

## ***The Response of Faith, Love and Hope***

### **Introduction**

- A. Having discussed how God Himself – as a Person – is the most “real” in all of reality, we now must ask ourselves how we “should” respond to Him.
- B. The way we intuitively – without hesitation – respond to natural law may set a pattern for how we should respond to God. Let’s discuss that principle.

### **I. Some Truths Related to Natural Law and How We Utilize Them.**

- A. God has created such laws as a resource for His glory and our well being.
  - B. Learning of these laws and implementing them we reveal His wisdom, power and glory as well and bringing great benefit to ourselves. We “work” His garden, Gen 2:15.
  - C. We have discussed this principle related to the Wright Brothers – list other examples.
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### **II. Some Truths Related to Spiritual Reality and How We Are To Respond.**

- A. The emphasis today is on the reality of God as a Person – how do we respond to Him as reality – similar and yet in a different way – from how we respond to natural law?
- B. The Bible speaks of “*living worthy* (in harmony with) of *God*,” (1 Thess. 2:12). See also Eph. 4:1; Phil.1:27; and Col. 1:10. Is this one way we respond to natural law?
- C. What about God should we keep in mind, in trying to “*live worthy* (in harmony with) of *Him*”? \_\_\_\_\_
- D. How has our Lord asked us to respond to Him? \_\_\_\_\_

### **III. Every Practice of True Obedience is an Expression of Love for God.**

“*If you love me you will obey what I command*” John 14:15

“*This is love for God: to obey his commands.*” 1 John 5:3

- A. When we choose to love God – His power is released in our life – and obedience not only becomes possible – but enjoyable, and great benefits flow into our daily life.
- B. Can we practice a form of obedience without truly loving God? Illustrate \_\_\_\_\_

C. In Lesson # 3 we discussed how God loves us. Can we use that as a pattern for how we are to love Him? What would fit? \_\_\_\_\_ What would not fit? \_\_\_\_\_

D. What is our greatest hindrance to loving God as He should be loved? \_\_\_\_\_

A. What would be the greatest benefit – beyond salvation – in truly loving God?

See John 14:21,23. \_\_\_\_\_

B. Would Is. 30:15 and Jer. 29:13 tell us how to begin – and proceed – in loving God?

*This is what the Sovereign LORD, the Holy One of Israel, says: "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it"*

*"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."*

### **III. Every Practice of True Obedience is an Expression of Faith in God.**

*And without faith it is impossible to please God ... Hebrews 11:6*

A. Faith, like love, is a decision to take God at His Word and practice it in trust.

B. Abraham is given as an example of faith in Rom. 4:17-24. List what he did that is a pattern for us. \_\_\_\_\_

C. From Lesson #3 what basis do we have for trusting God? \_\_\_\_\_

D. When we obey God and His Word – great benefits are released into our life.

Explain the benefit found in Romans 6:16-18 \_\_\_\_\_

Explain the benefit found in 1 Peter 1:22 \_\_\_\_\_

### **IV. Every Practice of True Obedience Enables us To Face the Future with Hope.**

A. It is helpful to know that when faith and love govern/determine our attitude toward the future – they produce in us the virtue of hope. (See Romans 8:24,25)

B. Explain the use of “hope” in Romans 4:18. \_\_\_\_\_  
What did Abraham “do” that was his “hope”? \_\_\_\_\_

C. What are some reasons why having hope is difficult for many Christians? \_\_\_\_\_

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D. Why is the coming of the Lord Jesus called The Blessed Hope? See Titus 2:13.

**Conclusion: Please tell us how you struggle with and yet grow in love, faith, and hope.**

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