going Astray

- 1. We are right trying to teach the world the importance of reading and heeding the Bible.**
- 2. But what about the Lord's church. What is being taught to brethren in some churches of Christ across the country today?**

SHOW CHARTS

- "How would you respond?"**
- church of Christ beliefs**

Conclusion

1. **Why is it that brethren are going astray? Why is it that we are not as strong spiritually as we should be?**
 - A. **Could it be we are walking after the flesh and not after the spirit?**
2 Corinthians 10:3-7
2. **Let us resolve to study our Bible and learn the law of God, the law that we will be judged by when our life is over!**
John 12:48

Hebrews 2:1-3 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

3. **You know the truth this morning. Knowing the truth, will you now obey the truth? Only the truth can make you free (John 8:32).**
 - A. **If you decide not to obey, and the choice is yours, then listen to what God has promised to you.**
2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

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