

Doing What The Lord Says

Topical

Objective: Motivate each to be more determined to know and do all of Jesus' Word.

Reading: John 14:15-21.

Memory: John 14:15, *"If you love me, you will obey what I command."*

Introduction:

1. How are you doing spiritually? What is your relationship with God?
2. When people are asked this they often smile and say, "Great. Me and the Lord are like this", and hold up entwined fingers indicating tightness.
3. People often say they are "tight" or "good" with God, *yet their life does not reveal it*. They live as if they are in charge of their own life; as if they were Lord themselves. They go their own way and do their own thing with little or no regard to what instructions the Lord may have. One fellow put it this way, *"Sometimes people want Christ to be their Savior, but won't let Him be their Lord."*
4. It doesn't work that way. "Lord" and "Savior" go together. He is not your Savior unless He is also your Lord! If Jesus is really Lord,

We must be doing what Jesus says to do. (WHY?)

This morning, I want to present three Biblical reasons why we need to be serious about doing what God says as presented in Jesus Christ and in Scripture.

The first reason comes from the book of James, and basically says we need to be very careful to keep His Word in order:

I. To avoid deceiving ourselves about our religion:

A. People often deceive themselves.

1. I tell myself I can afford something when I can't. That I can overcome an addiction without help. That I can look at lewd pictures or use abusive language without it affecting my soul.
2. People say Jesus is Lord but continue to do what He despises and hates;
 - a. Fornication, adultery, use coarse and vulgar language, gossip, lie. Harbor bitterness.
 - b. Their life has not changed. They call Him "lord", but in truth they really ignore Him and His Word.
3. James 1:22-25, ***"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."***²³ ***Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror***²⁴ ***and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.***²⁵ ***But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it—he will be blessed in what he does."***
 - a. How about you? Are you fooling yourself? Is your religion genuine & pure, or tainted and fake?
 - b. Do you look in mirror and see sinner and then walk away and forget, or do you change it?!!!
 - c. You can say, "God's law is on my heart," but if it is really there, your actions will show it.

B. Saying something does not make it so.

1. "I belong to God." yet continue to follow your own wisdom, ignoring God's Word?
2. "I care about people" yet never do much to help them.
3. "I am kind and generous" doesn't make it so. What have you done to show it. What does checkbook reveal?
4. Saying you repent is not the same as repenting. If it is true, there will be fruit!
5. Intending to renounce evil is not the same as renouncing evil any more than intending to get a new car is the same as getting a new car.
6. Intending to diet is not the same as dieting. It doesn't get the job done.
7. Intending to pay the mortgage is not the same as paying it; just ask the bank!
8. Saying you are a servant of God is not the same as being a servant of God.
9. Verbal acceptance of God's word is not the same as being a Christian.

C. Salvation comes from hearing the Word, but it is not automatic.

1. "Hearing" the Word assumes a follow-through. A "doing". A fruit.

2. Saying you want to be a Christian and you will follow Him is only a beginning. You must DO!
3. Hearing directions to the mall does not get you there, you must go. You must walk the walk!
4. *Hearing* what is required for a doctorate degree does not get you the degree nor the skill.
5. There must be doing. To be Christian one must follow Christ! Not something / anything else.
 - a. Not own inclinations! (re; baptism, re; dealing with disagreements or difficult people)
 - b. Not denominational teachings! To follow some denominational teaching would, in truth, make you a follower of that denomination, not a follower of Christ.
 - c. Not even any human you respect deeply. For Christ to be lord of you, you must follow Christ.

D. The “perfect law” is a mirror to the soul.

1. If you look in a mirror and see a hair out of place, you fix it. Otherwise you blind. Or deceiving yourself. Like bald headed me seeing self then going off with image of Elvis in mind.
2. Peer intently into Word; see what is out of place and fix it. DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. This yields blessings. Spiritual growth. Appropriate transformation. Essential changes to Christ likeness. Appropriate repentance of un-Christ-like thoughts or spirit.

