OBEDIENCE TO THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCTION

A. **2nd Corinthians 9:13** *"They glorify God for the* ***obedience*** *of your confession to the* ***gospel*** *of Christ."*

A phrase we in churches of Christ often use, but which is practically unknown in denominationalism, is to refer to salvation as obedience to the gospel.

B. **1st Corinthians 15:1-5** *"I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: 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, and that He was seen."*

The gospel consists of certain facts, namely:

1. Christ died for our sins.

2. He was buried.

3. He rose again.

4. He was seen.

Facts cannot be obeyed, so what does it mean to obey the gospel?

C. **Romans 1:16** *"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."*

The gospel is God's power to save, particularly to save those who believe. That is a requirement for salvation which implies at least a partial answer to what needs obeying.

D. **Hebrews 5:9** *"Having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him."*

Salvation depends on obedience!

I. Obey the Command to Hear

A. **Matthew 17:5** *"Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. **Hear** Him!'"*

God commanded that His Son Jesus Christ must be heard.

B. **Acts 2:22-24** *"Men of Israel, **hear** these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know — Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it."*

Peter commanded the Jews on Pentecost to hear him preach about the crucified and risen Son of God.

II. Obey the Command to Believe

A. **Mark 1:15** *"Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and **believe** in the gospel.'"*

Jesus commanded belief in the gospel, which amounts to the facts already in evidence: that He died, was buried, arose, and was seen – even though none of those things had yet occurred when He spoke this.

B. **Acts 16:30** *"He brought them out and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' So they said, '**Believe** on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.'"*

Paul and Silas commanded the jailer of Philippi to believe on Christ for salvation.

III. Obey the Command to Confess

A. **Philippians 2:10-11** *"At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should* ***confess*** *that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

Confession of Jesus' lordship is a universal imperative.

B. **Acts 22:16** *"Why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins,* ***calling on the name*** *of the Lord."*

Ananias commanded Saul to call on the Lord's name.

IV. Obey the Command to Repent

A. **Acts 17:30-31** *"Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to* ***repent****, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."*

Paul informed the Athenians that God has commanded universal repentance.

B. **Acts 3:19** *"****Repent*** *therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."*

Peter commanded repentance for the removal of sins.

V. Obey the Command to Be Baptized

A. **Mark 16:15-16** *"And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is* ***baptized*** *will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.'"*

Christ commanded baptism as the obedient response to gospel preaching.

B. **Acts 10:48** ***"He commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord."***

Peter commanded Cornelius with his friends and family to be baptized.

VI. Obey the Command to Continue

A. **Colossians 1:21-23** *"You, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight — if indeed you* ***continue*** *in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven."*

Once the gospel has been obeyed, it must be continued in.

B. **Acts 14:21-22** *"When they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to* ***continue*** *in the faith, and saying, 'We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.'"*

Paul and Barnabas commanded disciples in several churches to continue in the faith.

Conclusion

A. **Romans 10:16** *"But they have not all* ***obeyed the gospel****. For Isaiah says, 'Lord, who has believed our report?'"*

Some, even many, do not obey the gospel.

B. **1st Peter 4:17** *"The time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not* ***obey the gospel*** *of God?"*

God judges even His own people. Implicitly, judgment will be worse for those who do not obey the gospel.

C. **2nd Thessalonians 1:6-8** *"It is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in*

flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not ***obey the gospel*** *of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Judgment upon those disobedient to the gospel will be fiery vengeance.