

THE BLESSINGS OF OBEDIENCE

The Time Is Now – Part 3

January 28, 2018

Is it really worth it to serve and obey God?

The Problem: Conditional Obedience to God.

God does not give us options to consider,

but commands to obey.

The Corruptive Power of Sin...

Haggai 2:12 (NLT) “If one of you is carrying some meat from a holy sacrifice in his robes and his robe happens to brush against some bread or stew, wine or olive oil, or any other kind of food, will it also become holy?” The priests replied, ‘No.’ ”

Haggai 2:13 (NLT) “Then Haggai asked, ‘If someone becomes ceremonially unclean by touching a dead person and then touches any of these foods, will the food be defiled?’ And the priests answered, ‘Yes.’ ”

Sin is like a disease.

Sin spreads easier than holiness.

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV) “Do not be misled: ‘Bad company corrupts good character.’ ”

Haggai 2:14 (NLT) “Then Haggai responded, ‘That is how it is with this people and this nation, says the Lord. Everything they do and everything they offer is defiled by their sin.’ ”

When your heart isn't right with God,

everything you do will be wrong.

Matthew 5:23-24 (NIV) “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you,²⁴ leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.”

Attitude matters.

We do not obey God so that He will bless us.

We obey God because we love Him.

God Reminds His People of the Issue...

Haggai 2:15 (NLT) “Look at what was happening to you before you began to lay the foundation of the Lord’s Temple.”

Haggai 1:6 (NLT) “You have planted much but harvest little. You eat but are not satisfied. You drink but are still thirsty. You put on clothes but cannot keep warm. Your wages disappear as though you were putting them in pockets filled with holes!”

Haggai 2:16 (NLT) “When you hoped for a twenty-bushel crop, you harvested only ten. When you expected to draw fifty gallons from the winepress, you found only twenty.”

Haggai 2:17 (NLT) “ ‘I sent blight and mildew and hail to destroy everything you worked so hard to produce. Even so, you refused to return to Me,’ says the Lord.”

More than anything else, God says, “I want your heart.”

Matthew 6:33 (NIV) “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Jeremiah 29:13 (NIV) “You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.’ ”

Mark 12:30 (NIV) “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”

Matthew 6:21 (NIV) “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Mark 7:6 (NIV) “He replied, ‘Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me.’ ”

Haggai 2:19 (NLT) “I am giving you a promise now while the seed is still in the barn. You have not yet harvested your grain, and your grapevines, fig trees, pomegranates, and olive trees have not yet produced their crops. But from this day onward I will bless you.”