

In rejecting the sovereignty of God, our world has attained an utter level of confusion resulting in the total decline of morality. We're fed ideas that any understanding of life is subject to anyone's interpretation, thereby rejecting the authority of God. As a result the flesh becomes their focus, with no regard to God's commands in His Word.

Here's what scripture says about obedience to God: Deut 11:1: "You shall love the LORD your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always."

Lev 22:31: "You shall keep My commandments, and perform them: I am the LORD."

Eze 20:19: "I am the LORD your God; follow My decrees and be careful to keep My laws."

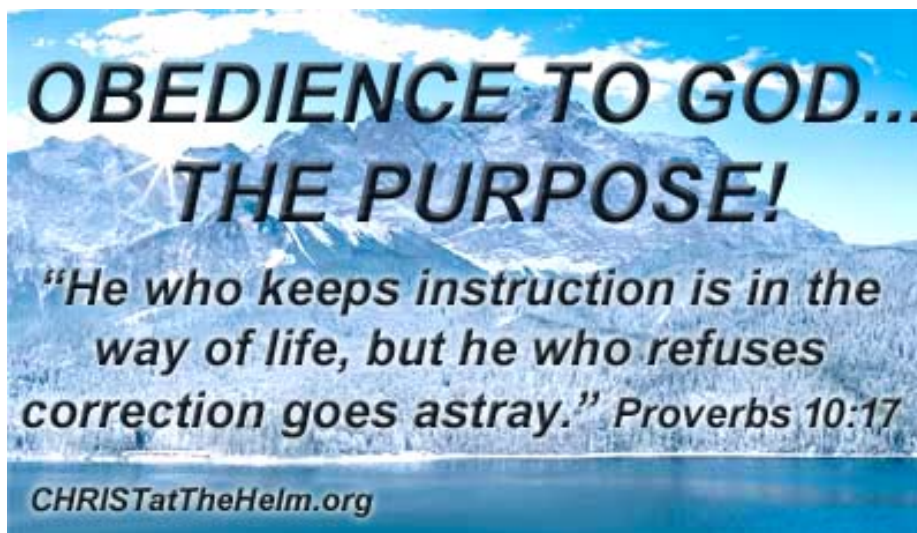
Pro 4:20-21: "My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to My words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart."

Mat 22:37: "Jesus said to him, you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

Why? Ecc 12:13-14: "Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil."

Introspection: Do I recognize the authority of God in my life to follow His commands?

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Does God seek obedience for the purpose of humbling us, or has He a more holy and blessed intent for His creation?

Here's what God's Word says:

Ex 19:5: "Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine."

Deut 5:29: "Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!"

What can we expect if we do submit to Christ?

2Peter 1:10-11: "Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

John 15:16: "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you."

And speaking of Christ's obedience to the Father, Paul said in Heb 5:9: "And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him."

Introspection: Do I understand the ultimate purpose of following Christ and to abide by His Word?

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In essence, to obey God's commandments in Christ Jesus is the proof of our commitment as true believers, that Christ is Lord of our lives and the seal of our salvation.

Why?

John 14:23: "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

Rom 6:16: "Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey, whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?"

James 1:22: "But be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

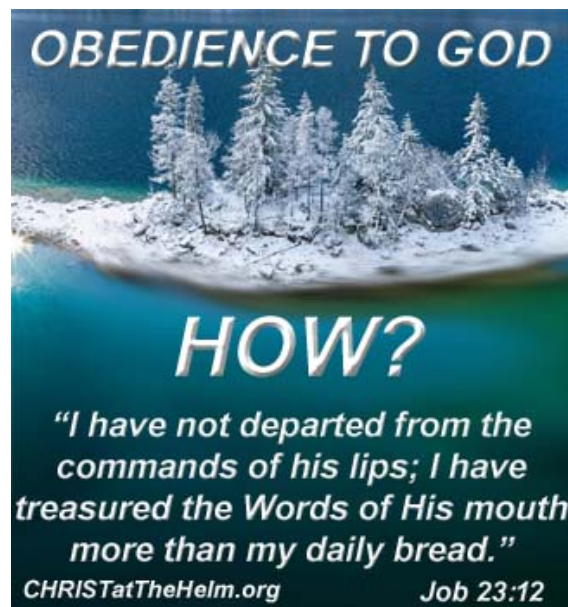
James 2:26: "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

Mat 6:24: "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other."

Mat 7:21: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

Introspection: Do I understand my responsibility to obey and follow Christ as Lord, in essence the proof of my belief in Christ as Savior?

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As to how we must obey the Lord, Job definitely not only said it, but as well showed it in his actions, never giving in to whoever tried to draw him to error about God.

How does it apply to us believers?

2Cor 10:4-5: "For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

1Peter 1:13-15: "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct."

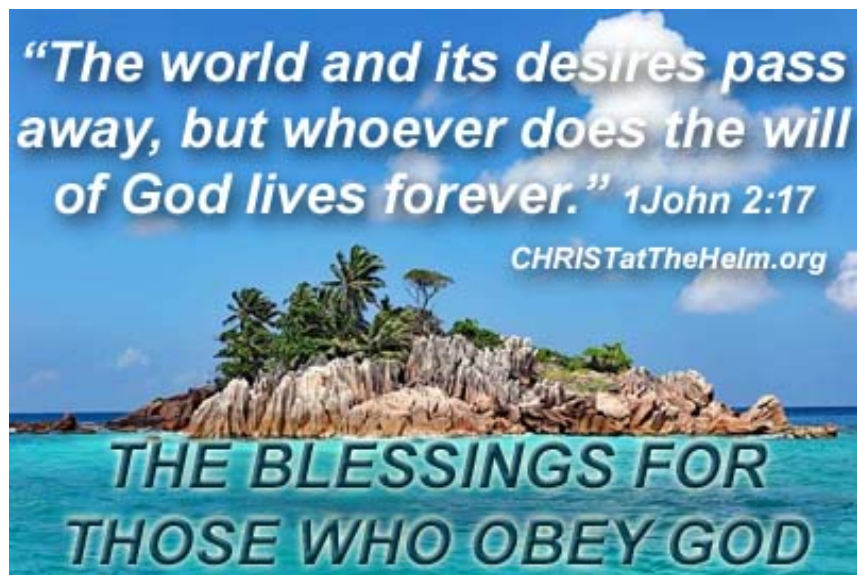
Rom 12:2: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Luke 9:23: "Then He said to *them* all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

Rom 12:9: "Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good."

Introspection: Am I committed to obey Christ as Lord of my life, ready to live each day to follow Him?

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What better blessing is there than to know that as true believers in God and Christ, we will live forever in His presence in a most glorious environment?

Here's how scripture defines it:

John 14:23: "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

John 14:21: "Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

Luke 6:47-48: "Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock."

Rev 2:7: "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

The reason Acts 5:32 states: "And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

Introspection: Is the Word and will of God the focus of my life?

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Jesus made it clear that believing in Him as Savior, incorporated that our belief be true in following Him at His Word.

How does the Word address those who say they believe but their lives do not support their confession?

Mat 7:21: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

Mat 5:13: "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men."

If we find ourselves being disobedient to God's Word and following our flesh, what's our solution?

Rev 2:5: "Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place."

And the last warning on the bible, Rev 22:18-19: "I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll."

Will I stand with God in Christ or choose to be rejected forever?

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