

Prepared to Obey Jesus Christ

Miscellaneous Scriptures

Sunday, April 25, 2010

INTRODUCTION:

I. How have I become equipped to obey Jesus Christ?

1. Through repentance and faith I went through an identity exchange (Eph 4:22-24). . .
2. Because union with Christ provided my identity exchange (Rm 6; Gal 2:20; 2 Cor 5:17).

II. Who are the key figures in my fight for obedience to Jesus Christ?

1. The bad guys.
 - a. *The old man (deceased).*
 - b. *The flesh.*
2. The good guys.
 - a. *The new man.*
 - b. *The Holy Spirit.*

III. When I disobey Jesus Christ, what can and cannot be said of my disobedience?

1. What can be said of my disobedience? Perhaps it could be said that:
 - a. *Ignorance of my identity exchange left me vulnerable under temptation, Eph 4:20-24.*
 - b. *A breakdown occurred in my mind renewal, Eph 4:23.*
 - c. *I foolishly allowed sin to momentarily reign in my mortal body so that I would obey its lusts, Rm 6:12.*
 - d. *I foolishly handed my members of my body over to sin like a weapon of unrighteousness, Rm 6:13.*
 - e. *I foolishly handed my members over to impurity and lawlessness (as if they were slaves which will result in only more lawlessness, Rm 6:19.*
 - f. *I foolishly did not walk by the Spirit but instead carried out the desire of my flesh, Gal 5:16-17.*

2. What cannot be said of my disobedience?

- a. It cannot be said that I was walking in the same “futility of mind . . .” (Eph 4:17-19) that characterizes the unbeliever.*
- b. It cannot be said that somehow my buried, old man became unburied, Rm 6:4.*
- c. It cannot be said that I somehow have become a slave to sin again as I once was, in the same manner as I was before I was united to Christ, Rm 6:6-11, 17-20, 22.*
- d. It cannot be said that sin has become my master again as it once was before I was united to Christ, Rm 6:14.*
- e. It cannot be said that I somehow put back on the old man (Eph 4:22) or took off the new man (Eph 4:24).*
- f. It cannot be said that God didn’t do enough to prepare me to obey.*

IV. A strategy for obedience to Jesus Christ?

1. Renew your mind in gospel realities and/ or events.

- a. By God’s mercy, I will not receive the wrath I earned through my sin, Eph 2:1-5.*
- b. By God’s grace I was redeemed and forgiven through Christ’s blood, Eph 1:7.*
- c. God declared me righteous in His sight on the basis of faith in His Son apart from works, Rm 3:21-26, 28.*
- d. In no way can I improve on or diminish my righteous standing before God.*
- e. In love God has adopted me in Jesus and can only see me as His child, Rm 8:15-17; Gal 4:4-7.*
- f. God’s grace united me with Christ to provide the identity exchange I desperately need to obey Jesus, Rm 6:3-11.*
- g. God’s grace led me to entirely concur with His identity exchange in the gospel, Eph 4:22-24; Col 3:9-10.*
- h. Etc.*

2. Act by faith on God’s gospel realities and/or events.

- a. Trustingly put off sinful behavior, Eph 4:25ff; Col 3:1-14.*
- b. Trustingly put on righteous behavior, Eph 4:25ff; Col 3:1-14.*

3. Seek accountability FIRST for 1, then 2 above.