

Lesson 32: Obedience to God's Law

Memory Verse: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." Ecclesiastes 12:13

I. Why Should We Obey the Law?

1. Romans 3:20 "Therefore by the _____ of the _____ there shall _____ flesh be justified in his sight: for by the _____ is the knowledge of _____."

What two things do we learn about the law from this verse?

- Keeping the _____ won't save me.
- The _____ reveals to me my sinfulness.

2. What is sin? 1 John 3:4 "Whosoever committeth _____ transgresseth also the law: for _____ **is** the transgression of the _____."

Sin is disobedience of the _____ of God.

3. What is the consequence of sin? James 1:15 "Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and _____, when it is finished, bringeth forth _____."

Sin (disobedience) brings _____.

4. What if I just break one commandment? James 2:10 "For whosoever shall keep the _____ law, and yet _____ in _____ point, he is guilty of _____."

Breaking even _____ part of the Law condemns me to death. The law is a whole unit, not 10 separate parts.

Note: "The law of God, plainly defined by Christ, is not so many separate precepts, some of which are of great importance, while others are of small importance, and may be belittled and ignored: Our Lord presents the first four and the last six commandments as **a divine whole**. Under the two heads, love to God and love to our neighbor, a divine unity binds all the precepts together. **By these two principles man's character is tested**, and he is shown to be obedient or disobedient." ST, Sept. 22, 1898 par. 4

5. What is the purpose of the law? Galatians 3:24 "Wherefore the _____ was our _____ to _____ us unto _____, that we might be _____ by faith." The _____ shows us that we are sinners and in need of a Saviour and so it _____ us to C_____.

6. Romans 10:4 "For Christ is the _____ of the law for _____ to every one that believeth."

What does the word "end" mean in this verse? Strong's definition includes: "to set out for a definite point or goal; the point aimed at; result; purpose". End = Goal

The goal of the _____ is to lead us to _____ and His righteousness.

Here are 2 other verses in which the same Greek word is translated "end":

1 Peter 1:9 "Receiving the _____ of your _____, even the _____ of your souls." The goal of faith is _____.

1 Timothy 1:5 "Now the _____ of the _____ is _____ out of a _____ heart, and of a _____ conscience, and of _____ unfeigned:" The goal of the commandment is to bring us to Christ so that we will have His love, or character.

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7. Read Romans 8:3-4

Is there something that the law cannot do? YES NO

What could the law not do? It could not fulfill the _____ of the law in _____.

Even though the law cannot do it, how did God make it possible for it to be done? God sent his own _____ in the _____ of sinful flesh, so that He could condemn _____ in the flesh. He did this by keeping the law perfectly in human flesh.

This made it possible for Him to impart to us His power so that we, by faith, could live the R_____ of the law in our human flesh.

What is our part? We must **choose not** to walk after the _____, And **choose** to walk after the _____.

Christ does what the _____ cannot do. It cannot **change** us, but _____ can.

8. How does He change us? Hebrews 8:10 "For this is the _____ that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will _____ my laws into their _____, and _____ them in their _____: and I will be to them a _____, and they shall be to me a _____." This same message is found in the Old Testament in Jeremiah 31:33.

He W_____ the Law in our minds and _____.

Do we have to co-operate with Him in this work? YES NO

Psalms 119:11 "Thy word have _____ hid in mine _____, that _____ might not _____ against thee."

9. What does He promise to give us? Ezekiel 36:26-27 "A new _____ also will I give you, and a new _____ will I put within you: and I will take away the _____ heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of _____. And I will put my _____ within you, and cause you to walk in my _____, and ye shall _____ my judgments, and _____ them."

He will give us a _____ heart to obey His law.

Note: "Love to God must be a living principle, underlying every act and word and thought. If in the strength of Christ we are seeking to maintain such a consecration, we shall be daily holding communion with God. ...

The principles of God's law will dwell in the heart, and control the actions.

It will then be as **natural** for us

☺ to seek purity and holiness,

☺ to shun the spirit and example of the world,

☺ and to seek to benefit all around us,

as it is for the **angels** of glory to execute the mission of love assigned them." SD 51.4

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10. How do we get this new heart? Matthew 7:7 " _____, and it shall be _____ you; _____, and ye shall _____; _____, and it shall be _____ unto you:"

Mark 11:24 "Therefore I say unto you, What _____ soever ye desire, when ye pray, _____ that ye _____ them, and ye shall _____ them."

