

Subject: *Learning to Obey God*

Scripture: *Psalm 103:1-22*

Verse 17 speaks of God's mercy upon those who fear Him. Verse 18 speaks of those who keep His covenant and do His commandments. God blesses His people and they are described as people who fear Him, keep His covenant, and do His commandments. In other words they take God seriously and obey Him. Dr. Adrian Rogers was a man who marked my life and he often said, "God does business with people who mean business." The reason God gave the Bible was for us to obey it. ***Deuteronomy 29:29*** *The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

We sing the old song, *Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.* The Christian train runs on the rails of the old T and O line (trust and obey). There are many verses and examples in the Bible on the subject of obedience. Think of all the people mentioned in Hebrews 11, the great faith chapter. They believed in God and proved their faith by doing what God told them to do. It is said that people would rather see a sermon than hear one. In this message we are going to do both. This is a sermon built on an outstanding example. We are going to look at the angels in heaven as our role models of obedience. Look again at verses 20-22.

When you think of angels as role models that might seem a little far-fetched, but it's not really far-fetched at all. Did Jesus not teach us to pray, "Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven?" Who was He referring to? The angels in heaven who do God's will. How do the angels in heaven obey God?

1. The angels obey God perfectly

They do all that God asks them to do. They are never slack. They stand ready to carry out God's commands and commissions. ***Matthew 18:10*** *Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.*

2. The angels obey God joyfully

They obey because they want to. They do not obey God out of fear or drudgery, but it is a delight for them to do His will. Although they would prefer to stay in heaven, they are willing to come to earth to do God's work. ***Hebrews 1:14*** *Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?* May we have the submissive attitude of the angels whose desires are heavenly, but their duties are earthly.

3. The angels obey God enthusiastically

There is nothing indifferent or lukewarm about angels. They serve God with a holy zeal. One of the Puritans asked, "Do we bring sacrifices to God with no fire? Or do we offer them up with strange fire?"

4. The angels obey God promptly

They are quick to respond to His commands. There is no questioning, no arguing, no delays. ***Philippians 2:14*** *Do all things without murmurings and disputings.*

Sometimes instead of obeying God at once, we make excuses and we find reasons to procrastinate. Yet we are quick to do the things we want to do.

5. The angels obey God consistently

They are constantly blessing and praising God and they are always ready to do what He tells them to do. They never grow tired of serving the Lord because they know He is worthy and His work is most important. **1 Samuel 15:22** *And Samuel said, Hath 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 hearken than the fat of rams.*

We are content to compare ourselves to other people and feel like we obey God as much as they do and we don't feel so bad, but we ought to compare ourselves to the angels. We ought to be more motivated to obey God than the angels because we have been saved by the grace of God and they have not. The Bible says that angels desire to look into (examine) the things of salvation. The Bible says that some of the angels sinned and followed Lucifer in his rebellion against God. There was no mercy and no grace for those angels. But God dealt with human beings in a different way. He showed us grace and sent Jesus to redeem us from our sins.

What are some areas where you need to do a better job of obeying God?

- Daily quiet time with God
- Bible study and prayer
- Sharing the Gospel with others
- Serving others
- Honoring God with your giving (tithes and offerings)