

6.14.20

BIBLE VERSES REFERENCED DURING SERMON:

- · I John 2:I-II
- · Isaiah 55:8-9
- · Hebrews II:24-26
- · 2 Timothy 3:12
- · Hebrews 5:8
- · Romans 12:17-21
- · 2 Timothy 4:14

BIBLE STUDY:

- · Today's sermon is about obedience.
- Read Acts 9. Saul (later to be renamed the Apostle Paul) breathed "threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord." (verse I).
- · Saul (a.k.a Paul) was present when Stephen was stoned for sharing the Gospel (Acts 7:58)
- · Saul (a.k.a Paul) in his own words said, "For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it." (Galatians I:13)
- · How did Ananias respond when God told him to go and lay hands on Saul (a.k.a Paul) so that he might have his eyesight restored? (Acts 9:10-19) Consider, Ananias was afraid. He was being told by God to go to a man who was seeking to kill Christians and heal him. How do you think Ananias felt? How would you have responded?
- · After Saul's conversion, he returned to Jerusalem after being gone for three years (Galatians I:18...Cephas (a.k.a. the Apostle Peter)) is not welcomed for fear that he would attempt to persecute the Christians in Jerusalem (Acts 9:26). Yet one bold Christian, Barnabas, was able to extend grace to Saul and defend him before the Apostles (Acts 9:27). Would you be willing to vouch for someone who had lived a life opposed to God but had been reconciled to Him?
- What are some other instances in the Bible where people obediently followed God's instruction when it did not make sense? Abraham? Moses? Peter?

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

- · Why do we desire to say, "...everyone goes to heaven?" Where does that come from?
- · What are your thoughts on Pastor Rick's statement, "The reality that God loved me so much that He paid for the price of my doesn't mean that I can live any way I want on the other hand that reality should be my motivation not to sin."?
- Do you know "Christians" who have sin in their life, unrepentant sin, but say, "Well, I am basically good because I am doing the best I can."?
- · What is the difference between saying you are Christian and living like you are a Christian?
- Pastor Rick said, "The bottom line is this, when we know Jesus obedience is the result." Why is that?



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- "How can you claim to know Jesus and not obey Jesus?" Do you think church culture pressures people to "walk the aisle" and claim to know Jesus?
- What is the difference when we try to live according to what is good and avoid what is wrong, versus pleasing God with our lives?
- What did Pastor Rick mean when he said, "The spiritual life, following Jesus is about making sure that you are moving toward Jesus, no matter how slowly, always make sure that you are moving toward Jesus."?
- Are you selectively obedient to God? Are there areas in your life that you do not want to give up because you are afraid of losing that comfort or pleasure?
- · What are the three truths Pastor Rick mentioned for complete obedience?
- Let's take a practical look at "I obey God when it's not convenient." Have you ever had a fight with your spouse and you felt completely right and justified in your position. You pray to God and ask for wisdom and guidance and He says, "Go apologize and reconcile with your spouse." What do you do? Do you maintain your stance in the right or do you submit to God and apologize?
- · When dealing with Christians who are having sex before marriage and their reply is, "Well, we are married in the eyes of God." How do you respond?
- So many people today want to know the "why" when they are asked to do something. Do you demand to know "why" when God asks you to do something?
- Pastor Rick said, "Major truth we learn obedience through suffering." What do you think about that statement?
- · Is there anyone you hate? Who is it? Why?
- · Do you believe that God extended His grace to you?
- · Read Romans 5:6-II. We were enemies of God...enemies. How did God respond?
- · Why is it so hard for us to extend the same grace we desire of God to the people in our lives? Pastor Rick made a powerful statement, "Cut people some slack." Why do we expect perfection in others and yet are okay with imperfection in our own lives?
- · How do relationships change when we extend God's grace to our spouse, our children, our friends, coworkers?