

March 19, 2017

Obeying God Romans 6:15-19

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

In a world devoted to the individual, we lose _____ of anything bigger than ourselves. Today, we're going to explore the _____ to obey God. We're not afraid of what God teaches because God wants what's _____ for us. We trust the Lord to _____ us to love, to be kind, and to forgive. When people _____ the Lord, they find joy and goodness. They grow better and stronger. They _____ everyone around them. We need the Lord's _____ in our homes and our community.

Whether we listen and obey the Lord matters to our _____ and to our eternity. First Peter 1:22-23 says, "Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart, for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God." God's message is perfect and without flaw; and obeying the _____ found in Scripture causes us to be born again. Loving, faithful, obedient people go to the _____ word found in the New Testament. They want it straight from God; they don't want a _____ message. When you change the seed message, you corrupt it and then you _____ something God never intended. You end up with a _____ gospel.

To obey means to _____ God's Word and _____ accordingly. The most common word translated "obey" in the New Testament comes from the word "to hear"; and the idea is that one has heard God's will and is willing to _____ it. A second family of words translated "obey" comes from the concept of being persuaded or convinced. The idea is that a person persuaded to obey a command will obey it. Have you heard? Are you persuaded? Will you obey?

Our reading today comes from Paul's Epistle to the Romans 6:15-19.

Let's spend some time considering _____ the Lord Jesus obeyed the Father in heaven. Jesus is our _____, and we should follow His steps. So we ask, how did Jesus obey the Father? Jesus was _____ committed to being obedient to His Father. Doing the will of the Father was so important to Jesus that He could say, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His _____" (John 4:34). Jesus could also say, "I always do the things that are _____ to Him," speaking of the Father (John 8:29). Whether in things small or large, Jesus was committed to pleasing His Father. I wish every Christian had that same _____.

When Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane, He _____ as one totally committed to the will of the Father. **Read how Matthew describes that night in Matthew 26:37-39.** Jesus _____ what scourging and crucifixion was! He knew that it was a horribly painful and shameful _____. Jesus also knew the _____ of His enemies, how they would lie and unfairly condemn Him. He knew how _____ people could be.

The book of Hebrews describes the scene: “In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was _____ because of His piety. Although He was a Son, He _____ obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who _____ Him the source of eternal salvation” (Hebrews 5:7-9). Jesus was deeply _____ and weeping loudly over the things that He must suffer, but His ultimate prayer was one of obedience. He prayed to the Father, “Your will be done” (Matthew 21:21); and the Father _____ that prayer!

Jesus learned obedience by the things that He _____. He learned obedience by actually _____ with what He knew would be His worst experience, the worst experience of His whole life. He faced it knowing that this was His Father’s _____. He obeyed _____ what the Father commanded Him to do.

Jesus actually _____ His suffering and death. **Read Matthew 16:21-23.** Though His friend and disciple, Peter, could not imagine death happening to Jesus, the Lord Jesus _____ Him. Peter was setting His _____ on man’s interests, not God’s interests. Jesus set His heart and His mind on serving the Father.

Judas led the crowd to Gethsemane to _____ Jesus. They came with swords and clubs. John 18:10-11 says, “Simon Peter then, having a _____, he drew it and he struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave’s name was Malchus.” Luke 22:51 tells us that Jesus answered and said, “Stop! No more of this.” He touched his ear and _____ him. Then He said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall _____ by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it _____ happen this way?” (Matthew 26:52-54).

Jesus could have _____ the arrest anytime he wanted to. He could have stopped the trial, the scourging, or the crucifixion. He could have _____ twelve legions of angels. A Roman legion numbered up to _____ soldiers. Jesus could have wiped out Jerusalem with 72,000 angels. Angels don’t lose to men. The Lord Jesus, however, didn’t put a stop to His _____. He knew that it must _____ this way. Jesus necessarily suffered for you and for me, so that we might have forgiveness and be reconciled to God.

The Lord offered His _____ as a sacrifice! He could say, “I have come to do Thy will, O God.” Hebrews 10:8-10 explains, “Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin you have not desired, nor have you taken pleasure in them” (which are offered according to the Law), then He said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will.’ He takes away the first (that is, the first covenant) in order to establish the second. By this will, (that is, the second covenant) we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

If Jesus had not sacrificed Himself, we couldn’t _____ into this second, new covenant with God. We couldn’t be sanctified, that is, made _____ in God’s eyes. The Lord Jesus sanctified us by His own _____. Nothing else would do. He did it “_____ for all.” That’s why those who live in this twenty-first century can have the _____ of forgiveness and

eternal life! Oh, I'm thankful Jesus _____ His Father and came to do His will!

