

Program: SS Panel 2024 2 Q

Quarterly title: The Great Controversy

Quarterly author: Mark Finley

Lesson Title: #5 Faith Against *All Odds*

Section title: Thursday - Obedience: The Fruit of Faith

Record date: Tuesday January 23, 2024

Note1: This **color** and **font** = quarterly text

Note 2: This **color** and **font** = John Dinzey notes

Faith Against *All Odds*

Read for This Week's Study: *Ps. 119:162; John 16:13–15;*
2 Pet. 1:20, 21; Eph. 2:8, 9; Rom. 3:23, 24; Rom. 6:15–18.

Memory Text: "Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You" (*Psalm 119:11, NKJV*).

Thursday

May 2

Obedience: The Fruit of Faith

******READ****** **It was the year 1517 and...**

A new wind was blowing through the Christian church in the days of Luther. Tens of thousands of people were taught to look away from their sinful selves and look to Jesus instead. No doubt these people, looking to themselves and what they were like themselves, saw only things to

discourage them. What believer today doesn't want to have the same experience? That's why we need to look, instead, to Jesus.

Note: I added the words "want to"

****READ****

Read Romans 3:27–31; Romans 6:15–18; and Romans 8:1, 2. What do these verses teach us about salvation through Christ's righteousness alone?

a man is justified by faith

Romans 3:27–31 27 Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith.

28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

29 Or *is He* the God of the Jews only? *Is He* not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also,

30 since *there is* one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.

31 Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.

****READ****

faith that works by love and purifies the soul

From the pulpits of today the words are uttered: "Believe, only believe. Have faith in Christ; you have nothing to do with the old law, only trust in Christ." How different is this from the words of the apostle who declares that faith without works is dead. He says, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (James 1:22). We must have that faith that works by love and purifies the soul. Many seek to substitute a superficial faith for uprightness of life and think through this to obtain salvation.. FW 89.2

>>> How people think that righteousness by faith or justification by faith is something that is found only in the new testament. God has always had one way of saving us and that is by grace through faith depending on the righteousness of God.

>>> let's look at some **old testament scriptures** to help us understand that **righteousness by faith** is there also.

all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags

Isaiah 64:6 But we are all like an unclean *thing*, And all our righteousnesses *are* like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.

in the Lord I have righteousness

Isaiah 45:24-24 24 He shall say, 'Surely in the Lord I have righteousness and strength. To Him *men* shall come, And all shall be ashamed Who are incensed against Him.

25 In the Lord all the descendants of Israel Shall be justified, and shall glory.' ”
to whom do you present yourselves slaves to obey

Isaiah 53:11 He shall see the labor of His soul, *and* be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.

clothed me with the garments of salvation

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks *himself* with ornaments, And as a bride adorns *herself* with her jewels.

of obedience leading to righteousness

Romans 6:15-18 15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!

16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin *leading* to death, or of **obedience leading to righteousness?**

17 But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

Question: Why obey God?

> Because you want to avoid hell, burn for a while and then die?. Burning in the lake of fire doesn't sound all that appealing does it? So, if that's the destiny for sinners why do people say sin sin? For most people it's not

because they wanna go to hell, it's because they are thinking about the moment, not the results or the future...

We go back to the question

Question: Why obey God?

Answer: The best answer is because we love Him!

****READ****

All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us.. DA 668.3

Romans 5:8 8 But God demonstrates (commendeth) His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

demonstrates= commendeth (KJV) G4921 (Mounce) συνίστημι synistēmi 16x: also spelled συνιστάνω and συνιστάω, to place together; **to recommend to favorable attention**, [Rom 16:1](#); [2Co 3:1](#); [2Co 10:18](#); **to place in a striking point of view**, [Rom 3:5](#); [Rom 5:8](#); [Gal 2:18](#); to stand beside, [Luk 9:32](#); to have been permanently framed, [Col 1:17](#); to possess consistence, [2Pe 3:5](#).

>> Romans 5:8 commendeth: Theological dictionary of the NT, Vol. 7, p. 898: To bring to light.

>> Millions will be lost not because they love the devil, but because they love sin. **But, the devil doesn't care about that as long as you are lost.**

Romans 8:1, 2 1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

******READ******

Unless he makes it his life business to behold the uplifted Saviour, and by faith to accept the merits which it is his privilege to claim, the sinner can no more be saved than Peter could walk upon the water unless he kept his eyes fixed steadily upon Jesus.. TM 93.1

God's grace changes us. One day, John Wesley attended a Moravian meeting in London. Wesley sat amazed as he heard Luther's introduction to Romans read. For the first time in his life, he began to understand the gospel. Something stirred within, and he felt strangely drawn to this Christ who had given His life for him. He exclaimed, "I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation: and an assurance was given me, that He had taken away *my* sins, even *mine*, and saved *me* from the law of sin and death."—John Whitehead, *The Life of the Rev. John Wesley, M.A.* (London: Stephen Couchman, 1793), p. 331.

Read 1 Peter 2:2, 2 Peter 3:18, Colossians 1:10, and Ephesians 4:18–24. What vital truths do these passages reveal about the Christian life?

1 Peter 2:2 **2** as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,

2 Peter 3:18 **18** but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:10 **10** that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Ephesians 4:18–24 **18** having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

20 But you have not so learned Christ,

union with Him. This promise is made to every sincere Christian. Our Saviour speaks so plainly that no one need fail to understand that true love will always produce obedience. The religion of Jesus Christ is love. Obedience is the sign of true love. Christ and the Father are one, and those who in truth receive Christ, will love God as the great centre of their adoration, and will also love one another. BEcho June 17, 1901, par. 9

“If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it.” [Verse 14.] I believe I receive the things I ask for. Then saith my Saviour, “If ye love me, keep my commandments.” [Verse 15.] This is the way we are to show our love—by obedience. This obedience is not pretension, but it is practice. “He that hath” the knowledge of “my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me.” [Verse 21.] This is the true test. To do His specified commandments is the genuine evidence that we love God. Obedience is the fruit of true love. “If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. John 14:23. 14LtMs, Ms 189, 1899, par. 16

But to pray in Christ's name means much. It means that we are to accept His character, manifest His spirit, and work His works. The Saviour's promise is given on condition. “If ye love Me,” He says, “keep My commandments.” He saves men, not in sin, but from sin; and those who love Him will show their love by obedience. DA 668.2

All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us. DA 668.3

“If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.” It is not enough to profess love for God, Christ asks an evidence that we do love him. Willing obedience to the law of God proves the truth of our profession. We have heard from the pulpits of today that the law is not binding, but this cannot be. Christ says, “This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not grievous.” How could we know what sin is, unless we could look into the law of God? John, the beloved disciple, defines sin as the “transgression of the law.” He says, “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law, for sin is the transgression of the law.” ST May 27, 1889, par. 1