

ALL ARE UNDER THE LAW OF OBEDIENCE

By Keith Greer

*“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.” {Romans 8:2} In the gospel age, the terms of obedience to God’s law, the gospel plan of salvation, are the same for all men. All who **HEAR** {Romans 10:17}, **BELIEVE** {John 8:24}, **REPENT** {Acts 17:30}, **CONFESS** {Romans 10:9,10}, and undergo **BAPTISM** {Acts 2:38} are:*

Redeemed. *“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” {Ephesians 1:7} We have been bought back from sin’s bondage.*

Reconciled. *“And that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.” {Ephesians 2:16} Everyone has sinned, thereby breaking fellowship with God. Obedience brings us back into God’s fellowship.*

Saved. *“He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.” {Mark 16:16} Obedience to the gospel saves us from the terrible wrath and vengeance God will take on the ungodly {Romans 5:9; Hebrews 10:29-31; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9}.*

In Christ. *“Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.” {Romans 6:3-5} Only those who are in Christ are assured of eternal salvation.*

Members of His church. *“Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.” {Acts 2:47} The Lord adds the saved to His church, the institution He purchased with His blood {Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 15:24}.*

Born again. *“Jesus answered, Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” {John 3:5} In order to become part of His family, we must experience a new, spiritual birth.*

Christians. *“And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.” {Acts 11:26} There’s only one way to become a Christian—by obeying the gospel of our Lord and Savior. Nothing more or less will do.*

God’s children. *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.” {John 1:12} Those who obey the Lord are known as His children.*

Sanctified. *“And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.” {1 Corinthians 6:11}* We have been set apart for a very special work and purpose.

Heirs. *“And if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” {Romans 8:17}* We share, with Christ, a spiritual inheritance.

All who obey Christ's law are eligible to receive these benefits. Have you chosen to take advantage of this opportunity? Why would you wait? ***