

W O R D A T W O R K

VOLUME XLI NUMBER V Weapons of Our Warfare III Obedience

SATURDAY, MAY 1

Scripture: Acts 5:28-29, Jeremiah 7:23-24

Jeremiah 7:23-24 says, “...but I gave them this command: Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk in obedience to all I command you, that it may go well with you. But they did not listen or pay attention; instead, they followed the stubborn inclinations of their evil hearts. They went backward and not forward. From the time your ancestors left Egypt until now, day after day, again and again I sent you my servants the prophets.” Last month we discussed how disobedience/righteous dissent directed at the civil authorities can be a good thing when done sparingly and under the right circumstances. As we consider the possibility that either we or our children might need to engage in civil disobedience in service to our faith in God, we must also be diligent in learning obedience to God. Obeying God isn’t something that comes naturally to us. It is a learning process that also involves cultivating a surrendered heart and a hearing ear – sometimes a lifelong process that is parallel to daily picking up our cross and following Him, or dying to ourselves. Obedience to God is a key that allows us to unlock spiritual doors in the natural realm and is essential for us to make a Kingdom impact! We are not talking about a forced obedience as with Jonah, but a heart-compliant manner of trust and humility.

SUNDAY, MAY 2

Scripture: 1 John 2:20

Why is it so difficult for us to obey when the Lord gives us a command? Assuming that we are properly formed in our faith and in determining right from wrong, God usually only gives us a nudge when He prompts us to move out of our comfort zone. A number of believers have a minimalist relationship with Jesus, church on Sunday, and maybe a mid-week service or a small group meeting during the week. But the rest of our time is consumed with family, work, and our daily routines. Do we prioritize the pursuit of our relationship with God and give it a place of highest value? Is it our aim to discover God’s purpose for our lives? If so, the Holy Spirit will give us a divine push at times and it is our job to recognize those leadings and to obey. The key here is relationship! It is our relationship with God and His Word and His truth that will be our stability. 1 John 2:20 in the Amplified Bible says, “*But you have an anointing from the Holy One (you have been set apart, specially gifted and prepared by the Holy Spirit), and all of you know the truth because He teaches us, (illuminates our minds, and guards us from error).*”

MONDAY, MAY 3

Scripture: Jeremiah 17:9-10, Romans 5:19

Jeremiah 17:9-10 says: “*The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.*” This is the human nature that we frequently fight, even after we are saved it is something that we must be

on constant guard against. Romans 5:19 points out that humans are all united in sharing Adam's disobedience to God, and that the cure for our disobedience was the obedience of Jesus Christ to His death on the cross. With the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2, the church gained an enhanced ability to deny our flesh and walk in obedience to God. If a life well-pleasing to the Lord is our aim, we should be deliberate and intentional in cultivating our relationship with Father and He will lead us and guide us in the way we should go!

TUESDAY, MAY 4

Scripture: Genesis 12:1

In fact, we see throughout scripture that it takes faith to be able to obey God. Why? Because God often asks us for something that seems impossible at the time, or something that takes us way out of our comfort zone. Before the Holy Spirit arrived as our Helper, this frequently required a person of uncommon faith to take those initial steps of obedience. Look at Abraham. God gave Abram a command in Genesis 12:1 saying, *"Now the LORD said to Abram, 'Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you;'"* According to Genesis 11:31, the land that Abram lived in at the time of his call was Ur of the Chaldeans. Archaeologists excavated what they believe to be the ruins of the city of Ur back in the 1920s. Considering the primitive state of technology during Abram's life, Ur was supposedly a magnificent city, one of the largest in the world at its time. It would have been a center for trade, and judging by the treasures found in the royal crypts of Ur, a very wealthy one. Consider the risk Abram was taking and the strength and courage he needed to set out on this divine journey. When God speaks are we willing to take risks that go against our flesh or culture?

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

Scripture: Genesis 19:1-26

So God's command to Abram can be seen as more than simply, 'Go out and separate yourself so that I can make a nation of you.' It can also be seen as a command to leave a place of wealth, comfort, and plenty, the center of civilization at the time, and to head out into the wilderness with no guarantees of food or shelter other than God's promise that He would make a great nation out of Abram. If Abram had any fears, doubts or complaints about God sending him out from a place of comfort for a wilderness destination, the Bible does not record it. But how do we know that Abram was making a hard decision? Look at the reaction of Lot's wife when she was being forced to flee Sodom. As Biblical commentator F.B. Meyer once wrote, her heart was "inveterately wedded to the city." Nomadic life is never easy. Just think about selling your paid-off home to purchase an RV and then travelling around the United States staying at campsites or Good Sam RV Parks where there are no cushy jobs and no business opportunities. Lot's wife was desperate for a comfortable lifestyle, and was loath to leave civilization. Thankfully, Sarai was made of sterner stuff.