Oh, to obey as He obeyed! To serve as He served, to love as He loved! Jesus did not go to the _____ or to the _____; He didn't add to or take away from the instructions of His Father. He simply and totally gave Himself to the _____ of the Father just as His Father had commanded Him. The Lord Jesus said, "but so that the world may _____ that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me" (John 14:31). This includes even what Jesus said and how He said it. The Lord Jesus said, "For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. I know that His commandment is eternal life; and therefore the things that I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me" (John 12:49-50). Oh, I'm thankful Jesus took such _____ to speak the truth that the Father revealed to Him. Since those commandments are _____ life, I want them to be correct!

Jesus didn't argue with the Father over what should be done; He simply obeyed what the Father _____ Him to do. He didn't think of Himself as an exception to the Father's _____. Being the beloved Son of God didn't _____ Him from obeying the Father's instructions. No, being the Son of God meant Jesus took doing the _____ of God all the more seriously! **Read Philippians 2:5-8.** That is the _____ of the Lord Jesus and how He obeyed His Father.

We're often tempted to listen to the _____ surrounding us rather than listen to God. We want to _____ people, but in doing so we may displease God. Since God is our Creator and the authority who will one day _____ us, we ought to obey God rather than men. God once told King Saul to "go and strike Amalek and utterly destroy all that he has, and do not spare him; but put to death both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey" (1 Samuel 15:3). But Saul failed to obey God and he _____ to the people. First Samuel 15:9 says, "Saul and the people spared Agag (the King) and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and were not willing to destroy them utterly; but everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed." Sadly, Saul still imagined that he had obeyed the Lord, when in reality he did what he _____ to do.

The prophet Samuel _____ the bleating of the sheep and the lowing of the oxen and then confronted King Saul. He said, "Has the LORD as much _____ in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to _____ is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, And insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the _____ of the LORD, He has also rejected you from being king" (1 Samuel 15:22-23).

People will pay a _____ for their disobedience to God. Some think God won't _____; others think God doesn't really _____ what we do. They forget Proverbs 15:3: "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, watching the evil and the good." God's attitude toward sin is not like our world today; God can _____ approve of sin. Habakkuk 1:13 says, "Your eyes (that is, God's eyes) are too pure to approve evil, And You can not look on wickedness with favor." Again, "God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5). We humans may _____ give in to sin, but God has no desire to sin. He is righteous altogether.

Obedying God is how we _____ Him. Love obeys! The Lord Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will _____ My commandments" (John 14:15). Jesus promised, "If anyone loves Me, he will _____ My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him" (John 14:23). Then in verse 24 the Lord said, "He who does not _____ Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me." God sees love and obedience as inseparable! Obedience demonstrates our love to the Father.

When God makes a promise and He adds a condition, God always requires us to _____ the condition before He blesses us. Hebrews 5:9 reminds us that Jesus is the _____ of eternal salvation to those who obey Him. In John chapter 9, Jesus healed a young man who was born _____. John 9:6-7 says Jesus "spat on the ground, He made clay of the spittle, and He applied the clay to his eyes, and said to him, 'You go and wash in the pool of Siloam' (which is translated, Sent). So he went away and he washed, and came back seeing." When the blind man obeyed by washing, the Lord _____ him with sight.

The young man didn't _____ his precious sight by mere washing, and we don't earn our salvation by merely obeying. We are saved by grace, but God's grace is no less a _____ simply because it has a condition. Both the young man's sight and our salvation are gifts; but God does not give us precious gifts until we _____ His conditions. If we are listening and are persuaded, we won't _____ with God about His gifts or His conditions. We'll thank God gladly and gratefully for the opportunity to _____ and _____ Him. Like the man born blind, we'll go and wash!

We shouldn't _____ faith and obedience as some have done. Just like love and obedience, faith and obedience are inseparable for those who would _____ God. John 12:42-43 speaks of people who believed but would not _____ on their faith. It says, "Nevertheless many even of the rulers _____ in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for _____ that they would be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God." These folks were not saved by faith alone, because they didn't _____ Christ or put the love of God first.

If you believe, your faith will _____ you to obey the gospel. John 3:36 says, "He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not _____ the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." Yes, it's that simple. Those who wish to become children of God will do _____ than merely believe. Galatians 3:26-27 says, "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were _____ into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ." Faith alone doesn't make a Christian. The New Testament never contemplates a saved believer who has not also obeyed the _____ in baptism. Jesus said, "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned" (Mark 16:16). Without baptism, you cannot _____ God's kingdom. The Lord Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is _____ of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). Baptism is an immersion in water for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38). We obey the Lord in baptism, because God offers the _____ to those who obey Him.