

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

December 11, 2012

Issue No. 72     Mark Aites, Editor

Obedience 2

"The true follower of Christ will not ask, "If I embrace this truth, what will it cost me?" Rather he will say, "This is truth. God help me to walk in it, let come what may!" – A.W. Tozer

"It is a great deal easier to do that which God gives us to do, no matter how hard it is, than to face the responsibilities of not doing it." – B.J. Miller

"It's easy to follow when we want to go where the leader is taking us, but what about when He makes a turn we're not in favor of?" – L. Barry

"It is indeed praiseworthy for a believer to consecrate his life to the Lord, but he must never do so lightly or thoughtlessly. Before committing your life in service to God today, count the cost, for No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God (Luke 9:62)."

It would be difficult to address the subject of obedience without considering our Lord and Savior. After all, "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps" (1 Pet. 2:21). And did not Paul write, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1).

Scripture says of our Lord, "Though He were a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered, and having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him" (Heb. 5:8-9). One of the most interesting phrases is used in this passage, where the writer remarks, "He learned obedience." It means not only "to learn," but also, "to understand." This was not an easy reality for our Lord. He was indeed fully God in human form (Col. 2:9), but that does not negate the pain and suffering He felt in that human body. To learn something would indicate that it is a process, obviously not arrived at immediately.

There is another interesting passage found in Phil. 2:8, "And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross." It has often been said that the Bible is its own best commentary. It would appear that this passage helps us understand Heb. 5:8-9. It makes us realize that a key component in obedience is humility. It was that humility that allowed our Lord to move in obedience and offer His life upon the cross.