THURSDAY, MAY 6

Scripture: Proverbs

While some children are naturally obedient, most are naturally disobedient. It is in our fallen nature to rebel against authority, even when the authority figure is offering sound counsel. As we grow and mature, we hopefully learn to listen to voices of wisdom in our respective spheres and accept rather than reject counsel and reproof when it is offered. Obedience, the kind of obedience that God desires we cultivate, requires an act of the will, which means our active participation. The goal for mature believers is to be fully surrendered to the Holy Spirit with the aspiration that God's will be substituted for our will. As we make building our relationship with God our priority, this submission of our will to God's becomes easier.

FRIDAY, MAY 7

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20

Obedience is rarely something that is easy for us to do, but it is worth the effort to persevere! In the west, for

people who are already strong believers, obedience in our minds usually looks like God telling us to share the gospel with someone at work, at the grocery store, or on the street. We are commanded to overcome our embarrassment or our nerves, and share. When the speakers who visit our churches relate testimonies, it always ends with the Holy Spirit working miraculously in providing timely input into the life of the person whom God asked them to share with. Do you think that God commands us only to share with the people who are ready to receive him? Is that the only sort of person that the righteous encountered in the pages of God's Word? Obedience becomes essential as the darkness grows deeper. Let us look at the life of Noah for a study in obedience to the Lord.

SATURDAY, MAY 8

Scripture: Genesis 6

Noah is, in some ways, a perfect picture of faithfulness and obedience to God. Noah was warned by God of the impending destruction of the world, and it seems he had between 50 and 75 years to prepare. For an estimate of the time frame between God's declaration of judgment on the world, the commandment to Noah for the construction of the ark, and the beginning of the flood, we recommend heading over to Ken Ham's Answers in Genesis website. The ark was not something that materials could be gathered quickly to complete, nor would the construction go quickly with only four men and four women. Noah had to persevere, and he had to obey a command from God with no supporting evidence nor guarantee that God wouldn't change His mind. Let's remember that he had no Bible to read and no like-minded peers to encourage him in his walk with God. Will we perhaps face situations that require us to stand alone?

SUNDAY, MAY 9

Scripture: 2 Peter 2:5

Most of us have a picture in our mind of what it must have been like for Noah. Perhaps each day he was torn between building the ark, and witnessing to local people and urging them to abandon their sins for salvation. Let's picture he was entreating people to get on the ark with him, only for those very ones to mock him relentlessly about building a giant boat in the middle of dry land. In truth we don't know for certain what the years Noah spent building the ark looked like. What we do know from 2 Peter 2:5 is this; Noah was referred to as "*a preacher of righteousness*" by the Apostle Peter. It is not hard to imagine Noah preaching righteousness to a generation that was so wicked God felt that universal annihilation was necessary. It is clear that Noah as a preacher of righteousness was speaking truth to offer opportunities to a fallen world. Would we be willing to stand alone as Noah did?

MONDAY, MAY 10

Scripture: Genesis 9:20-27

Noah was righteous and obedient to God. He was the only person who God deemed worthy of saving among the whole of humanity. Noah's family was not necessarily righteous. We know from the account in Genesis 9 that not all of Noah's family was righteous. Noah's family was necessary and had a very important assignment. They had to repopulate the earth! God threatened (considered) to do the same thing through Abraham but relented at Abram's prayer!

TUESDAY, MAY 11

Scripture: Genesis 9:20-27

Does our righteousness have to be absolute in order for us to be obedient to God? The answer in Noah's case was a resounding, no! Noah made his mistakes like every generation before him. Grace and mercy are hallmarks of the nature of God! Despite Noah being a preacher of righteousness, and someone worthy of saving amidst a sea of wickedness and human depravity, he was still a man with failings. The many millennia that have elapsed since Noah's time have not dulled his legend, nor diminished his status as a preacher of righteousness. Let

us be encouraged that God sees through our issues to the core of our being and forgives our transgressions when we appeal to Him! Noah's was subject to the same frailties that we may wrestle with! We are never too old for a quick turn toward repentance and restoration! The Most High God is a God of both justice and mercy and the sign of His rainbow attests to that!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12

