

John 8:31-36
August 2, 1987
Rome Georgia
August 24, 2014

Subject: The mark of a true disciple.

Theme: Continuance in the WORD is evidence that we possess true faith.

Proposition: Are you continuing in Christ's word? A simple way to determine your success in this area is to ask yourself, "Am I more free today from the entrapments of this life than I was yesterday.?"

I.OBEDIENCE RESULTS IN ASSURANCE 31

See also I Jn. 5:13, 2:1-3Jn. 14:15&23. I Jn. 2 is a positive statement of truth of Jn. 14:15 & 23.

II. OBEDIENCE RESULTS IN FREEDOM 32, 33, 34.

See also: Romans 6:15-23**

III.OBEDIENCE RESULTS IN REST 35-36.

See also: Genesis 21:10-11; Galatians 3:16and 3:26.Heb. 3:6and Gal. 4:7 and 30.

Introduction from Aug. 2, 1987. Did not revisit this intro in 2014.
Freedom is not without responsibilities - **Statue of Liberty:**

"Give me your tired, your poor
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,
Send these, the homeless, tempest tossed to me;
I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

For some 100 years this symbol of freedom has beckoned to the OPPRESSED of the world. And the world is still responding to the invitation.

There is another SYMBOL OF FREEDOM that has been beckoning for 2000 years, offering true eternal freedom to all those who would enter in through the sure way that it had made. It is the cross of Calvary, and it **beckons those in spiritual bondage** and offers them TRUE and ETERNAL FREEDOM.

YET, MANY CANNOT SEE THE **TREE OF CALVARY HILL FOR THE PICKET FENCE** OF DEFENCES THAT SATAN HAS
PITCHED ABOUT IT'S BASE.(II TIM. 3:4 ...lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.)

Why do you suppose that so few of God's children today live lives which are characterized by faithful, loving obedience to the Word Of God?

Why is it that even WHEN WE KNOW WHAT GOD'S WORD TEACHES ON A GIVEN SUBJECT, THAT WE FEEL THAT WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO STRETCH THE LIMITS OF HIS COMMANDS. God says **don't eat**, we say He said don't eat or touch, and so it must be alight to **nibble**.

Many today are afraid of obeying the commands of Christ because they feel that to do so would somehow cause them **to loose their own personal ID and individuality**. We want to do our own thing. To be **unique** and "different". The lure is especially strong for the young people.

Ollie's son, **Gabe** Bratcher used to wear a T-Shirt that said, **"YOU ARE UNIQUE JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE."**

Without a doubt, we will each experience a retention of our unique identification in heaven – reference **-Lazarus** and the rich man! In lifetime, the rich man's name was undoubtedly well known, but in eternity, it was the name of Lazarus that was honored in the bosom of Abraham **and the rich man in hell was known only as the rich man in hell!**

Some will say that the commands of Christ are impractical because they conflict with the way that things are in the "REAL WORLD."

Which world is the "REAL WORLD?" Is it this which will pass away or is it that which is eternal?

Do you feel like the demands of Christ on your life are burdensome? Do you wince when you hear a preacher say something about the Christian Life that you know you are not experiencing?

When I was in the sixth grade, the first time, I "forgot" to bring my report-card home for my mother's signature. I lived in constant, unabated terror for many, many weeks, terrified of the consequences of my actions. In reality, the teacher had contacted my mother, secretly, and they probably delighted in watching me twist in the wind.

Do you spend more time rationalizing your actions and looking for **loopholes in God's word** or in searching your heart to see where you fall short?

Matt. 11:28-30.

"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and YE SHALL FIND REST UNTO YOUR SOULS. FOR MY YOKE IS EASY, AND MY BURDEN IS LIGHT."

Used as Introduction on 8/24/2014

8:12 "I AM the light of the world. He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the LIGHT OF LIFE."

10:9 "I AM the door; by me if any man enter in, HE SHALL BE SAVED and shall go in and out, and find pasture!"

10:11 "I AM the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."

11:25 "I AM the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, YET SHALL HE LIVE."

14:26 "I AM the way, the truth and the life; No man cometh unto the Father, but by ME."

CF. **6:45** "...Every man therefore that hath heard and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto Me."

15:1&5 "I AM the true vine...ye are the branches

6:35 "I AM the bread of life

Each of these revelations of Christ are sufficient in and of themselves to provide life to the hearers. Not a life based on fully understanding, but a life based on faith! Trusting, believing, and receiving, Jesus Christ. He is Life!

Joh 8:26 I have many things to say and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I heard from Him."

I. OBEDIENCE RESULTS IN ASSURANCE 31

See also **1 Jn. 5:13, 2:1-3 Jn.14:15 & 23. 1 Jn. 2** is a positive statement of the truth found in **Jn. 14:15 & 23.**

1Jn 5:13 These things I have written to **you who believe** in the name of the Son of God, **that you may know that you have eternal life**, and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God.

1Jn 2:1 My little children, **these things I write to you, so that you may not sin.** And if anyone sins, we have an **Advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

1Jn 2:2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

1Jn 2:3 Now **by this we know that we know Him**, if we **keep His commandments.**

Joh 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

Joh 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "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.

