

Bryan Station Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT

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MISSIONARY

THE PIONEER BAPTIST

"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State"

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"DOERS OF THE WORD"

By the late C. D. Cole

"And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not" (Ezekiel 33:31,32).

Human nature is the same in all ages. Human nature has been bad and opposed to God since the day the first Adam chose to do as he pleased instead of keeping the commandment of God. The very follies and sins of the ancients we see developed all around us every day. Were there skeptical men in the long ago, like Pharaoh, who said, "Who is the Lord that I should obey Him?" So there are such men today who frown on the thought of any God to be obeyed. Were there daring blasphemers among the ancients? There are many more now who take the name of God in vain and poke fun at everything sacred. Were there degraded profligates, who wallowed in the mire of impurity? There are such today--men and women who dance and dine and revel in sin and live for the pleasures for a season. Were there frivolous and thoughtless persons who spent their money for naught without any thought for eternity? Multitudes are like that today. Foolish spenders, who throw their money and strength away for that which is not bread. Were there formalists who had only the name and external of religion? Well, we have such today--those who have a form of godliness but who deny the power thereof. Were there among the ancients those who were hearers of the Word but were not doers of it? Dare we say that we do not have such people today? Who cannot see that the prophet's description is just as close, and searching, and true in reference to multitudes today, as it was when

he spoke it in reference to Israel of old?

God's Word not only contains a true record of the past events, and a faithful describer of human conduct, but it is also a clear transparent mirror of the human heart and character. Every man of us may see his own likeness reflected in the spirit and deeds of some order or class of persons who lived in the past ages. The passage before us gives the description of many people who come to the house of God and observe

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the proprieties of public worship. They sit and listen and praise and profess much love for the things of God--they hear the Word but do not do it. It makes no change in their conduct. They live the next Monday as they lived the last Monday.

Notice in this description: (1) What is commendable; (2) What is wrong; (3) What is the cause of the wrong action?

I. What is commendable? Much in every way. More than can be said about many people.

1. There was attention to divine things. They come to God's house. They do not neglect religious observances. They did not sit in the seat of the scorner. They were not irreligious blasphemers. How proper and right is all this. Would that we had more people in our public places of worship.

2. Their behaviour was serious and reverential. They sat and listened as if they were God's people. No human eye can tell any difference between them and the real saints. They do not appear to be giddy and thoughtless as if they were in the ballroom or some place of worldly display. This, too, was good and proper. How much the minister appreciates the people who sit and try to get every word he says.

3. They appear to love divine things. "With their mouth they show much love," that is, love to God and to His service--to His house--to His people. They are nice and courteous and speak kindly of the service. How encouraging is this? How glad the minister is to have people act as these people did! It is not uncommon, however, for us to come in contact with this warm and ardent appreciation of public religious services, where there is complete absence of any real spirituality of mind. Most people love music and enjoy good singing. They love eloquence and are delighted with oratory. They are eminently social, and love to mingle with nice, cultured people in God's house. And where will you find better culture than among God's people? But, alas, after all they are only court worshippers and never enter the holiest of all to hold communion of heart with the living Christ.

4. They seem delighted with divine things. They praise the preacher. They like his studied sermon. They like his forceful and sincere delivery. The preacher is to them as a very lovely song. They count it a treat to hear him. Like the stony ground hearer, they received the word with joy. The sermon acts as an emotional stimulant. The minister is greatly encouraged by their behaviour and thinks he has been a blessing to them. But there was something lacking that the preacher could not detect.

II. What was wrong? We have seen what was right so far--but the first charge against them is that they were not practical hearers. They hear thy words, but they will not do them. They hear and learn their duty, but will not do it. They agree that salvation is by grace--something they cannot merit. They agree that Jesus Christ is the one and only Saviour, but they do not act upon the truth that they acknowledge--they do not trust Him. They agree

that the church of Christ should have their support in time and talent and money, but they do not act out what they profess. They are awed by threatenings, but do not flee from their sins. They are moved by exhortations, but do not put their trust in Christ. They are affected by appeals, but they do not come to Christ.

III. The cause assigned for this wrong. There are various hindrances to the profitable worship of God. There is no one cause that operates on all. With one person it may be forgetfulness and inattention, as James says. With another person it may be lack of self-application and serious reflection. With still another it may be listlessness and apathy of spirit. But the text speaks of one prevailing evil in the days of the Prophet Ezekiel, an evil which we fear is very common today. "Their heart goeth after covetousness." That was the thing that robbed them of the blessing they may have received. We see this illustrated in the parable of the sower. "He that received the seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful."

We see it in the young ruler who came to Christ. When Christ told him to part with his property he went away sorrowful. We see it in the case of Demas, who forsook Paul because he loved this present world. We see it in those who were invited to the feast. They excused themselves on the ground that their farms and oxen and merchandise must have their attention, and therefore, they could not come, to hear them tell it.

"Covetousness is the moral ossification of the soul." It destroys sympathy, tenderness, and generosity. A covetous spirit hardens the heart. Any class of men are more easily impressed than the covetous.

Covetousness is a deceptive sin. It darkens the mind. How few ever confess the sin of covetousness! It is a respectable sin. Other sins are generally disreputable, but covetousness is a sin that keeps one in good standing in society and the church.



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"LORD, SEND A REVIVAL....
AND LET IT BEGIN IN ME!"

OBEYING THE GOSPEL

By: Al Gormley

"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day" (II Thess. 1:7-10).

There is much confusion today as to what the gospel (good news) is and what it means to OBEY THE GOSPEL. Since it is so important and salvation depends on obeying the gospel, and everlasting destruction is the result of not obeying it, then it is of the utmost importance that there is a true understanding of these two thoughts.