So pray for this new heart and believe that you receive it.

Note: "Prayer is heaven's ordained means of **success** in the conflict with sin and the development of **Christian character**. The divine influences that come in answer to the prayer of faith will accomplish in the soul of the suppliant **all for which he pleads**.

-  For the **pardon of sin**,
-  For the **Holy Spirit**,
-  For a **Christlike temper**,
-  For **wisdom and strength to do His work**,
-  For any gift He has promised,

We may **ask**; and the **promise** is, 'Ye shall receive.' " AA 564.1 Ask for these things.

"While you pray, **dear youth**, that you may not be led into temptation, remember that your work does not end with prayer. **As far as possible you must answer your own prayers by resisting temptation**. Ask Jesus to do for you that which you can not do for yourself. With God's word for our guide, and Jesus for our teacher, we need not be ignorant of God's requirements or of Satan's devices." YI, December 21, 1899 par. 9

"We give evidence of the sincerity of our prayers by the earnestness of our endeavors to answer them, to overcome the sins which strive for a place in the life. Our prayers will be ineffectual unless we continually strive to correct that which is wrong and unlovely in our lives. If we ask God to work for us, and then make no effort to conquer self, our prayers will rise no higher than our heads. God helps those who **co-operate** with him. We can obtain forgiveness only through the blood of Christ. **His atoning sacrifice is all-powerful**. But in the struggle for immortality we have a part to act. Christ will help those who **pray and then watch unto prayer**. He calls upon us to use every power he has given us in the warfare against sin. We can never be saved in inactivity and idleness. We might as well look for a harvest from seed which we have not sown, and for knowledge where we have not studied, as to expect salvation without making an effort. It is our part to wrestle against the evil tendencies of the natural heart." YI, March 5, 1903 par. 4

"Children and youth may come to Jesus with their burdens and perplexities, and **know** that He will respect their appeals to Him, and give them the very things they need. Be earnest; be resolute. Present the promise of God, and then believe without a doubt. **Do not wait to feel special emotions before you think the Lord answers**. Do not mark out some particular way that the Lord must work for you before you believe you receive the things you ask of Him; but **trust His word**, and **leave the whole matter in the hands of the Lord**, with full faith that your prayer will be honored, and the answer will come at the very time and in the very way your heavenly Father sees is for your good; and **then live out your prayers**. Walk humbly and keep moving forward." MYP 123.1

"We must not pray and then run away as though afraid we should receive an answer. God will not mock us. He will answer if we watch unto prayer, if we believe we receive the things we ask for, and **keep believing and never lose patience in believing**. This is watching unto prayer. We guard the prayer of faith with expectancy and hope. We must wall it in with assurance and be not faithless, but

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believing. The fervent prayer of the righteous is never lost. **The answer may not come according as we expected, but it will come, because God's word is pledged.**" OHC 134.3

II. Is it Necessary to Obey?

11. In Old Testament times, what did God tell them to do? Deuteronomy 13:4

"Ye shall W_____ after the Lord your God,
and _____ Him,
and _____ His commandments,
and _____ His voice,
and _____ Him,
and _____ unto Him."

12. What is our whole duty? Ecclesiastes 12:13

"Let us hear the **conclusion** of the whole matter:

F_____ God, and _____ his _____:
for this is the _____ duty of man."

Note: "Love to God and man is the Christian's whole duty. The law of love is written upon the tablets of the soul, the spirit of Christ dwells in him, and his character appears in good works. Jesus became poor, that through his poverty we might be made rich.

? What sacrifices are we willing to make for his sake?

? Have we his love enshrined in our hearts?

? Do we love our neighbor as Christ loved him?

If we have this love for souls, it will lead us to consider carefully whether by our words, our acts, our influence in any way, we are placing temptation before those who have little moral power. We shall not censure the weak and suffering, as the Pharisees were continually doing; but we shall **endeavor to remove every stone of stumbling** from our brother's path, lest the lame be turned out of the way."

RH, March 25, 1884 par. 12

13. How long does the word of God stand? Isaiah 40:8 "The _____ withereth, the flower fadeth: _____ the _____ of our God shall stand for _____."

So does God's Word ever change? YES NO

14. Read Mark 13:31

God's Word is even more enduring than _____ and _____.

15. Does the New Testament also say that obedience is necessary? Matthew 7:21 "Not

_____ one that saith unto me, Lord, _____, shall _____ into the kingdom of heaven; but he that _____ the _____ of my Father which is in heaven."

