

December 4, 2022

Viewpoint from the **Valley Grove Church Of Christ**

Give Me The Simple Life!

By Kyle Campbell

Satan called a world-wide convention. In his opening address to his evil angels, he said, “We cannot keep Christians from going to church assemblies, reading their Bibles and knowing the truth. We cannot even keep them from conservative values. But we can do something else. We can keep them from forming a close and abiding relationship with Christ. If they gain that connection with Jesus, our power over them is broken. So let them go to church, let them have their conservative lifestyles, but steal their time so they can never form that unity with the Lord.”

“How shall we do this?”, shouted his angels. “Keep them busy in the non-essentials of life and invent many schemes to occupy their minds,” he answered.

“Tempt them to spend, spend, spend, then, borrow, borrow, borrow. Convince the husbands to work 6 or 7 days a week, 10-12 hours a day, so they can afford their lifestyles. Keep them from spending time with their children. As their family fragments, their homes will offer no escape from

the pressures of work. Over stimulate their minds and entice them to play the radio or their iPods whenever they drive, to keep the TV going constantly in their homes. This will jam their minds and break that union with Christ.”

“Pound their minds with the news 24 hours a day. Flood their mailboxes with sweepstakes, mail order catalogs, and every kind of newsletter and promotional offering free products, services, and false hopes. Even in their recreation, let them be excessive. Have them return from their recreation exhausted, disquieted, and unprepared for the coming week. Send them to amusement parks, sporting events, concerts, and movies. And when they meet for spiritual fellowship, involve them in gossip and small talk so that they leave with troubled consciences and unsettled emotions. Soon they will be working from their own strength, sacrificing their health and family unity for the good of the cause.”

It was quite a convention in the end. The evil angels went eagerly to their assignments causing Christians everywhere to get busy, busy, busy and rush here and there. Has the devil been successful at his scheme? You be the judge.

Obedience

By Richard Thetford

Abraham is a man in which all of us can learn obedience from. There are several examples in which Abraham showed his obedience to Jehovah as we can read about in the book of Genesis. We know for certain the lesson learned about how great his faith in God was when he was commanded to offer up his only son Isaac on the altar. But earlier than that incident, we can learn about Abraham's devotion to God as the twelfth chapter of Genesis unfolds.

Get Out Of Your Country

Jehovah spoke to Abram at the time and said: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old. . ." (Gen 12:1-4). Abram is a man of 75 years of age when God called him to do four things.

1. To leave his country, which was to leave all the familiar surroundings in which he was used to.
2. To leave his family.
3. To leave his father's house, which was to leave his nearest relatives.
4. He was commanded to go into a country unnamed in order for his obedience to be tested.

We do not read anywhere that Abram questioned God, but that he departed his country just as God had instructed for him to do. I wonder, would we be so devoted to our Lord to forsake all?

Obedience Required Of Us Today

Just as Abraham obeyed God then, we are fully expected to obey Him today. Jesus plainly stated in Matthew 7:21: "*Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*" There is so much that we can learn and **MUST** learn from this one verse that Jesus taught. Jesus warns us that it is not enough for people to merely be religious and prayerful. It is possible for men to pray much and yet not be obedient unto God. Individuals that spend a lot of time in prayer, but do

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not cultivate the spirit of submission to God's will, should not expect to be received into God's everlasting kingdom.

Jesus points out that only he who **DOES** the will of the Father will be able to enter into heaven. To reject the will of the Father is simply to reject the very message that Jesus was sent here by His Father to give to us. God has a will which relates to all mankind. There are commandments in God's will that man **MUST** obey. Also in God's will, He has promised us many blessings if we will obey Him. If we ever hope to reap the rewards of the will of God, which are His blessings, then we **MUST** obey His commandments. We can't have it both ways, that is to receive the blessings and eternal life, while not obeying God's commands while we live on this earth.

The necessity of **DOING** the will of the Father is evident. Jesus teaches that doing God's will is a condition upon which we may hope to enjoy the promise of the Father. Everyone is not perfect, for we have all sinned (Rom. 3:23), but we can strive to become perfect in our life (Matt. 5:48F). As we strive toward this perfection, we do so by having a desire to obey those things in which God has instructed of us.

What Can We Learn From Examples Of Obedience?

God has always required men to obey as we have seen in our example of Abraham (Gen. 2:16). But we also have other examples of required obedience and some of these include: The nation of Israel (Exod. 20; Deut. 6); and the church in which Jesus built (Rom. 6:12-18; 8:12-13; Phil. 2:12-16; 2 Thess. 3:6,14). When individuals have responded to God's will to obey Him, then God was pleased to bless those as He has promised that He would do. Enoch was a man that "walked with God" and as a result was eternally blessed (Gen. 5:24; Heb. 11:5-6). Israel was blessed when they obeyed God (Deut. 28:1-14). Then we can read about how the church also is blessed through obedience (Matt. 25:21, (34-40); (Mk. 10:29-30; (Heb. 5:9; (Rev. 2:10-11). We also learn that God has punished those that have decided to disobey Him. The world in the days of Noah was destroyed because of disobedience (Gen. 6:5-8). Israel (2 Chron. 36:13-21). The church (Acts 5:1-11; (1 Cor. 5:1-5; (2 Pet. 2:4-10). The final consequences are this: If we obey, eternal life (Rev. 2:7; 3:5,12,21; 1 Thess. 4:14-17). If we disobey, eternal damnation (Rom. 2:4-11; 2 Thess. 1:6-10; Rev. 20:15; 21:8; 22:15). Have you determined within your heart to obey the commandments and **DO** the will of the Lord?

***Visitors — We pray that you benefit spiritually
from our worship together and hope to see you again.***

Walk Carefully

By Gene Samford

Psalm 1:1

*1 Blessed is the man Who walks
not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor
stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits
in the seat of the scornful;*

The temptation is always there to compromise what we know to be God's will — and one of the most effective inducements offered by the devil is, "Everybody else is doing it". Overcoming this temptation is not as difficult as some might imagine, though. All it takes is "walking carefully" — watching where we "put our steps". In other words, being certain we keep to the "straight and narrow path" which leads to Heaven.

Easily said, but how do we do this? By making God's word a familiar part of our lives. As we study and meditate on it, it becomes our whole direction.

Psalm 1:2

*2 But his delight is in the law of
the Lord, And in His law he meditates
day and night.*

Read Your Bible!

December Birthdays: The 8th Melton Yarbrough; The 14th Jacob Hisaw; The 16th Doug Morgan; The 20th Ian, Landon, and Kevin Collins; The 23rd Ricky Thomas; The 24th Robin McCartney; The 29th Gail Justice; The 30th Alicia Threadgill.

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Sunday

Bible Study . . . 9:30 A.M.

Worship 10:30 A.M.

Worship 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study . . . 7:00 P.M.

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