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The gospel that saves is declared in I Corinthians 15:1-4. Paul says "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures." These verses teach us what the gospel is. It is the GOOD NEWS that Jesus died for OUR SINS, was buried, and was raised again. The child of God learns by the Holy Spirit in the new birth that when Jesus died, "He died for me;" not for the whole world but for "my sins." That is good news to a lost, hell-bound sinner who has been convicted of his sin, has realized that he has no righteousness, and that there is a judgment to come which will be everlasting destruction. This conviction only comes by the Holy Spirit. (John 16:8).

The gospel in I Corinthians 15 is said to be DECLARED, to be PREACHED, to be RECEIVED, and that God's children STAND or REST by faith on it. The gospel is said to SAVE. It is said to be received when you believe (vs. 2). It is said to be in the mind (memory). Faith in the gospel is not a one day experience; it is good news every day for the sinner who knows that every day he is a sinner. The believer is not only justified by faith (Romans 5:1), he also lives by faith (Hebrews 10:38). He is kept by God's power through faith

(I Peter 1:5). Therefore, the true believer knows he is a sinner, knows that Jesus died for his sins, and knows that his only hope is found in the "good news" that Jesus died for his sins. Paul says in Galatians 2:20: "...and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

OBEYING THE GOSPEL

What does it mean to OBEY THE GOSPEL? First, let us think about what it means to obey. To obey could mean several things.

1. TO OBEY MIGHT MEAN TO START DOING SOMETHING.
2. TO OBEY MIGHT MEAN TO STOP DOING SOMETHING.
3. TO OBEY MIGHT MEAN TO BELIEVE SOMETHING.

To illustrate: Take a young boy who has just fallen over a cliff, and he is hanging onto a rope. He must do something. First, I tell him to climb up the rope to safety. He starts climbing and is safe. He has obeyed me. He started doing what I told him.

Take that same boy. He is hanging onto the rope and is struggling to climb up the cliff. He cannot do so, and is just tiring himself out. I tell him to stop struggling and to put his foot in the loop below him. He stops doing something and rests his foot in the loop. He stopped doing something, thus, he obeyed me.

Now the same boy is in a fix. He can't go up or down. He must do something. Therefore, we fix a huge net below him so that we might catch him. Now we yell at him and say, "We have a net below you. You must turn loose of everything, and trust us to catch you. We have prepared a way to keep you from being hurt. Turn loose and just drop." Now as long as the young boy clings to the rope or tries to climb the rope, he hasn't obeyed me. But the very minute he believes me and trusts me and my word, he turns loose of everything. He has obeyed me. Then to obey me was to believe me.

Thus, you have three ways to obey: (1) To do something, (2) To quit doing something, (3) To believe something. All three of these are at work in Salvation.

1st. In Repentance we are to stop doing something or stop believing something before we can ever obey the gospel. Except ye repent ye shall perish. You obey God.

2nd. In Faith you believe the gospel. You obey God, not by doing something but by believing the

"good news" that Christ died for your sins, was buried, and is raised. He did that for me personally and I believe it. Therefore, it is imputed to me for righteousness. "Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no

difference" (Romans 3:22). "For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness" (Romans 4:3). God's command is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. "And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house" (Acts 16:30,31).

3rd. Then by our works we begin to obey God. First by confessing Him as our Saviour; then by following Him in baptism which is a command of God; and by living for Him and working for Him as His servant.

Our salvation came when we obeyed the gospel. When we, by faith, took God at His word and committed ourselves into His keeping. This is what God commanded to be done. "And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:40); "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24); "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); "Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law" (Romans 3:28); "But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness" (Romans 4:5); "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).

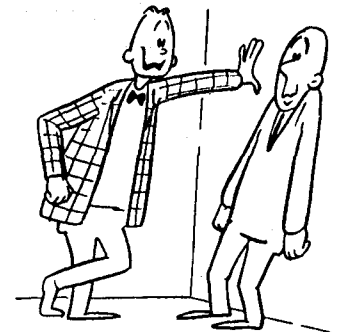
Paul says in II Thess. 1:10 that "...our testimony was believed in that day." This is obeying the gospel. This is receiving the good news. This can be declared to you. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." This good news can be preached. You can rest your soul in this...THAT CHRIST DIED FOR MY SINS. This is what saves. I Cor. 1:18: "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." I Cor. 1:21: "...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." Yes, this is obeying God and the gospel; to believe God's message that JESUS DIED FOR YOUR SINS, WAS BURIED AND ROSE AGAIN. Believe this and you will know you are saved!

A Teenager's Letter to His Parents

Dear Parents—

I am your child... You have brought me into this world and raised me to what I am today... If I am not what I should be, please don't be too harsh with me... for I am your product... My actions advertise the quality standards of our home... Do not point at one of my playmates as an example of how I should behave... By doing so you are admitting that his parents are doing a better job than you... You say that you are a Christian... Yet when Church time comes you make little effort to attend, giving me no encouragement to go either... You say that you love me... Yet it has been years since you put your arm...

about me at bedtime and with tears in your eyes asked your Heavenly Father to watch over me as I slept... You seem to be more interested in my school grades than in the condition of my soul... You give me the impression that it is better to be popular than to be pure... better to be attractive on the outside than to have that "inner beauty" that comes to one who loves the Lord... So next time you feel like throwing up your hands and saying, "I just can't do a thing with you," please remember you have had the opportunity to influence me since I was born... "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it"... That's from the Bible... If you're not happy with me, I'm not the only one to blame...



AND WE FEEL YOU **MUST** BE THE PERSON THE LORD WANTS IN THIS VACANCY... BECAUSE WE'VE ALREADY BEEN TURNED DOWN BY EVERYONE ELSE,