

Salvation To Those That Obey Him - Hebrews 5:5-10

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We can see it at every level of society. There is a tremendous lack of respect for authority today, and this has led to a weaker, less secure society. Lawmakers, in many cases, have failed their constituents in Washington, abused their offices and flaunted their authority. The frailties of every recent president have been placed under a microscope. Kids talk back to parents, and while some kids have always done so, today it is often with new levels of venom and resentment. Teachers at some schools fear for their lives. Police departments in many places are looked upon as corrupt.

In fact, many politicians do not deserve a whole lot of respect; and many judges are corrupt; and many religious leaders do not deserve admiration. But what has happened to our society is an open rebellion against almost all rules and regulations, moral and otherwise. Anarchy and lawlessness will not make our nation better. And when it comes to the Scripture this rebellion against law is also seen, as many today dismiss the teachings of the Bible with the same ease as they cheat on their taxes, or on an exam, or lie on their job application. Most who do not cheat say they do not do so because they are afraid that they might get caught. Only a small minority say they do not cheat because it is dishonest or immoral.

And as we have lowered our standards of conduct, we think God has lowered His as well. If you remember, a few weeks ago I spoke on the subject: "Thinking that God is like man," in two lessons. I point out various ways that man acts, and he then thinks that God acts the same way. Society suggests that God doesn't really care if we lie a little, cheat a little and steal a little. Many think it is unnecessary to obey God, one must only believe in Him to be saved, they insist. But let us turn our attention to salvation that is offered by our high priest, Jesus Christ, and what the Bible says about it.

I am now reading from Hebrews 5:5-10: "So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He said to Him, 'Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee'; just as He says in another passage, 'Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.' 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 heard because of His piety. Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation, being designated (named) by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek."

Jesus Was Appointed To His Office By God the Father. Listen to the inspired writer of the Hebrew letter. "So also Christ did not glorify Himself so as to become a high priest, but He said to Him, 'Thou art My Son, today I have begotten Thee'; just as He says in another passage, 'Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek'...being designated by God as a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek." (Hebrews 5:5,6,10). Jesus has all authority because God gave it to Him. Following Jesus' resurrection, He makes the grand announcement concerning this, with the added

admonition to teach "them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:18-20). When we reject the authority of Jesus' covenant by refusing to obey it, then we are rejecting God. In Luke 10:16, our Lord when speaking to His chosen apostles, said, "He that heareth you heareth me; and he that rejected you rejecteth me; and he that rejecteth me rejecteth him that sent me. And again in John 13:20, he states, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me." When it comes to the teachings of Jesus, we ought to be very concerned about obeying them. There quite simply is no other mediator between ourselves and God. The inspired apostle Paul, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit states: "For there is one God, one mediator also between God and man, himself man, Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 2:5).

It may be fashionable today to think it a clever thing to disregard laws and get away with it. A favorite religious belief is to think that actually obeying the words of Christ is unnecessary as long as one at least believes the right things about Him. But if we treat King Jesus in such a disrespectful way we will stand before Him in judgment, and be condemned for our disobedience. John 12:48 reads, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my sayings, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I spake, the same shall judge him in the last day." And again in 2 Thessalonians 1:8, "rendering vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus, who shall suffer punishment, even eternal destruction from the face of the Lord and from the glory of his might." reading through verse 9.

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ experienced life in the flesh. He knows the "feelings of our infirmities," as Hebrews 4:15 very clearly points out. In Hebrews 5:7, we read, "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 heard because of His piety." "The days of His flesh" refers to the time Jesus walked on earth. As the eternal Son of God, His days did not begin with His conception. He has existed from eternity. So states the writer John in John 1:1-3, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him; and without him was not anything made that hath been made." In verse 14, we learn, "and the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth." Read John 8:56-59 for more information as to Christ's eternal existence. It was because of His unselfish love that Deity became man. Though He had existed in the form of God, He did not hold on to His equality with God. Instead, He emptied Himself by becoming a man. In Philippians 2:5-8, we read, "Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being of an equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea, the death of the cross."

But the incarnation of the Son did not mean He ceased to be God, but only that He also became man. Thomas came to understand this. When Thomas demanded to see the place where the sword entered the side of the Master, Jesus told him "to reach

hither thy hand, and put it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing." "Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God." (John 20:28). It was an entirely appropriate thing to do to fall down and worship Jesus when He walked on earth because He was and is still Deity. Matthew 28:9,10 reads, "And behold, Jesus met them, saying. All hail. And they came and took hold of his feet, and worshipped. Then saith Jesus unto them, Fear not: go tell my brethren that they depart into Galilee, and there shall they see me."

There are things that Jesus experienced as a man that as God in heaven He had never experienced. For this reason, the Bible speaks of Him "becoming poor" when it tells of His leaving heaven and coming to earth. Listen to Paul in 2 Corinthians 8:9, "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might become rich."

In His body of flesh, Jesus suffered temptation, exhaustion, tears, pain and ultimately death. But one thing He did not experience was personal sin (Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:14-16).

It seems as if the Hebrew writer specifically is mindful of the scene in Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46). The Father could and did save Jesus from death; not from dying but from the bonds of death. Jesus was saved "out of" death by the Father (Acts 2:25-28; 31-32).

Jesus Learned Obedience

"Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered." (Hebrews 5:8). Jesus learned by experience. When He suffered in Gethsemane and later on Calvary's hill, He experienced something completely foreign to His experiences in heaven, for there is no pain, tears or death there. Of course, being omniscient, Jesus had always known what pain and death was, but had not experienced it until He became a man and suffered.

The Bible says, "And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." (Philippians 2:8), as we read earlier in this lesson. Because of Jesus' experiences in the flesh, and because of His obedience, we are assured that He understands, and we have a perfect example to follow as we live by faith. Peter states, "Because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that ye should follow his steps." 1 Peter 2:21.

Jesus Became The Source of Salvation to Those That Obey Him. "And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the author of eternal salvation..." (Hebrews 5:9). The word "perfect" here means "complete". Jesus became perfectly able to function as our high priest by becoming like us. Old Testament priests had to meet certain qualifications to become consecrated as priests. Jesus completely fulfilled all the qualifications of the priesthood, not according to the Levitical qualifications, but rather "according to the order of Melchizedek".

Thus, Jesus became the "author of eternal salvation to all those that obey Him." We must respect the authority of Christ by obeying His word, else He is not the source of our salvation. Enough of this sinful and rebellious attitude that obedience isn't necessary to be saved. It is necessary if we are to be saved by Jesus, and there is no other who can do the job. "And in none other is there salvation: for neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved." (Acts 4:12). Jesus says in John 14:6, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one cometh unto the Father, but by me."

We need to follow the example of the winds and the waves in this. The Greek word for "obey" (hupakouousin) is the same one used in Matthew 8:27; "..even the winds and the sea obey Him!" When Jesus said, "Peace, be still!" the winds and waves immediately stopped. Quite simply, if we do not obey Jesus, then we cannot be saved by Him, for He is the "source (author) of eternal salvation to all those that obey Him."

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