Another reason for being very careful to do whatever Jesus says is:

II. To legitimately show love for God in Christ:

A. Obedience is the indicator of love for Christ.

1. John 14:15-21, ***“If you love me, you will obey what I command.”*** ¹⁶ ***And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—*** ¹⁷ ***the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.*** ¹⁸ ***I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.*** ¹⁹ ***Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.*** ²⁰ ***On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.*** ²¹ ***Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”***
2. Doing what Jesus says is the legitimate response of genuine love for Him.
3. Such obedience results in the love of the Father. It also yields the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and with that a revealing of Truth and continual presence of God / Spirit.
4. Obedience to Christ parallels and infers love for God as well.
 - a. 1 John 5:3, ***“This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,”***
 - b. 2 John 6, ***“And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.”***

B. Obedience demonstrates friendship.

1. John 15:13-14. ***“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”*** ¹⁴ ***You are my friends if you do what I command.”***
2. I want to be Christ’s friend. I want Christ’s friendship. I need Christ’s friendship – in order to face the ordeals of this life. In order to have his guidance and help. In order to fight the good fight in the spiritual warfare we are engaged in every day. In order to stand in Judgment on that Day.
3. Christ laid down His life! He showed the ultimate love by laying down His life. Does this sacrifice apply to ME? It does if I am His friend! He calls me His friend IF I DO what He commands.
4. Who’s side are you on? Will you lay down your life for Him as a friend? Lay down your life in obedience to His commands rather than following natural inclinations or the way of this world?
5. If obedience demonstrates friendship, then obedience demonstrates who’s team we are on. Do you work with God to accomplish His will and purpose, or do you work with Satan? What do your actions really demonstrate?

Obedience is the legitimate response of love in that

C. Obedience enables Christ to fulfill His purpose.

1. His purpose in transforming you. Making you into the image of God you were intended to be.
2. Our spiritual growth and maturing comes from applying His Word.
 - a. Here is how we grow in Christ-like-ness. Become sons of God!

- b. Otherwise it is like reading a cake recipe but doing nothing. This does not make a cake. You may get right answers, but
3. Also, His purpose in showing God to the world. In reaching the lost. We are supposed to be **"...his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way."** (Ephesians 1:23)

A third reason for obedience in following Christ's Word is that doing so:

III. Brings confidence in salvation:

A. Here is how you know!

1. What IS your relationship with God? Father, Son and Holy Spirit?
2. 1 John 2:3-6, **"We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. ⁴ The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But if anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶ Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did."**
3. Do you really know God or not? Are you strangers or friends? What is your relationship?
4. Obedience is what removes doubt about salvation. KNOW that you know Him. Know that relationship is there. Know to WHOM you belong! **"We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands."**
5. Obedience is a measure of moral integrity. If you claim to know Him, if you claim such a relationship, but do not do what He commands, Scripture says you are a liar. **"This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did."**
6. Don't leave it in doubt. Do what He says.

B. A simple test; (of your relationship with God) Do you do what He says?

1. When the Word says (Hebrews 10:25), "assemble", do you assemble?
2. When the word says (Eph. 4:25), "Stop lying to one another", do you stop?
3. When the Word says (1 Tim. 6:20), "Avoid worldly and Godless chatter", do you avoid it?
4. When the Word says (Mt. 23:9), "Call no man 'Father' as a religious title of honor, do you stop?"
5. List goes on; baptism. Communion. Forgiveness of others. Keep marriage be pure. Etc.

C. Doing His Word indicates habitual, continuous obedience;

1. If you do goof up, you immediately repent and get back on course.
2. If you knowingly, habitually disobey you do not know Him. If you say "Oh, well,..." and ignore ...
3. If you willingly choose to disobey, you do not know Him.
4. If you routinely disobey or disregard, you do not know Him.

D. Those who do not obey are Liars and the Truth is not in them.

1. Here is a hard, bold truth;
2. Christ is Truth. If He is not in you, you are lost.
3. Satan is "Father of all lies". If you are a liar, you belong to him.
4. If you "say" Jesus is Lord, but are not obeying Him in spirit and in truth, then according to Scripture, you are a liar and you belong to Satan.
5. You may be able to deceive yourself and others. You may be able to convince yourself and others, but you cannot deceive God or convince Him. He knows the truth.
6. IS JESUS LORD? DO YOU GENUINELY LOVE JESUS? The evidence is in your obedience.

So What?:

How determined are you to obey Christ? Your obedience is a reflection on how well you know Him and a reflection of what relationship you have with Him. Are you "together" or "apart"? To be "apart" from Christ is to be lost.

To call yourself a Christian is not enough. To claim to be faithful is not enough. You must really be a Christian, and you must really be faithful. To be Christians, to be saved, we must be doers of God's word and not hearers only.

Invitation:

Doing What The Lord Says

Topical

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Memory: John 14:15

“I_y_l_m_, y_w_o_w_l_c_.”

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James 1:22-25

B. Saying something does not make it so.

C. Salvation comes from hearing the Word, but it is not automatic.

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