Jesus said that mere words do not count. Just saying we are Christians is not enough.

We must _____ the will of God **in our lives** with a willing heart.

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Note: "The Lord desires all who bear the message for these last days to understand that there is a **great difference** between professors of religion who are not doers of the word, and the **children of God**, who are **sanctified through the truth**, who have that faith that works by love and purifies the soul." FE 482.1.

Do you think God wants us to be only professors of religion? YES NO

"A **genuine** Christian experience unfolds day by day, bringing to its **possessor** new strength and earnestness and leading to constant growth in spiritual life. But the Christian world abounds with **professors** of religion who are merely religious dwarfs. ... They do not grow in grace or in the knowledge of the truth. They do nothing, either with their means or their influence, to build up the cause of God." HP 184.2

"**God proves His people** in this world. This is the fitting-up place to appear in His presence. Here, in this world, in these last days, **persons will show what power affects their hearts and controls their actions**. If it is the power of divine truth, it will lead to good works. It will elevate the receiver, and make him noblehearted and generous, like his divine Lord. But if evil angels control the heart, it will be seen in various ways. The fruit will be selfishness, covetousness, pride, and evil passions." 1T 188.1

16. When God is ruling in our heart, what will we do with the Word? James 1:22

We will be _____ of the Word and not _____ only. If we are not doers as well as hearers of the Word, we are D_____ ourselves that we are Christians.

Note: "**A mere creed**, though every jot and tittle of it may be sound, **is not enough** to restore in man the moral image of God. An ancestral faith, however tenaciously held, can not correct the evils of the natural heart. **It is the willing mind, the earnest spirit, the hearty, self-denying efforts, imbued with love to God and man, which bring results approved by God.** The whole heart must be given to God, else we shall fail to love Him supremely, and then, necessarily, we shall fail to love our neighbor as ourselves. We can not obey the law unless it is written on the heart. Only the truth as it is in Jesus can illuminate the soul, enabling us to do good and only good to those with whom we are associated."

ST, September 12, 1900, par. 8

17. Hebrews 5:9 tells us that He is the Author of Salvation to those who _____ Him.

Obedience is our **co-operation** with Him in His work of saving us **from** sin. He will not force us to be saved, so He can only save us if we co-operate with Him in His plan.

18. How are God's remnant people described? Revelation 14:12

"Here is the _____ of the saints:

Here are they that _____ the _____ of God,
and the _____ of Jesus."

Note: "Those who follow Christ's example of self-denial for the truth's sake **make a great impression on the world**. Their **example** is **convincing** and **contagious**. Men see that there is among God's professed people that faith which works by love and **purifies the soul from selfishness**. In the lives of those who obey God's commandments, worldlings see **convincing evidence** that the law of God is a law of love to God and man." 7T 146.2

19. Who are the ones who will enter the holy city of God? Revelation 22:14

"Blessed are they that _____ his _____, that they may have right to the _____ of life, and may _____ in through the _____ into the city."

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20. When people want us to do something that goes against God's will, what should we say? Acts 5:29 "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We _____ to _____ God _____ than _____."

We must obey God, no matter what men say.

21. How do we show that we have faith in God? James 2:17-18

"Even so faith, if it hath not _____, is _____, being alone.

Yea, a man may say, Thou hast _____, and I have _____:

S_____ me thy _____ without thy works,
and I will _____ thee my faith _____ my works."

This is because faith _____ by love. [Galatians 5:6]

And _____ is the fulfilling of the _____. [Romans 13:10]

Therefore, obedience shows that we have living _____.

22. How did Abraham show that he believed God? James 2:21-23

"Was not Abraham our father justified by _____, when he had offered _____ his son upon the _____? Seest thou how _____ wrought _____ his works, and by _____ was _____ made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham _____ God, and it was imputed unto him for _____: and he was called the _____ of God."

Abraham showed that he B_____ God when he O_____ Isaac on the A_____ in O_____ to the C_____ of God.

23. 1 John 2:3 tells us: "And hereby we do _____ that we _____ him, if we _____ his _____."

Obedience shows that we _____ God.

24. And 1 John 2:5 adds: "But whoso _____ his _____, in him verily is the _____ of God _____: hereby _____ we that we are _____ him."

