

## Lesson 6 of 8: Is continued obedience to Christ essential for salvation?

- I. Becoming saved requires obedience to Christ.
- Christ is the only way to salvation; and salvation is for all who are obedient to Christ.
    - **Hebrews 5:9** <sup>9</sup> *And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,*
  - One who desires to become saved must first believe in God and that Jesus is His Son.
    - **Hebrew 11:6** <sup>6</sup> *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*
    - **John 20:31** <sup>31</sup> *but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*
  - Upon believing in Christ, repenting, and confessing Jesus is the Son of God, one can then be baptized. Infants are incapable of making these decisions.
    - **Acts 2:38** <sup>38</sup> *Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*
    - **Acts 8:36-38** <sup>36</sup> *Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" <sup>37</sup> Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." <sup>38</sup> So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.*
  - Christ is not divided. If we are baptized with the purpose of being recognized as members of a specific following, then that baptism reflects obedience to that following, not Christ. Baptism does not save us unless we are being baptized into Christ for the remission of sins in order to be saved.
    - **Ephesians 4:4-5** <sup>4</sup> *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism;*
    - **1 Corinthians 1:12-13** <sup>12</sup> *Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." <sup>13</sup> Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?*
    - **Acts 19:3-5** <sup>3</sup> *And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." <sup>4</sup> Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." <sup>5</sup> When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.*
  - Being baptized into Christ for the remission of sins is the point at which we are saved; therefore, we are not saved prior to being baptized into Christ.
    - **Galatians 3:17** <sup>17</sup> *For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*
    - **1 Peter 3:21** <sup>21</sup> *There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,*
- II. Salvation requires continued faithfulness to Christ after being saved.
- Salvation does not come until the end of a faithful life for Christ.
    - **1 Peter 1:9** <sup>9</sup> *receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.*
  - How can we remain faithful?
    - **Mark 12:30** <sup>30</sup> *And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.*
    - **John 14:15** <sup>15</sup> *"If you love Me, keep My commandments.*
  - The saved can only remain saved by remaining faithful until death.
    - **Romans 11:22** <sup>22</sup> *Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.*
    - **Revelation 2:10** <sup>10</sup> *Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*
  - We are saved by the grace of God. Salvation is His gift to us and it cannot be earned through works of merit. We have access into God's grace by having faith that salvation only comes through works of obedience to His Son, Jesus Christ.
    - **Ephesians 2:8** <sup>8</sup> *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,*
    - **Romans 5:1-2** <sup>1</sup> *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*
    - **James 2:19-20, 24** <sup>19</sup> *You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! <sup>20</sup> But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? (...) <sup>24</sup> You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.*
    - **Hebrews 5:9** <sup>9</sup> *And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,*
    - **Romans 6:1-3** <sup>1</sup> *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? <sup>3</sup> Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?*
  - Therefore, if one returns to a lifestyle of disobedience, then they have no faith that salvation comes through Jesus Christ. Those who attempt to be saved or justified by anything other than obedience to Jesus Christ will fall from God's grace.
    - **Galatians 5:4** <sup>4</sup> *You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.*
- III. The following are examples of obedience and disobedience within the Old Testament.
- Noah was commanded to build the ark according to God's instruction. In being obedient to God's commands, Noah was saved from the flood.
    - **Genesis 6:14-15** <sup>14</sup> *Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. <sup>15</sup> And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits.*
  - God commanded Joshua to do things His way in order to succeed.
    - **Joshua 6:2-5** <sup>2</sup> *And the LORD said to Joshua: "See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor. <sup>3</sup> You shall march around the city, all you men of war; you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do six days. <sup>4</sup> And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. But the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. <sup>5</sup> It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him."*
    - **Joshua 6:12-16** <sup>12</sup> *And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. <sup>13</sup> Then seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually and blew with the trumpets. And the armed men went before them. But the rear guard came after the ark of the LORD, while the priests continued blowing the trumpets. <sup>14</sup> And the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. So they did six days. <sup>15</sup> But it came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early, about the dawning of the day, and marched around the city seven times in the same manner. On that day only they marched around the city seven times. <sup>16</sup> And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city!"*

