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Obedience Pt 2 The relationship between hearing, believing, obedience and authority.

This is our second teaching on the topic of obedience. In our previous study we covered three points: (I) When God brought Israel out of Egypt- He commanded them to obey His voice and do His commandments, (II) Israel sinned and was not obedient unto the LORD, nor unto His commandments, and (iii) The Lord spoke through His prophets having earnestly protested unto their fathers, saying- obey my voice. In this study we will cover three points: (I) There was a remnant of Israel that obeyed and feared the LORD, (ii) God sent His only begotten Son that Israel might hear, believe & obey Him, and (iii) the Jewish leaders believed not that Jesus was God's Son, nor obeyed Him.

A little more detail on our three points- according to the scriptures-

1. There was a remnant of Israel that obeyed and feared the LORD

Examples include:

a) Zerubbabel and the high priest with him obeyed the voice of the LORD

[1] In the second year of Darius the king, in the sixth month, in the first day of the month, came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet unto Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, saying,

[3] Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying,

[7] Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

[12] Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him, and the people did fear before the LORD. (Hag. 1: 1,3,7,12).

2. God sent His only begotten Son that Israel might believe & obey Him

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16) CF- John 12:36, 37-

[36] While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them.

[37] But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him:

3. The Jewish leaders believed not that Jesus was God's Son, nor obeyed Him

[24] Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly.

[25] Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. Jn. 10: 24-25)

Illustration

When a Christian **does not believe** that the 1611 Authorised Bible is the preserved word of God, given by inspiration of the Holy Ghost, then the words of that book have little or no authority over their lives. When a Christian **does believe** those words are given and preserved by the Holy Ghost they are more inclined, motivated to obey every one of them!

Before Pharaoh would obey the LORD He first had to know and believe who He was. It was the same for the religious leaders of Jesus' day- they were never going to obey God's Son- until they first believed that He was God's Son, their promised, prophesied Messiah, the Holy One, their King.

Questions

- i) What were the consequences to Israel in rejecting God's Son?
- ii) What is the motivation for those in darkness to obey God ?

Answers from the scriptures

i) Consequences to Israel in rejecting God's Son:

They showed they were no different to their fathers that persecuted the prophets-

* His blood was on them

“Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers (Acts 7:51. See also Acts 5: 27-28, 30.

* they were stiffnecked, and heart hearted, and resisted the Holy Ghost
“Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye” (Acts 7: 52) .

ii) The motivation for those in darkness and have no light to obey God- is the fear of the LORD
“Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God” (Is.50:10).

IF a person only ever use the NIV or GNT, they will know that, in essence they have **no authority** because-

- a) at some stage scholars will bring out another edition, with changes,
- b) the text is different to other versions,
- c) the words in the text are not THE preserved words that God inspired, so they will have less motivation to hear, trust them, and obey them.

BUT, IF you have the holy scriptures, and you believe them to be His preserved words, given by the Holy Spirit, they will have a different level of authority...being FROM God!

The more we believe the words are from God- the more authority they have, the more we hear, trust and **seek to obey them!**

Let us hear, trust and obey the sole authority for a Christian- the words of Holy Scripture. Let us do so in a more profound way today, as if they were given and preserved by GOD, as they have been!

We all started our Christian life receiving the gospel, believing the word of truth- through faith (in our heart), which is evident in a new life of obedience to the Father. His words in English are preserved today in the 1611 AB. Let us continue our journey daily- hearing God's words, trusting them and seeking help to obey them!