20/02/2018

\*OBEDIENCE IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE\*   
  
"And the Lord said unto Samuel, how long will thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel?  
\*1Sam 16:1.\*   
  
\*Prayer\*: I pray for you, what you will do or say in life that  will cause God to reject you, may you be far away from such in Jesus name. 🙏🏼  
  
The bible says it is a fearful thing to fall into the Hands of the living God.  
Hebrews 10:31.  
  
I tell you fellow believers, God's rejection is not something any one of us should experience.  
  
Simply put, God rejected Saul because of his disobedience to God's words.  
1Sam 15:20-28.  
  
Samuel: seeing what Saul did, said:   
\*"Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice"\*   
1 Sam 15:22.  
  
By God's Grace, the message of today is focused  on obedience to God's words, His commandments in contrast to  sacrifice; which is giving offering  to appease God or demonstrate ones love for God.  
  
When God created man -Adam, HE put him in the garden of Eden. Subsequently, God gave Adam commandments  about what to eat and what to abstain from.  
Gen 2:15-25;  
  
Eventually, Adam and Eve disobeyed God.  
We all know the outcome of their disobedience.  
Gen 3:1-24.  
  
From that moment up till the new testament era; God has reiterated the essence of obedience to His words;  
  
"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shall meditate therein day and night, \*that thou mayest observe to do according to all\* that is written therein...."  
Joshua 1:8.  
  
The phrase :  
" \*I have rejected him"\* in the memory verse above, means at some point before his disobedience; Saul was accepted by God  
1 Sam 10:24.  
  
When Jesse paraded the seemingly qualified Eliab to be chosen as King before prophet Samuel;  
  
As recorded in the bible, Samuel was so sure Eliab was the chosen one, because of his stature and perhaps his  resume.  
  
However, God said to Samuel" I have rejected him".  
1 Sam 16: 6&7.  
  
Eli, the priest was equally rejected for disobedience.  
1 Sam 2:27-36.  
  
\*Note\* Eli was still ministering and yet the Lord had rejected him.  
  
Jonah was a prophet sent by God but in the course of disobeying  God's words he lost the honour and respect attached to his  highly exalted position.  
  
God sent Jonah to Nineveh; but he went down to Tarshish/Joppa in disobedience to God.  
Jonah 1:1-3.  
  
Eventually, "prophet Jonah" was thrown into the sea by "ordinary" people and he found himself in the belly of fish for 3 days and nights; because he disobeyed God.  
  
\*Prayer\* I pray for you again: may you not incur the wrath of God upon yourself; by your actions and words 🙏🏼.  
  
Lesson: God can use just anybody to \*chastise\* an erring pastor or prophet.  
  
"All scriptures is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correction and for teaching in righteousness;  
that 'the man of God' may be perfect and prepared to do good works"  
2 Tim 3:16&17.  
  
Jesus Christ also reiterated the importance of obedience:   
  
"Not every one that saith unto me , Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; \*but he that doeth the Will (Obey)\* of my Father which is in heaven".  
Matthew 7:21.  
  
"Shall we continue in \*sin\* that grace may abound? God forbid.  
Romans 6:1  
  
Obedience to God's words is ever critical for every believer.  
Matthew 7:24-25  
  
The Church of God now, have deviated from the main  teachings of God and have focused more on tithe, seeds and offerings.  
  
God wants us to tithe and give offerings; but not to detriment of \*repentance and salvation\* messages; which are the hallmarks of the true Gospel of Jesus Christ.  
  
It is common place now to hear sermons of 30 minutes without the preacher opening the bible to read scriptures; but when it is time to collect tithe and offerings, they dedicate 15 -20 minutes, quoting bible passages and sharing testimonies of people who  gave all they had  
  
\*Warning\* Stop making mockery of God's work.  
  
Our God owns the heavens and the earth. He is not a beggar.   
  
Psalm 24:1:  
"the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein".  
  
If the Church can spend the quality time being spent on fund raising sermons now on repentance   
sermons and \*evangelical outreach\* ; perhaps the number of believers would have doubled.  
  
God wants us to give, but He demands our obedience more; \*in fact, in obeying God you will give.\*   
  
Jesus said in Matthew 23:23 -  
" \*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithe of mint, anise and cummin and have omitted the weightier matters of the law; judgement, mercy and faith these ought ye to have done and not to leave the other undone"\*.  
  
I beseech you fellow believers; "let us examine and probe our ways and then let us return to the Lord"  
Lament. 3:40.  
  
It is high time we returned back to the basics of our Christian faith.   
  
Giving is good but it does not facilitate \*repentance\*. In fact, some have erroneous belief they can give and "buy" God's mercy for the evil they have committed.  
  
The real basics for believers are to love God (obey God), love your neighbour (win Souls).  
Mark 12: 30-31.  
  
\*"Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father ,Son and the Holy Spirit : Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you and I am with you even to the end of the world"\* Matthew 28:19&20.  
  
It's \*aberration\* for anyone to say; "because I have won Souls in the past and those Souls are in Christ today; I may not have to  win more to enter heaven".  
  
There is no other word to describe such than: \*HERESY\*!  
  
There are great men of God who have served God  tirelessly for 4-6 decades. Grant them 5 minutes to preach now; you can be sure they will use 2-3 minutes out of it to win Souls for JESUS.  
  
No one can ever graduate from the "school of  Soul winning".  
  
Rick Warren's father: an acclaimed staunch soul winner, while on his hospital bed; dying of cancer was quoted to have said: "Got to save one more for Jesus"; repeatedly before he died.  
  
We do not have luxury of time anymore; the ⏰  
is ticking faster than ever and precious Souls are wandering about without Shepherds.  
\*Matthew 9:36\*  
  
"For the earnest expectation of the creature waits for the manifestation of the sons of God"  
\*Romans:8:19\*.  
  
Time has come to "take the bull by the horn" and persist with vigour; the spread of the \*true\* Gospel of Jesus.   
  
Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God and keep His commandments for this is the whole duty of man. Eccl.12:13.  
  
It's about JESUS.  
  
Signed, Bro Cole