

Studies in I Peter (16)

The Responsibility of Salvation

Introduction

- A. The Apostle Peter wrote to encourage the believers to put their belief into practice by obedience. This truth was very important then and is now because of the great benefits and responsibilities related to obedience.
- B. The believers who first read this manuscript were in a time of serious trial. They needed encouragement. There is nothing that will encourage us more than to obey God. When we do so we experience the grace of God.

I. The Grace of God in the Believer's Salvation, I Peter 1:3-2:10.

- A. The description of salvation, Vs 3-5 (Lesson # 11)
- B. The joy of salvation, Vs 6-9 (Lesson # 12)
- C. The greatness of salvation, Vs 10-12 (Lesson # 13)
- D. The responsibility of salvation, Vs 1:13-2:3
 - 1. The responsibility of dedication, V 13. (Lesson # 14)
 - 2. The responsibility of holiness, Vs 14,15 (Lesson # 15)
 - 3. The Biblical reasons for obeying God, Vs 16-21.

Because it is written, Be ye holy, for I am holy, (V16).

- a. "Because" -- There are reasons why we should obey God.

- 1) Because of the effects in my own life.

There is nothing, literally nothing, that will produce greater personal benefits. The reason is simple: to obey means I must make decisions of faith and love in the practice of truth, love, and righteousness. The results of such a life are overwhelming.

- a) We grow in the Christian life.
- b) We start to experience the joy of the Lord.
- c) We find it easier to say "No" to sin and the world.
- d) We find it easier to pray and testify.
- e) We find it easier to read the Bible.
- f) We start to develop a sense of self-respect.
(Have we robbed ourselves of such benefits by disobedience?)

- 2) Because of the effects in my family.

There is nothing, literally nothing, that will produce greater benefits in the family. Far too often we bring a blight and curse into our family by our inconsistency, poor testimony, and our hypocrisy. Our disobedience makes it easier for other family members to disobey God, to be critical, to be proud, to neglect the Bible, prayer, and Church. Instead of assuming our obligation and leading the family to God -- we stand in their way. Have we robbed our family -- by our pride, selfishness, and laziness?

b. "Because it is written" -- the reason of divine revelation.

We do not have to guess as to how we are to live -- we have been given the blueprint in the Bible. The fact of divine revelation overwhelms us with the privilege that is ours in having the Word of God. We do not have to fail -- we have the blueprint and the promise.

The Word of God also bring a responsibility to us. How we respond to the Bible will determine our daily life as well as our eternal reward. Every believer is responsible to learn and practice the message of the Bible. We will be judged after death on the basis of the Scripture. This truth was made crystal clear by the Lord Jesus regarding both Christians and non-Christians.

He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him. The word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. John 12:48 (Rom. 14:10-13; II Cor. 5:10)

c. "...Be ye holy, for I am holy" -- the reason of God's character.

For God to be holy means that He is morally pure and spotless in every area of thought and action. It means that He is the very standard of all that is right, good, just, truthful, and loving. It means that He cannot approve of evil in any form but conversely that He loves and delights only in that which is good.

The holiness of God is the most fundamental reason of all for our obedience as believers. We were created with the ability to live in harmony with Who and what God is. In the Fall of man we not only lost that ability and desire -- but even the knowledge of God and His holiness. The basic reason why sin is wrong, is not because of its affects upon us, but because it is the opposite of the character of God.

Therefore, when we sin -- even through ignorance, neglect, or laziness -- we make a choice involving terrible consequences.

- 1) We thereby take a stand against the very person of God.
- 2) We thereby say the way God is -- is not the way He should be.
- 3) We thereby say that error, selfishness, and sensuality are preferable.
- 4) We thereby say that what God has said to us is false.
- 5) We thereby say that my will is better than God's will.
- 6) We thereby say that happiness is found in opposing God.
- 7) We thereby say that the joy of sinning is better than the joy of the Lord.

Because of Who God is and how we have been created in His image -- we must protect ourselves from disobedience. While we will never be sinless until we enter Heaven -- we do not have to sin. God has redeemed us, we have His Word, and we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. We can learn to obey God.

- 1) It is necessary to totally surrender to God -- to do His will.
- 2) It is necessary to live in fellowship with God.
- 3) It is necessary to read and study the Bible.
- 4) It is necessary to learn the will of God and how to apply it.
- 5) It is necessary to make honest choices of faith & love to obey God.
- 6) It is necessary to be consistent and honest in daily practice.

