

The Benefits that are reaped by being Obedient to the Commandments of God

Sermon by Pastor Diana J. Perkins

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Last week I spoke about characters in the Bible that were obedient to the call of God and those who had no respect for Him and did not feel that they needed to be accountable to God for they refused to acknowledge His authority over man's affairs. Today I want to continue on this subject and delve into the passages that call us to be diligent in our walk with the LORD for it is a serious matter and those who take it lightly will suffer consequences due to neglecting God's warnings.

Please turn in your Bible to James 1:19-27. If you read the beginning of this chapter, you will learn that it is not a sin to be tempted. Verse 12 says blessed is the man that endures temptations (testings of your faith) for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who LOVE HIM.

You will also discover that God doesn't tempt anyone with sin but we are tempted by our own desires that drag us off and trap us. Our desires cause us to sin and when sin is finished with us, it brings death. The next verse tells us not to be fooled; every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father who created all the lights in the heavens. He is always the same and never makes dark shadows by changing. He wanted us to be his own special people, and so he sent the true message to give us new birth.

Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to get angry. An angry person cannot do any of the good things God wants done. You must stop being immoral and evil. Instead be humble and accept the message that is planted in you to save you. Obey God's message. Don't fool yourselves just by listening to it. If you hear the message and don't obey it, you are like people who stare at themselves in a mirror and forget what they look like as soon as they walk away. Never stop looking at the perfect law that sets you free. God will bless you in everything you do if you listen and obey and don't just hear and forget.

It continues by addressing those who are not disciplined in their speech. Religion that pleases God must be pure and spotless. Help the needy orphans and widows and not let this world influence you to be evil.

In John 14:6, Jesus stated that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life and no one can come to the Father except through Him. In verse 15 it reads, "If you love me, keep my commandments and I will pray the Father and he shall give you another Comforter that he may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive."

If you continue reading this chapter, you will learn that by obeying the words of Jesus Christ, you will know truth, you will be taught spiritual things by the Holy Ghost, and spiritual truths will come to your memory when you need them. The Father and Son will come into your heart and take up residence within you. In verse 27, He promises to leave peace with the believers so our hearts will not be troubled and we have no need to be afraid. That is the wonderful benefits that are given to those who walk in obedience to God's will.

If a person loves Jesus Christ, he will keep his words. In John 8:31, Jesus said, "If you continue in my word, then are you my disciple indeed, and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free."

Jesus went on to explain that whoever commits sin is the servant of sin. If we commit our lives to being obedient to the word of God we are part of the family of God. However those whose lives are committed to living in unrepentant sin do not have the love of God within them. You cannot serve two masters. Either your life will bear fruit of righteousness or else the works of the flesh will dominate your being causing you to be barren lacking the fruit of the spirit.

In 1 Peter chapter 4, Peter speaks about the trials that come to believers. He admonishes believers to understand that we will suffer reproach and persecution as a believer in Jesus Christ. He tells us to have fervent charity among believers for charity covers a multitude of sin. He speaks about showing hospitality towards people and whatever we do should glorify God. He admonishes us not to think it strange when fiery darts are thrown our way as though some strange thing has happened to us. Rejoice in as much as we are partakers of the suffering of Christ. When his glory is revealed we will rejoice with exceeding joy. If people reject us because of our faith in Christ, be happy for the spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. Praise God that you belong to Him. However, if you are a thief, a murderer, a crook or a busybody, you deserve to suffer. The judgment of God must begin in the house of the Lord. He then asks a question, "If his judgment begins with us, imagine how terrible it will be for those who refuse to obey his message." The Scriptures say "If good people barely escape, what will happen to sinners and to others who don't respect God. If you suffer for obeying God, you must have complete faith in your faithful Creator and keep on doing right. Remember that God opposes the people filled with pride, but he helps those who are humble.

In Matthew 7:24, Jesus talked about those who listened to his words and believed them. He said that he likened these people to the man who built his house upon a rock. The storms came, the wind blew and beat upon the house, yet the house on the rock stood firm.

He likened those who heard the words and rejected them to the foolish man who built his house upon the sand. When the rains came, the winds blew and beat upon the house, the house fell and great was the fall. He ended his saying and the people were astonished at his doctrine for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.

As I end this message today, my heart has been stirred to strengthen my resolve to follow the path that Jesus set ahead of me. I want to be more careful of my words and make sure that the work that I do is for God's glory and not because I feel compelled to do it, but rather because I love God and am willing to give my life for his cause. Hebrews 12:1