In our passage this morning:

Joh 8:31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

Joh 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

There were those who believed the message of repentance and of the coming kingdom but yet they did not fully commit themselves to Jesus. It is to those who made this first step of faith that Jesus directs the instructions of **Jn. 8:31-2**

Cf. Jn. 6:53 - and the need for a **full assimilation** of the Lord into the very fiber of our being in order to have eternal life.

Joh 6:53 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.

IF YOU CONTINUE IN MY WORDS THEN BUT NOT UNTIL THEN, ARE YE MY DISCIPLES."

REALLY MY DISCIPLES." *NIV*;

"TRULY, DISCIPLES." *Greek*.

Continuance in obedience is evidence that we have a true faith and that we indeed love the Lord Jesus Christ.

In fact, this is THE mark of a true disciple. Cf. **Jn. 14:15 and 23**. "IF YE LOVE ME, KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS." "IF A MAN LOVE ME, HE WILL KEEP MY WORDS;"

Jn. 13:34 talks of love as the mark of ID for His disciples. We LOVE because we OBEY!

Joh 13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

And as we obey, we receive the ABSOLUTE ASSURANCE of our relationship to God.

1 Jn. 2:3. "BY THIS DO WE KNOW THAT WE KNOW HIM, IF WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS."

1 Jn. 5:13 "These things have I WRITTEN unto you that believe on the name of the Son Of God, that ye may KNOW THAT YE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE."

DO YOU HAVE THAT ASSURANCE TODAY? ARE YOU CONTINUING IN CHRIST'S WORD?

II. Obedience results in FREEDOM 32, 33, 34.

See also: **Romans 6:15-23** & **II Peter 2:19** READ 32**

Rom 6:15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!

TURN HERE

2Pe 2:19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.

SEE **ATTACHED** ARTICLE ON *Richard Dawkins – Atheist god*.

"Freedom, a condition of absolute liberty from all outward constraint, is only attained when man attains fellowship with God (who is absolutely free) in the truth: when that prompts man to action which prompts God." *Expos. p. 776.*

In other words, **if we are to be free, we must have the mind of God, who is Himself absolutely free.**"

But, even among those who **v. 31** tells us had believed, there was a Blind, Carping, Criticism."

8:33

John 8:33 They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How *can* You say, '**You will be made free**'?"

"*Never in Bondage?*" **Selective memory** of the Jew. There was no thought of the Egyptian, Babylonian, Syrian or Roman captivities.

Just as their memory was selective in recalling messianic prophecies, choosing only those that spoke of His glorious Advent when his Kingdom would once and all be established and ignoring or disguising those that dealt with the "suffering servant."

But they failed to recognize that the slavery or bondage that Jesus spoke of was **not National or Racial but rather SPIRITUAL**. THEY HAD BEEN SLAVES OF SIN FOR SO LONG THAT THEY HAD NO IDEA THAT THEY WERE SLAVES.

Joh 8:34 Jesus answered them, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.**

Verily Verily = "I tell you the truth" Used 25 times in John, 3 times in Chapter 8

Jesus has already pointed out to them that they are yet in their sin nature **21** and that they are in a continual mode of committing sin and therefore it is obvious that they are the "servants of sin.

Rm. 6:15-23 .

Continuance in Christ's word will necessitate that you make Him Lord over every area of your life, this of course means that you must become a servant, but this is the only way that you can be free! Many today do not want to do it this way. They are afraid of making a commitment. **(the divorce and abortion rates demonstrate this!)**

They want to "**do it their way**".

They unwittingly become like the Jews that Jesus addressed in **8:33**.

They are unable to see that in their **desire to be free from the control of God** in their life that **THEY HAVE BECOME SLAVES TO SIN!**

It always amazed me after I got saved and tasted real freedom how that those who were still in and of the world would marvel that I could be happy without the drinking, gambling, doping etc. that characterized their lives....They wanted me to be a part of their life-style. They offered me whatever a corrupt heart could to

entice me back into the condition of slavery that I had operated under previously. They WERE LIKE THOSE MENTIONED IN **II PETER 2:18-19**.

****TURN TO II PETER 2:18-19**. READ....for of whom a man is brought overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage."

III.OBEDIENCE RESULTS IN REST 35-36.

See also:**Genesis 21:10-11; Galatians 3:16 and 3:26.Heb.3:6 and Gal. 4:7and 30.**

Gen 21:10 Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, *even* with Isaac.

Gen 21:11 And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son.

Just as Ishmael, Abraham's SLAVE SON was cast out of the house, so also those who are in sin are in danger of being cast out...Issac was a SON, he belonged, he continued, he remained...

Jesus is the TRUE SON and SEED of Abraham.cf. **GAL 3:16**"...to thy seed, which is **Christ**."

Gal 3:16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

Christ remains in the house and is over it

Heb. 3:6

"Moses verily was faithful in all of his house, AS A SERVANT, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; **6** But Christ as a SON OVER HIS OWN HOUSE, whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end."

We become FREE when we become SONS OF GOD BY FAITH IN HIS SON. –

Gal. 3:26" FOR YE ARE ALL THE SONS OF GOD BY FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS."

4;7 "wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

Use parallel of the comfort that you feel when you are in your earthly father's house. Mind wanders back to the days when all your needs were met by a loving father who labored to see that you had the best things in life....