

# OBEY GOD—WHY?

By Keith Greer

"And Pharaoh said, 'Who is the LORD that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go.'" {Exodus 5:2}

On the last Sunday evening of the month many years ago, while preaching in Las Vegas, one of the men gave a lesson about obedience to God. This verse came to mind as I listened to his points. My brother made some excellent points. Let me share some of these thoughts with you.

"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love." {John 15:10} One can only abide in His love by doing His will. This leads us to the first reason we obey God, **WE HAVE TO**.

From Adam until now, one quality that God has always expected from His creation—total unwavering obedience. God told them not to "eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil". Thus it began and so it continues until this day. God instructs and we obey. The choice is ours to make.

"Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?" {Hebrews 12: 9} If we desire to please Him, we will of necessity obey Him.

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," {Romans 3:23} Since we have all sinned, this leads us to our second motive of obedience—**WE NEED TO**.

When sin entered the perfect paradise that God had created for man, the relationship was marred. How would fellowship and reconciliation be made possible now? By the Scheme of Redemption, which God had foreordained, to be completed by the death of Christ upon the cross.

"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" {Ephesians 1:7} Since all have sinned, all need that blood. It is only by obedience, and His blood, which gives us all spiritual blessings in Christ. Please read the following passages: Colossians 2:12-14; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; Ephesians 1: 3.

"For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. " {Romans 5: 7,8} This brings us to the final reason, and the most important one, to obey Him—**OUT OF LOVE**.

"For in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'" {Acts 17:28}

"As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue." {2 Peter 1: 3}

"We love Him because He first loved us." {1 John 4:19}

God has done so much for us and continues to do so every day that we live: He gave His only Begotten Son to the world; His Son was willing to die on that cruel cross of Calvary for all of mankind. Greater love has never been seen by mankind.

For all He has done, and will continue to do, what has He asked in exchange for what He gives us? "If you love Me, keep My commandments. " {John 14: 15}

Did he ask us for too much? Is it impossible for us to do what He requires? Love Him? Why He loves me and gave His life for me. Sadly, in the past decade some have begun to "downplay" emphasis on obedience. "More love, grace, longsuffering, and one's relationship with Christ" is now the emphasis. Yet, in all honesty I must ask—how does one have a relationship with Christ without obedience? \*\*\*