

THE CHRISTIAN'S OBLIGATION To Jesus Christ

Lesson #1 of 6

Introduction:

- A. It seems we are always anxious to see people obey the gospel, and we should be. However, all too often when they have obeyed the gospel, we, as Christians, leave them on their own to find what is required of them that they may remain faithful (trustworthy and obedient) to God.
- B. As Christians there are several things that are expected of us. One of those is to fulfill the obligations we have toward Jesus Christ and others with which we come into contact. It is very easy for new Christians to get lost unless older Christians guide them. Perhaps one reason they are not guided, is older Christians are not aware of these obligations.
- C. In this series we want to explore some of these obligations. But perhaps the place to start is to define some terms. Obligation is defined as, "Something by which a person is bound to do certain things; a binding promise, contract, sense of duty; an agreement enforceable by law," (Random House College Dictionary). Blessing is, "A favor or gift bestowed by God, thereby bringing happiness," (ibid).

I. Reasons For Our Obligations To The Lord

- A. Rev. 1:5 tells us the reason for our obligation is salvation from our past sins.
 - 1. We find Christ shed His blood for us - Rom. 5:8-9; 1 Pet. 1:18-19
 - 2. He alone could pay the purchase price - Acts 20:28; 1 Cor. 6:20
 - 3. There is no salvation without Christ (2 Tim. 2:10) and no Christ without obedience to His will (Heb. 5:8-9; Matt. 7:21).
 - 4. Hence, the obligation of obedience.
- B. Because we are partakers of the heavenly calling - Heb. 3:1; 2 Pet. 1:5-11
 - 1. We are in Christ's body - 1 Cor 12:13; 2 Cor 5:17; Rom 6:3-7; Gal 3:26-27 where:
 - a. All spiritual blessing are - Eph. 1:3
 - b. All God's promises are - 2 Cor. 1:20
 - c. Eternal Life is - 1 Jn. 5:11
 - d. We have refuge - Heb. 6:18
 - e. Redemption is - Eph. 1:3-14 esp. vs. 7
 - f. Forgiveness is found - Col. 1:14
 - 2. Therefore faithfulness entails continued obedience - Heb. 6:6-13; 2 Pet. 1:5-11
- C. Because we made a covenant (agreement) with the Lord - Heb. 6:6-13; Eph. 2:11-22
 - 1. A covenant is a "formal agreement of legal validity," (ibid). That means someone who breaks the covenant can legally be punished for doing so.
 - 2. The Lord promises Eternal Salvation. We promise compliance with His will.

II. We're Obligated To Recognize Christ's Supreme Religious Authority - Matt. 28:18

- A. Christ's authority is revealed to us in the "perfect law of Liberty," - Jas. 1:25-27
 - 1. It contains all the essential religious teaching of Christ - 2 Pet. 1:3
 - 2. Contrary to what some teach and practice today, it furnishes us to EVERY good work - 2 Tim. 3:16-17
 - 3. If we cannot find it in the scriptures, it is not authorized.
- B. Our human authority is IMPERFECT. It brings condemnation - Jer. 10:23; Prov. 14:12
 - 1. Our religious instruction is to be restricted to the "oracles of God" - 1 Pet. 4:11
 - 2. Any time we step outside of this we are preceding without the authority of God.
 - 3. Because the gospel of Christ is the ONLY authoritative religious teaching - Gal. 1:8-9
- C. Jesus, Himself answering questions which arose about what should be done always answered out of the law

1. In Lk. 10, when asked how to inherit eternal life, He answered, “What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?”
2. He was always concerned with what was taught in the law
3. We must be also

III. *We Are Obligated To Abide In Christ's Teachings*

- A. The worship activities of the Christian must be in spirit and in truth - Jn. 4:24
 1. The only commands we find are:
 - a. Sing - Eph. 5:19; Acts 16:25
 - b. Pray - Acts 2:42; Matt. 28:19; 1 Thess. 5:17
 - c. Teaching - Acts 20:7; 2 Tim. 2:2
 - d. Partaking of the Lord's Supper - Matt. 26:26-28; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:23-30
 - e. Giving - 2 Cor. 9:7; 1 Tim. 6:19; 1 Cor. 16:1-2
 2. Any other practice not found in the law of Christ, cannot be practiced with His authority and His blessing
- B. The work we do must be authorized by His word.
 1. As a congregation - Col. 3:17
 2. All we do is limited by what we find authorized from benevolent work to preaching the gospel.
 3. Also as an individual - Gal. 6:9-10; Jas. 1:26-27

IV. *We Are To Reflect Christ's Example To Others*

- A. 1 Pet 2:21-22
- B. Christ is the “Sun of Righteousness” (Mal. 4:2; Matt. 5:13-16) and we are to emulate His life

Conclusion:

- A. We cannot fulfill our obligations to Christ if we are not familiar with and following His word.
- B. Our judgment will be concerning how we have met our obligations as citizens of the kingdom of the Lord.