Scripture: Mark 13:13

In the ridicule that we imagine Noah must have faced when telling people why he was building the ark, we can find a modern analogue in the ridicule that many of us fear we might face in sharing the Gospel or mentioning a righteous standard with friends, coworkers, or strangers. We live in a day and age when speaking truth that is offensive to the younger generations can be met with extreme hostility, or even violence. Many of us saw the images of street preachers attacked in the communist "Autonomous Zone" which was set up in Portland, Oregon, in the wake of the summer 2020 civil unrest. Some of us remember videos of pro-life demonstrators physically attacked by deranged leftists. Obeying God may indeed subject us to the ridicule of the world. It is through the Holy Spirit that we are given the grace to deal with such ridicule and obey God's Holy Spirit! No doubt some of us have endured rejection and pain from others and have developed both strength of character and humility as a result. Possibly God's purpose in allowing such pain was to build Himself a warrior for such a time as this. We may be already schooled in resisting the crowd and standing alone. These lovers of Jesus with such a personal background have warrior skills and perseverance that others need to develop.

THURSDAY, MAY 13

Scripture: Exodus 2:1-12

Moses was a great example of someone who loved God, but didn't necessarily have the best time with being obedient up front. Moses grew up outside of the mainstream Hebrew world, and was raised on the outskirts of the Royal Court in Egypt. In Exodus 2, the Bible makes it clear that Moses knew of his Hebrew heritage. While it also says that Moses was nursed by his own mother, we also know from the passage in Exodus 2:10 that Moses was still a child when he was handed back to Pharaoh's daughter to be her son. What part of the beliefs and customs of the Hebrews that Moses may have learned from his birth mother, the Bible does not explicitly state. From Moses' murder of the Egyptian slave-driver in Exodus 2:12 we can surmise that he held sympathy for the people of his heritage, as he saw them as brothers and sisters. In this early part of Moses' life we are left to guess about what he believed, and ultimately, who he worshipped, but it seems clear that the only master he was obeying during his younger years was his own whims.

FRIDAY, MAY 14

Scripture: Exodus 3:6

Moses' first encounter with the God of his fathers came in the land of Midian on Mount Horeb. The Angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in the midst of the burning bush, and God introduced Himself to Moses in Exodus 3:6 as *"the God of your father – the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."* Moses knew that he was looking at something miraculous, and had no doubt even heard reference to the God of the Hebrews back in Egypt, but he had never been introduced to God spiritually. When God subsequently issued Moses his calling, to stand before Pharaoh and deliver the Israelites from Egypt, what was Moses' response? Being one of the great heroes of the Bible, we might have expected him to take up the staff and march straight off to Pharaoh's court, ready to pronounce judgment, but this was not what happened. We read that like us, Moses was only too human, and needed God's prodding and reassurances before he turned to obedience. Have we ourselves felt unprepared for some of our God-given assignments?

SATURDAY, MAY 15

Scripture: Exodus 3:11, I Samuel 15, Jonah 1

Moses' first response to God can be found in Exodus 3:11, where he expressed skepticism about God's choice of him as a messenger: *"Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"* Moses' instinct was to doubt himself, doubt God, and look for a way out of what God had called him to do. How many of us frequently find ourselves in the same place when we feel that nudging from the Holy Spirit? We want to doubt the Holy Spirit, doubt ourselves, and figure a way to wiggle out of what God has asked us to do. The rest of Moses' story shows us how important our obedience is, both to facilitate God's call on our lives, and to warn us of the consequences of disobedience! King Saul lost his kingship due to a failure to listen and to obey. And disobedience took the prophet Jonah on an unforgettable journey to reach God's path for his assignment!

SUNDAY, MAY 16

Scripture: Exodus 4:1-16

Later in the same encounter with God on Mount Horeb, Moses doubled down on his self-doubt by proclaiming himself to be poor in speech. God's response to Moses' continued reluctance was to become upset with him. *"So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses,..."* Does God ever get frustrated with our reluctance? Yes He does! But He is faithful to give us chance after chance, never giving up on us. In fact, in God's anger at Moses, His response was to send Moses help in the form of Aaron. Additionally, God promised to teach Moses and Aaron what to do and say before Pharaoh, and went so far as to show Moses signs and wonders, including two wonders that Moses later used to demonstrate God's power before the rulers of Egypt. When Moses had been built up, he set out with confidence to fulfill his calling. Though an assignment may look impossible to us, God will not send us out, nor require us to do anything that we are unable to accomplish. Usually, we just don't realize that we have been granted the divine strength or the ability, and God's call to action for us is designed to teach us about what tools we really have at our disposal to serve Him, even when we don't realize it ourselves (yet). Sometimes we have to step out in faith as Peter did when he walked on water at the command, *"Come."*

