



Is a Person Saved by Obeying

Yes and No!

(2 Thessalonians 1:1-12)

“God hath given [the Holy Spirit] **to them that obey Him** (Acts 5:32). “He became the Author of eternal salvation **unto all that obey Him**” (Heb. 5:9). These verses are speaking of gospel obedience. The gospel message must be obeyed. The one condition for salvation is faith in Jesus Christ and faith alone (Acts 16:31). **God commands** men to be saved. “**And this is His commandment**, that we should believe on the Name of His Son, Jesus Christ” (1 John 3:23). The sinner must obey the gospel by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. “But now [God] commandeth all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30). If a person refuses to repent and believe on Christ, then he has disobeyed the gospel: “In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and **that obey not the gospel** of our Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Thess. 1:8; see 1 Peter 4:17). Thus, rejecting the gospel is considered an act of disobedience. It is refusing to obey God's command to repent and believe on Christ.

Obedience to Christ's commands for daily living is not a requirement for salvation; it is a result of salvation. We do not obey in order to be saved; we obey because we are saved. Making obedience a requirement for salvation distorts the true gospel of grace. Requirements such as obedience, surrender, or fulfilling the demands of discipleship all focus upon **what the sinner must do**. When it comes to salvation by grace, the true focus should be upon the finished work of Christ and **what He has done**. No one who gains entrance to heaven will say, “Lord, I'm here because of how faithfully I obeyed Your commands, surrendered to Your Lordship and fulfilled all your discipleship requirements.” No, our only plea is Jesus Christ and not our own righteousness:

“And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith” (Phil. 3:9).

–George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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