

Macedonia Primitive Baptist Church

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www.macedoniapbc.org

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Obedience

By: Elder Will Martin

His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it. - John 2:5

As a kid, I never liked being told to do something just because my parents said that I should do it. I thought that I needed to know **why** I had to do things. I admit, with a smile on my face, that I enjoy answering the **why** questions that my kids ask today with the statement, "Because I said so." As long as this response is not used to provoke or anger a child (Eph 6:4, Col 3:21), the response is completely acceptable to use. If it is appropriate for parents to expect their children to listen and obey what they are told to do, how much more appropriate is it for God's children to listen and obey what God tells them to do it?

Our Lord commands us to obey Him, for our own well being. The Lord tells us that those who are obedient to Him will receive blessings from Him. The prophet Isaiah writes the following by the inspiration of God, "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:" (Isaiah 1:19). Those who obey God will receive blessings from God. The Lord has never failed, nor will he ever fail, to make good on His blessings to feed the obedient with the good of the land. Sadly, more often than not, it is man that fails to be willing and obedient. Scripture also tells us that the Lord rewards those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6) and that He gives rest to the weary who come to Him for help (Matthew 11:28).

The Lord not only instructs us to obey for our own good, scripture also teaches us that we should obey for the sake or well being of others. The Apostle Paul told the members of the churches of Galatia to bear one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2). These church members were to collectively help each other deal with the stresses and strains of this world. The Apostle John tells us that we "...ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" (I John 3:16). We should be willing lay aside our own desires and wishes to assist our fellow brothers and sisters with their needs.

While we benefit from obeying the Lord, the main reason why we should obey our heavenly Father is for His glory and not for ourselves. One of the earliest exhortations from our Lord when he began His public ministry is to "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Mat 5:16). That light is the Lord dwelling within us and when we obey the Lord, our neighbors, friends and family members witness the goodness of God working in us (I Cor 6:20). The Apostle Peter encouraged the saints during his ministry to obey God by having an honest conversation, or honorable lifestyle, so that others would glorify God upon receiving the knowledge that the saints had (I Peter 2:12).

We should do what God tells us to do and thank Him for giving us enough light and understanding to know His will. We should be comforted by the fact that the Lord, as a loving Father, has the best interest of His children in mind when he instructs us to do obey Him. The reason why I can smile when I answer my kids with the statement, "Because I said so" is because I know that as they mature, they will understand **why** they do certain things. The same is true when it comes to instructions from the Lord. As we grow in grace and knowledge of Him, we will better understand His ways. It is my prayer that we not stall in our service by asking and wondering why, but that we obey the instruction just as John records it and Mary spoke it, "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it."

Macedonia Church Announcements:

1. The Lord richly blessed our meeting. The Lord sent His Spirit to meet with us and for that, we are thankful. All of the preaching was well blessed of the Lord. The sermons have been uploaded to

our website. Please take the effort to listen to them if you were unable to be with us. There is one sermon that I was especially thankful to be blessed to hear. Elder Harold Hunt preached on Saturday morning about the pagan religion of evolution. You can listen to the sermon by clicking here: http://www.macedoniapbc.org/Sermons/Hunt_7-10-10.mp3

So many times we have heard the accusation that our children are not being taught things about God and the bible that are necessary to help them face the battles that they face growing up in society today. Some take the kids aside to teach them separately in a back room outside while the older kids and adults worship in the church. Some have a special service either during the week or before preaching service that focuses on teaching the kids. While intentions may be good, I am convinced that such practices violate what Jesus commanded His apostles in Mark 10:13-14 and also belittles just how sharp our little ones are. This sermon (and others) is proof that the Lord is still blessing the ministry to prepare **all** ages in the church for the spiritual warfare that exists.

2. Lord willing, we will have a conference on 1st Sunday in August, August 1st, at 1:00 P.M. Please be in prayer for the Lord to bless our business meeting.
3. On Saturday night, August 28th, we will have a fish fry and also a shower for Sisters Trina and Katy Hansard at the church. We look forward to the time of fellowship and also continue to pray for these two dear sisters during their last few months of their pregnancies.