MONDAY, MAY 17

Scripture: Exodus 7:1-6

Much of the rest of Moses' ministry is lived in obedience to God. We don't know for certain who the Pharaoh of the Exodus was, but in much of the media, the name Ramses is frequently thrown about. Whoever he was, he was likely a prince in Egypt during the time that Moses was raised there. It is possible that the Pharaoh was familiar with Moses, even if they were not former friends as is sometimes portrayed by Hollywood. Still, Moses was faithful to God in pronouncing God's judgment on the Egyptians and after the Exodus, in dealing with a rebellious, adulterous Nation of Israel as they wandered in the wilderness. When dealing with situations that give us problems or produce extreme frustration, we can look to Moses and the struggles that he had with the Israelites.

TUESDAY, MAY 18

Scripture: Exodus 32:1-10; Numbers 16

Moses faced a number of situations which were extremely trying on his patience. From dealing with Korah's uprising to the Israelites forging an idol for themselves to worship while Moses was with God on Mount Sinai, Moses had to contend repeatedly with a rebellious people who spent most of their time complaining about how they would rather be back in Egypt as slaves. When the Israelites made the golden calf, God responded by suggesting that He fulfill His promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob by wiping out the Hebrews and starting over (the Hebrew nation afresh with Moses). Moses interceded for the people and implored God to forgive them. Obeying God in our calling is vitally important for us to be effective in ministry, or even in our everyday walks as believers. As we will see with Moses, failing in our obedience to God can have serious consequences for both of our ministries, and even our lives

as well as our nation!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:9

Moses was one of the great lions, a true champions of faith! Moses built upon what Abraham established! Moses was the giver of the law, and the originator of the faith that was practiced by observant Jews throughout the millennia. The law revealed God's righteousness! When Jesus was accused by the Pharisees and Sadducees, he was not accused of violating God's laws. He was accused of violating the laws of Moses and of thinking himself to be greater than Moses. And the life of Moses is indeed mostly a testament to his obedience to God. Yet Moses, like pretty much every other human character in the Bible, was not perfect. He wasn't even close to perfect. He committed murder! Yes, the murder feels more justifiable since it was a cruel slaver that he killed, but it was still murder. Thankfully, the Word also demonstrates time and again that God chooses imperfect vessels to accomplish His will, for it is in our weakness that He is made strong!

THURSDAY, MAY 20

Scripture: Numbers 20:1-15

A key event in Moses' life began in Numbers 20, long before his actual death, and it was in a moment of extreme frustration that Moses disobeyed the Lord and thus disqualified himself from entering the Promised Land. When the Israelites were grumbling and complaining at the Lord and at Moses yet again, God told Moses and Aaron to assemble the people, and to speak to the rock at Meribah, and the Lord would bring forth water out of the rock. God wanted to remind the people of Israel of His power and His provision for them. Moses in his anger at the continued rebellion of the Israelites, disregarded what God had said, and instead of speaking to the rock, in his flesh he struck the rock twice with his staff. Surprisingly enough, this act still caused the waters to spring forth from the rock of Meribah! After this, though, God reprovved Moses for his disobedience and pronounces a judgment. _Moses would not be permitted to enter the Promised Land with the people._ Joshua would take the people into the Promised Land and establish the boundaries of their inheritance!

FRIDAY, MAY 21

Scripture: Romans 11:34

When God requires obedience from us, He doesn't merely want partial obedience. Nor does He want obedience that involves the manipulation of our circumstances to make things more favorable for us. When God has an assignment for us to do in a certain way, He wants us to do it in that way. He doesn't want us trying to strategize another way of doing things which may seem better to us at the time. We know from Scripture that God's ways are not our ways, and they are **higher** than our ways! When we try to accomplish a task that God has given us in a way outside of what God tells us, the work we accomplish becomes more our work than God's, and this was the problem with what Moses did at Meribah. By striking the rock with the staff, the people might have thought that it was by Moses and Aaron's power, or the power of the staff itself that the waters sprung forth. God specifically says to Moses that his actions did not "hallow [God] in the eyes of the children of Israel." And it was for this that Moses' ministry would end before the people entered the Promised Land.