The _____ of God is made perfect in the person who obeys Him. This is because God is _____ [1 John 4:8] and _____ is the fulfilling of the Law. [Rom. 13:10]

Obedience shows that we are IN Him.

25. Why does Jesus want us to keep His commandments? John 15:10-11 "If ye _____ my commandments, ye shall _____ in my _____; even as I

have _____ my Father's commandments, and _____ in his _____.

These things have I spoken unto you, _____ my _____ might remain in _____, and that your _____ might be _____."

Obedience brings joy, real joy, and Christ wants us to have real, genuine joy.

Note: "All your **happiness, peace, joy, and success** in this life are **dependent upon genuine, trusting faith in God**. This faith will prompt true obedience to the commandments of God.

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Your knowledge and faith in God

 is the **strongest restraint** from every evil practice,
 and the **motive** to all good." MYP 410.2

"Believe in Jesus as one who pardons your sins, **one who wants you to be happy** in the mansions He has gone to prepare for you. He wants you to live in His presence; to have eternal life and a crown of glory." MYP 410.3

26. Read Revelation 22:12

When Jesus comes what will He bring with Him? He brings His _____

How many people will receive it? He will give it to _____ man.

According to what will it be given? It will be given according to his _____.

What does Matthew 16:27 say about this? "For the Son of man shall _____ in the _____ of his Father with his _____; and then he shall _____ man according to his _____."

Note: "Man's destiny will be determined by his obedience to the whole law. Supreme love to God and impartial love to man are the **principles to be wrought out in the life**." DA 498.1

27. What will the rewards be? Romans 6:23; John 5:29

For the disobedient:

"For the _____ of sin is _____."

"They that have _____ evil" shall come forth "unto the resurrection of _____."

For the obedient:

"The _____ of God is eternal _____ through _____ Christ our Lord."

"They that have _____ good" shall come forth "unto the resurrection of _____."

III. The Secret of True Obedience

28. What kind of obedience does God want? Eph. 6:6 "Not with _____, as _____; **but** as the _____ of Christ, doing the _____ of God _____ the _____."

Note: "All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And **if we consent**, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into **conformity to His will**, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its **highest delight** in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. **Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us.**" DA 668.3

29. What does Jesus say about those who are only outwardly obedient? Matt. 23:28-29

"Even so ye also _____ appear _____ unto men, but _____ ye are full of _____ and _____. _____ unto you, scribes and Pharisees, _____!"

Note: "The Lord Jesus had a very different conception of the law from that of the scribes and Pharisees, the rabbis and Sadducees. **They had corrupted the truth** with traditions and maxims of men. The **symbols** that pointed to Christ had been **perverted**. They went through a round of

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ceremonies which were **destitute of virtue** because they were **destitute of life**. Any form, any outward symbol, if it be not prompted by holiness and true goodness, is but mockery. True goodness, true obedience to God, is not in need of outward show and parade. Vital godliness will be revealed without a great effort at display. **Spiritual life will be made manifest by transformation of character** in him who is possessed of the divine power that works sanctification. A name to live, and no vital activity, is a contradiction, for death is there." ST, March 14, 1895 par. 3

30. How does God want us to obey Him? Deuteronomy 30:10 "If thou shalt _____ unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to _____ his commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, and if thou _____ unto the Lord thy God with _____ thine _____, and with _____ thy _____."

Note: "When you **respond** to the drawing of Christ, and **join yourself to Him**, you manifest **saving faith**. ...

The faith which avails to bring us in **vital contact** with Christ expresses on **our part**

- ★ supreme preference,
- ★ perfect reliance,
- ★ entire consecration.

This faith **works by love and purifies the soul**.

It **works in the life** of the follower of Christ **true obedience** to God's commandments; for **love to God and love to man will be the result of vital connection with Christ**." 1SM 334.1

31. What is our own righteousness worth without God's power? Isaiah 64:6 "But we are _____ as an _____ thing, and _____ righteousnesses are as _____ rags; and we all do fade as a _____; and our _____, like the wind, have taken us away." Our own righteousness is worth N_____.

32. Does obedience come naturally to us? Romans 7:18 "For I know that in me (that is, in my _____,) dwelleth _____ good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to _____ that which is _____ I find _____."

We have no power in us to do what is right.

33. What can we do without Jesus? John 15:5 "I am the _____, ye are the _____: He that _____ in me, and I _____ him, the _____ bringeth forth _____ fruit: for _____ me ye can do _____."

