

When He Has Saved Us The Lord Demands Obedience to His Law

Compiled by Edwin de Kock

“By this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.” (1 John 2:4-6, NKJV). It is important to note that the New King James Version is very close to the Greek original, usually even more so than the old Authorized or King James Version of 1611.

The Bible defines sin as the breaking of God’s Law. “Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness” (1 John 3:4, NKJV). This is what the Greek original says. Or, as the old King James puts it: “Whosoever commiteth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”

Jesus said: “If you love Me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15, NKJV).

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in Heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you, depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’” (Matt. 7:21-23, NKJV) Here the word *lawlessness* is also according to the Greek original.

Just hearing the word was not good enough. *Doing* the will of God is what Jesus required. Obedience is absolutely essential. An empty profession of faith cannot substitute for it, nor can prophecy, or the casting out of demons, or any number of miracles. He emphasized this point with a famous parable:

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

“But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand; and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” (Matt. 7:24-27, NKJV)

What was the difference between these two men? They both *heard* what Jesus said to them, but only one of them *did* what He required, that is, was obedient. Religion built on obedience, made possible by the Holy Spirit, is genuine and is built on the rock. But religion built on disobedience is like sand and leads to eternal loss.