SATURDAY, MAY 22

Scripture: 2 Samuel 5

A vital issue for everyone in the true church is how we conduct ourselves in the face of supernatural demonic opposition! Two identical incidents from the life of King David demonstrate the core issue of life must come from a relationship with God built on our obedience! As soon as David became king, the Philistines came against him! David inquired of God, 'Shall I fight them where they are?' God answered and David had a great victory. Once again not too

long after the Philistines returned to the same place for war. In 2 Samuel 5:23-24 David again inquired of the Lord, "Shall I go up against the Philistines...?" God said, "*You shall not go up; circle around behind them, and come upon them in front of the mulberry trees. And it shall be, when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, then you shall advance quickly. For then the Lord will go out before you to strike the camp of the Philistines.*" Obedience each time was a key. The precursor each time was David's heart to seek, hear and do what God said! Do we inquire of the Lord for our plans and decisions? Our very life one day may depend on it!

SUNDAY, MAY 23

Scripture: Judges 6, Judges 7

Gideon was threshing grain in secret to hide from an oppressive, ruling enemy. The Angel of the Lord appeared and told him that God was with him. In answer, Gideon replied, 'That can't be true because an enemy is ruling our nation and we don't see God's Hand intervening!' The angel replied in layman's terms, 'Stand up and lead, and you will defeat them!' Gideon's argument came from his identity, "*O my Lord how can I save Israel? my clan is the least in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house.*" Is the issue, who we are? Or is the issue, who God is! In Isaiah 57:15 says, "*For thus says the High and Loft One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: 'I dwell in the high and holy place With him who has a contrite and humble spirit. To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.'*" Gideon was in a perfect place to be used of God and so are we! God's indwelling Presence and our obedience paired together spell victory!

MONDAY, MAY 24

Scripture: Judges 6, Judges 7

Once Gideon settled the issue, it is not **who I am** but **who God is** that counts, his next hurdle was proving that it was God talking to him. He asked for a sign as he offered an offering. God answered by fire and Gideon perceived the angel was real and God was indeed talking to him! Faith came to obey the direction he was getting and God proved Himself to be for the nation of Israel! God was patient with Gideon as Gideon became a confident warrior through various assignments. When it came to the key battle defeating Midian, Gideon's army used as their weapons what God had instructed. - a trumpet, pitcher and a torch. What an unlikely array of war weapons! Our covenant nation may currently have taken a distressing turn with good people being bullied by oppressors. Our path through the mighty waters will probably include unconventional 'weapons.' Are we building the kind of relationship that puts a high priority on obedience? We must know who we are in God's eyes and recognize His divine directives!

TUESDAY, MAY 25

Scripture: Acts 9, Proverbs 22:4

Ananias and Sapphira are well known Bible names from Acts 5, but there is another perhaps lesser-known Ananias who was a humble and obedient servant and prophet. This Ananias played a key role in the Apostle Paul's conversion and call. Paul on the road to Damascus was blinded by divine Light. As he was waiting and pondering God's visitation God clearly spoke to Ananias to go to Paul. In spite of his major objections probably including fear, Ananias went. He feared disobedience to God more than he feared man! Paul was healed as Ananias prayed and was launched into his call and true ministry as Ananias prophesied. Obedience to God has an element of humility. It is a 'bowing of the knee' within. It is our unspoken way of declaring, 'You, God know the beginning from the end and Your thoughts, ways and plans, I elevate above my own.' When we choose obedience to God we are always making the wisest choice. Proverbs 22:4 says, "*By humility and the fear of the Lord Are riches, honor and life.*" The Passion Translation puts it this way. "*Laying your life down in tender surrender before the Lord will bring life, prosperity, and honor as your reward.*" One has to wonder if this obscure saint smiled every time he heard mention of the Apostle Paul and Paul's journeys and fruit. May God give each of us something of this magnitude to smile about!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26

Scripture: I Samuel 15:22-23

Just as our obedience to the voice of the Lord gives us more fulfillment in life, disobedience can have the opposite effect. Saul's disobedience to the Word of the Lord delivered through the prophet Samuel was the beginning of the end of Saul's kingship over Israel. Saul had specific instructions from the Lord to spare none in dealing with the Amalekites, including their animals. I Samuel 15:22-23 says, *"So Samuel said, 'Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king.'"* We have no doubt Israel suffered due to Saul's disobedience. Disobedience often times carries painful penalties that could have been avoided. Saul's son Jonathan, a noble friend of David died in battle. Is it possible his death could have been avoided under a different king?