We learn two things from this verse:

Without Christ we can do _____ good.

When Christ is abiding _____ us we bring forth _____ fruit.

Note: "No one can keep the commandments of God who does not **cherish love in his heart**; for **without love [without Christ] there is no true obedience**. **Supreme love to God** is required, and when this is an **abiding principle** in the soul, our love to those around us **will be seen in our deeds and words**.

"Thousands are inventing a gospel to take the place of the Gospel of God. They are substituting the commandments of men for the commandments of God. But in the Gospel of Christ honor and dignity are given to the law of God. I have kept my Father's commandments, Christ said, in all their purity and holiness." ST, February 24, 1898 par. 11,12

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34. God will work in us to _____ and to _____ of His good pleasure. Phil. 2:13

Note: God can give us power to obey and even desire to obey Him when we ask.

35. What should our constant prayer be? Psalm 143:10 "T_____ me to do thy _____; for thou art _____ God: thy _____ is _____; _____ me into the land of _____." God will teach us His will if we ask Him.

36. If God is teaching us, how will we observe the law? Psalm 119:34 "Give me _____, and I shall keep thy _____; yea, I shall _____ it with my _____ heart."

37. In order to obey God, what must we do? Romans 6:16 "Know ye not, that to whom ye _____ yourselves servants to _____, his servants ye _____ to whom ye _____; whether of _____ unto death, or of obedience unto _____?"

We must _____ ourselves to Jesus in order to obey God.

Either we will obey S_____, Self, and Satan, OR

We will obey God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

When we Y_____, or give in, to one or the other, we are choosing who we will serve.

38. What needs to happen so that we will not serve sin? Romans 6:6 "Knowing this, that our _____ man is _____ with him, that the body of _____ might be _____, that henceforth we should not _____ sin."

The old man, or sinful self, must be C_____ so that we won't

S_____ sin anymore. Instead we will serve Christ.

39. How often does self need to die? 1 Corinthians 15:31 "I protest by your _____ which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die _____." Self must die at every choice that comes to us. Self clamors to be served and obeyed, but we yield ourselves to Jesus to obey Him instead. This brings us R_____ in Christ Jesus.

40. How much can we do with Christ? Philippians 4:13 "I can do _____ things _____ Christ which _____ me."

Note: "In every command and in every promise of the word of God is the **power**, the very **life of God**, by which the **command may be fulfilled** and the **promise realized**.

He who **by faith** receives the word is receiving the very **life and character of God**." COL 38.1

"The **creative energy** that called the worlds into existence is in the **word of God**."

This word imparts **power**; it begets **life**.

Every command is a promise;

Accepted by the **will**,

Received into the **soul**,

It **brings** with it the **life** of the Infinite One.

It **transforms** the nature and **re-creates** the soul in the image of God." Ed 126.4

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40. Read the wonderful promise found in Jude 1:24,25

What is He able to do? He is able to _____ us from _____.

How does He present us before God? He presents us _____ before

His _____ with exceeding _____.

Why is He **able** to do this?

He is the only _____ God.

He is our _____.

He has G _____ and M _____

He has D _____ and P _____

He has all these things both _____ and for _____.

Note: "God's ideal for His children is higher than the highest human thought can reach. 'Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.' **This command is a promise.** The plan of redemption contemplates our **complete recovery** from the power of Satan. **Christ always separates the contrite soul from sin.** He came to destroy the works of the devil, and He has made provision that the Holy Spirit shall be imparted to every repentant soul, **to keep him from sinning.**"
DA 311.2

41. Read Deuteronomy 11:26-28 "Behold, I _____ before you this day a _____ and a _____; A blessing, if ye _____ the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day: And a _____, if ye will _____ the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn _____ out of the way which I command you this day, to go after _____ gods, which ye have not known."

a. What must we do to receive the blessing? We receive **blessing**, if we _____ the _____ of the Lord our God

b. What must we do to receive the curse? We receive a curse, if we _____ the commandments of the Lord our God, but turn aside _____ of the _____ which He commands us.

c. Which do you choose? **A Blessing** OR **A Curse**

In order to receive a blessing, I must also choose to _____ His commandments.

42. What does God want us to choose? Deuteronomy 30:19 "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have _____ before you _____ and _____, _____ and _____: therefore choose _____, that both thou and thy seed may live:"

God wants us to choose _____ and _____. But if you insist on having the other [_____ and _____] then He will let you have it.