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- **Joshua 6:20-21**<sup>20</sup> So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And it happened when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.<sup>21</sup> And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword.
  - God's commandments have always been specific; therefore, when God is specific, He exempts all other possibilities.
    - **Numbers 20:7-12**<sup>7</sup> Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,<sup>8</sup> "Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. **Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water;** thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals."<sup>9</sup> So Moses took the rod from before the LORD as He commanded him.<sup>10</sup> And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock; and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?"<sup>11</sup> **Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod;** and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank.<sup>12</sup> Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, "**Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.**"
    - **Deuteronomy 3:23-26**<sup>23</sup> "Then I pleaded with the LORD at that time, saying:<sup>24</sup> 'O Lord GOD, You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your mighty hand, for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do anything like Your works and Your mighty deeds?'<sup>25</sup> I pray, **let me cross over and see the good land beyond the Jordan, those pleasant mountains, and Lebanon.'**<sup>26</sup> "But the LORD was angry with me on your account, and would not listen to me. So the LORD said to me: '**Enough of that! Speak no more to Me of this matter.**'"
  - Intentions do not matter to God. Only obedience does.
    - **Numbers 4:15**<sup>15</sup> 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, lest they die.** "These are the things in the tabernacle of meeting which the sons of Kohath are to carry."
    - **1 Chronicles 13:9-10**<sup>9</sup> And when they came to Chidon's threshing floor, **Uzza put out his hand to hold the ark, for the oxen stumbled.**<sup>10</sup> **Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzza, and He struck him because he put his hand to the ark; and he died there before God.**
- IV. Today God reserves wrath and punishment until the last day.
- We will all have to give an account to God.
    - **Romans 14:12**<sup>12</sup> **So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.**
  - Heaven awaits those who have been baptized into Christ and remain obedient to God's will. However, those who were disobedient will be told to depart.
    - **Matthew 7:21-23**<sup>21</sup> "**Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.**"<sup>22</sup> Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'<sup>23</sup> And then **I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'**
  - The New Testament is the law of Christ and will be used to judge our obedience.
    - **John 12:48**<sup>48</sup> He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has **that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.**
- V. What are some commands we need to be obeying?
- We are commanded to be baptized ourselves and then tell other about how they too can be saved.
    - **Mark 16:15-16**<sup>15</sup> And He said to them, "**Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.**"<sup>16</sup> **He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.**
  - Worshiping God in spirit and in truth on the first day of every week is not only is a direct command from Christ, but in doing so, one is also encouraged to remain obedient by hearing the truth of God's word being taught.
    - **John 4:23-24**<sup>23</sup> **But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.**<sup>24</sup> **God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."**
  - Not forsaking the assembly of the church body is also a direct command, but also gives opportunity to bond with brethren who also strive to overcome sin and live obedient lives for Christ.
    - **Hebrews 10:24-25**<sup>24</sup> **And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,**<sup>25</sup> **not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.**
    - **1 John 5:2-4**<sup>2</sup> **By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.**<sup>3</sup> **For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.**<sup>4</sup> **For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.**
  - In being obedient we are to put off and stay away from that which is sinful.
    - **Colossians 3:8-9**<sup>8</sup> **But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.**<sup>9</sup> **Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,**
    - **1 Peter 4:3-5**<sup>3</sup> **For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.**<sup>4</sup> **In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.**<sup>5</sup> **They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.**
  - Through obedience to the commands of Christ our lives will be transformed into a new man.
    - **Colossians 3:12-14**<sup>12</sup> **Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;**<sup>13</sup> **bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.**<sup>14</sup> **But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.**
    - **2 Timothy 2:22**<sup>22</sup> **Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.**
  - Once we are saved, if we are disobedient, then we are to ask for forgiveness and repent to then once again walk in the light and live obediently to the word.
    - **Acts 8:13, 18-22**<sup>13</sup> **Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done. (...)**<sup>18</sup> **And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money,**<sup>19</sup> saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."<sup>20</sup> But Peter said to him, "**Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!**"<sup>21</sup> **You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God.**<sup>22</sup> **Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.**
    - **1 John 1:7**<sup>7</sup> **But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**