THURSDAY, MAY 27

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 10:4-6, Daniel 11:32

2 Corinthians 10:4-6 says, *"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled."* Being obedient and surrendered in our Christian walk enhances our ability to war successfully against the enemy. It keeps our communion and relationship with the Lord alive and uncluttered, and gives the Holy Spirit greater access to move in us and through us. Daniel 11:32 says, *"The people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits."* God is recruiting His people as warriors in this hour. The book of Daniel has noteworthy accounts of 4 of God's young men who were used mightily of the Lord, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego. These warriors were set above others in a land of exile. Each was poised as a potential for martyrdom. In each case God delivered and spared them. Their mindset of regard for God and His Word was an issue of no compromise and deemed worth dying for! Do we want to participate in great exploits when they are needed? It's time to prepare!

FRIDAY, MAY 28

Scripture: Deuteronomy 28

Deuteronomy 28 details the blessings that accompany obedience that God offered His people of Israel. The scripture starts in Deuteronomy 28:1: *"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth."* When Israel was obedient, indeed they were set high above all of their neighbors. The kingdoms of David and Solomon while they were obedient to God were very blessed. David's Israel was blessed militarily, and Solomon's was blessed economically. Israel's days of obedience were numbered, and due to repeated idolatry and wickedness, we know that God eventually allowed them to be carried into exile. Likewise, while the countries which comprise Western Civilization were focused on God in the time after the dark ages, those nations began to prosper. We are currently in a period of moral decline from which we must continually come to God with repentance and plead with God for mercy on our nation. Let us not surrender the blessings that the obedience of our ancestors purchased through pain and tears! Even if multiple others disregard Bible principles and morals the only wise path for us as believers is to do as Noah did and listen and obey the voice of God. Our obedience may very well lead to the salvation of many!

SATURDAY, MAY 29

Scripture: Romans 6:17

Obedience opens the door for God to use us mightily, even in ways which may not seem mighty to us at the time. Ministering into the life of a friend, loved one, coworker, or even stranger on the street could pay spiritual dividends in the future that we can scarcely imagine. Thinking that we know better than God, or allowing ourselves to get so frustrated that we lean on our own understanding instead of God's can have unintended consequences. Obedience means surrendering ourselves and our will to do things God's way. And the benefits of living life God's way are numerous! In our online classes a few months ago we said concerning obedience, 'Life is easier when we do it God's way' And it would also be appropriate to say, Life is deeper, more purposeful and more meaning fulfill when we do it God's way! Obedience becomes essential as the darkness grows deeper. Doing life God's way has eternal benefits!

SUNDAY, MAY 30

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:31, Jeremiah 7:23-24

The prophets of old had challenging assignments of bringing correction and reproof to a frequently stubborn and stiff-necked people often without rewarding results. *"But this is what I commanded them, saying, 'Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you.' Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but followed the counsels and the dictates of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward. Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have even sent to you all My servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them."* Jeremiah 7:23-24 God calls us to obey him over our own desires or pleasures. It makes sense that Christ said that it is a narrow road which leads to salvation. Often we have to use our faith on our flesh to obey God. Is it any wonder the Apostle Paul said, I die daily. Walking that road requires surrender and obedience to God, and when we begin walking on that road is when we position ourselves to be used by Him!

MONDAY, MAY 31

Scripture: Psalm 119:1-8. NLT

Our obedience to God and His Word has numerous, Life-giving benefits. Psalm 119:1-8 says in the New Living Translation. *"Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the LORD. Joyful are those who obey his laws and search for him with all their hearts. They do not compromise with evil, and they walk only in his paths. You have charged us to keep your commandments carefully. Oh, that my actions would consistently reflect your decrees! Then I will not be ashamed when I compare my life with your commands. As I learn your righteous regulations, I will thank you by living as I should! I will obey your decrees. Please don't give up on me!"* This is a passage worth committing to memory. Is our walk with God at the forefront of our life? Are we constructing a spiritual ark for ourself and others as the darkness rises? Are we ready to stand as Daniel stood should the need arise? Obedience cultivated through relationship is key!

Our God-ordered obedience
Is trust in God that just makes sense!
Not in the world's eyes that's for sure,
But in the Spirit it's the cure,
To set our feet on ways aright.
And move us safely through the night!
Surrender – An appealing trait,
A path for us to celebrate!

By Jayne Houghton