

Not Obey - cont.

- Some either do not know, or have forgotten what it means to be lost eternally in a burning hell fire (Revelation 20:10; 21:8).

Obey Today

Friend, if you are the non-Christian who needs to obey the gospel, let me encourage you to hear the gospel (Acts 15:7), believe it (Acts 16:31), repent of your sins (Acts 17:30), confess that Jesus is the Christ the son of the living God (Romans 10:9-10), be baptized for the remission of your sins (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38), and strive to live faithfully each day (Rev. 17:14).

Friend, if you are the erring Christian who needs to obey the gospel, let me encourage you to confess your sins to God (1 John 1:7), repent of your sins (Acts 8:22), and pray to God for forgiveness (Acts 8:22).

If you are reading this article and you have sin in your life and you have not obeyed the gospel, I pray that you will obey soon. I pray that you will see the need, the importance, and the urgency to either arise and be baptized (Acts 22:16), or to return from the error of your way (James 5:19-20). Friend, obey today! - *Chris Reeves*

- Thought of the Week -

It is always important on a regular basis to ask myself, "What are the priorities right now in my life to be right with God?" I get busy with the things of this life and forget to reassess my priorities. This week I will look at my priorities again and make sure the right ones are in place: knowing God's word, believing God's word, obeying God's word, and sharing God's word.

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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

December 3, 2023



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Why Some People Do Not Obey the Gospel

rendering vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus
- 2 Thessalonians 1:8 -

For the time is come for judgment to begin at the house of God: and if it begin first at us, what shall be the end of them that obey not the gospel of God?
- 1 Peter 4:17 -

Both the apostle Paul and the apostle Peter wrote about “them that obey not the gospel”. These apostles were both open and honest about the fact that not everyone will obey the gospel. This is a sad and unfortunate situation, but a reality. I wish it were not the case, but it is.

Why is it then that some people do not obey the gospel? In this article, I want to explore the reasons why some do not obey the gospel. It’s not an exhaustive list by any means, but it is a list of common reasons why some today do not obey.

All Must Obey

We explore this question for two reasons. First, this study is for the non-Christian who needs to repent and obey the gospel for the first time. Sec-

ond, this study is for the erring Christian who needs to repent and obey the gospel again. So, why is it that some people do not obey? You must obey (Hebrews 5:9)!

It’s Not Because...

- God and Jesus are unwilling to save you (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9).
- The gospel has lost its saving power (Romans 1:16; Hebrews 4:12).
- The gospel is too hard to obey - it’s not (1 John 5:3).
- One cannot know and understand the gospel (John 8:32; Ephesians 5:17).

It’s Because...

- Some do not realize they are lost in sin. Some do not believe in God (Acts 14:15; 17:23). Others are ignorant and have never heard the truth (1 Timothy 1:13). Some trust their own goodness (Acts 10:1-2; 11:14), or their own religion (Romans 10:1-3).
- Some are prejudiced with unbelief against the gospel (Matthew 13:58).
- Some follow the majority instead of the gospel (John 12:42-43).

- Some are unwilling to pay the price to serve Jesus (Matthew 19:22).
- Some are consumed with selfishness (Luke 9:23).
- Some are full of excuses as to why they cannot obey (Luke 14:17-18).
- Some are influenced by evil to not obey (Acts 13:45, 50).
- Some love the darkness of sin too much to give it up (John 3:19-21).
- Some believe a lie instead of the truth (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12).
- Some follow family instead of the truth of the gospel (Luke 14:26).
- Some are waiting for a miraculous “sign” from heaven (Luke 16:27ff).
- Some do not feel good enough to obey (Matthew 8:8).
- Some are afraid to commit to following Christ each day (Luke 9:62).
- Some are waiting for another time to obey which may never come (Acts 24:25; 26:28).

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