

Obedience (Let Him Finish the Good Work Begun in You: To Will and to Do of His Good pleasure.)

by Hans R. Waldvogel

The sermon calls believers to embrace obedience to Christ, recognizing His authority as King and the transformative power of submission in their lives.

Scripture: Psalm 17:15, Romans 6:14, Philippians 1:6, Philippians 2:12

Topics: "Obedience", "Submission to God"

Description

Hans R. Waldvogel emphasizes the necessity of obedience to God, asserting that true salvation comes from submitting to Jesus as our King. He warns against the dangers of complacency and the distractions of the world that can lead to spiritual deadness. Waldvogel encourages believers to allow God to complete the good work He has begun in them, highlighting that obedience is not just a duty but a response to God's grace. He stresses the importance of working out one's salvation with reverence and the need for a heart that seeks God above all else. Ultimately, he calls for a radical commitment to Christ, urging listeners to crucify their flesh and embrace their identity in Him.

Transcript

Selected Verses:

Romans 6:14. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

Philippians 1:6. Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Psalm 17:15. As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

Philippians 2:12. Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Opening:

Do you know that today there is perhaps more Bible study than at any time before, but less obedience? Obedience. We heard a while ago about the King. Why, that is my salvation: I've got a King, a wonderful King, a very great King. "God hath set His King upon the holy hill of Zion," and now He settles down and laughs at all His enemies because this King has power over all the power of the enemy, over all the power of the flesh. "He is able," we read in Philippians 3, "to subdue all things unto Himself."

Therein lies my salvation: when I have a King who is able to subdue His enemies within me unto Himself. When He is able to "take His great power and reign" in the place where sin held me captive, where the devil fooled me, where my flesh had chained me--there God Almighty has provided a wonderful Deliverer, and He is King.

But the question is, "Do I submit to Him?" Do I submit to You, Jesus? Jesus, Jesus. I will never know Jesus until I submit to Him. He is a gentleman, a wonderful gentleman. He doesn't club you into obedience, but He says, "I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear My voice, and open the door, I'll come in. And when I come in, out they go--the devil and all his imps."

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Selected Quotes:

You honestly and faithfully have to face this Kingdom, and this great King. And when you face Him, and when you open the door, it's over with you. It's just all up with you and your moods, and your foolishness, and your spirituality, and your plans, and your wishes, and your desires, and your thinking, and your talking, and everything. It's just over with you, that's all. That's all, because the first thing the King requires is to that you crucify your flesh with its affections and lusts. And what does it mean? Oh, it means my salvation. It means that I am dead. It means that I partake of His death.

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Do you know, as we heard a while ago, how easy it is to get callous? You don't have to do a thing about it; the devil will see to it, and the devil has wonderful emissaries--he has helpers, wonderful helpers. He's got them in this assembly. Our worst enemies are half-hearted Pentecostal people who don't fight the fight, who don't "put on the whole armor of God," who take a chance. When I hear about Christian homes that have no family worship--no time to worship God, to wait upon the Lord--but two and three television sets, then I know that they're ready for hell. They're ready for judgment. I tell you, backsliding has gone so far, "the wrath of God has come upon them to the uttermost."

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Beloved, if we don't let Him have every moment of our lives, He is going to cast us aside and take somebody else. He will. "It is God who worketh in you to will." And when conviction comes into my soul, it's a great mercy of the Lord. It's a mark of His great favor. He says, "Don't stand still! Flee from the wrath to come! This day, the Lord will destroy this city with fire!"

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We come to a place where Jesus is our only joy, our only interest. Nothing else interests us anymore. Don't talk to me about anything in heaven or in earth or under the earth but Jesus Christ. Oh, He has become my life. He is my righteousness, my sanctification, my redemption. And how beautifully

Philippians expresses it! And the Apostle Paul talks about these half-hearted Philippians. He says, "Many walk of whom I have told you often and now tell you even weeping: enemies of the cross of Christ." What does he mean? Why, they don't bear the cross. They don't reckon themselves dead. They want to be alive a little bit.

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"They mind earthly things." "After all these things the nations of the world seek." What are you seeking after? What is your interest? What are you...? Beloved, are you seeking the Lord? "Why yes, we all do." But, beloved, who seeks Him with fear and trembling? Whose heart "trembles at His word"? We don't realize what it means to be saved. We don't realize that the world is in the devil--"lies in the wicked one," that the god, the prince of the bottomless pit rules our educational institutions, our movies, our television programs. The god out of the bottomless pit is spewing out his poison. Those mills of hell are developing poison and spitting them out and filling the atmosphere and blacking it like we see in the book of Revelation. The whole atmosphere was blackened by the smoke that ascends out of the bottomless pit.

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I have marveled in these 31 years at the things God has given us in this assembly. That was one thing I marveled over. And the other thing I marveled over was the deadness of some heads--the awful, utter deadness of some saints that think they're going up in the rapture, and they're licking the dust, and they mind earthly things, and their god is their belly, and there's no hope, and there's no salvation. But, beloved, if God can make my heart to tremble, to tremble, to tremble, He says, "To this man will I look." Oh, God, that's what I need.

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If I went to a beggar that's rolling around on the dung heap, and I'd say, "Listen, there's a King that's built a beautiful palace, and you can move right in, and you'll have an Imperial, and you'll have a Cadillac, and you'll have a Rolls Royce, and you'll have a Constellation at your command with pilot and all. Come on, forsake this pile of manure!" And he'd say, "Hey, you get me mad. Who do you think I am? You call me a beggar? You tell me I smell bad?"

"Well you do." That's the way we are, beloved, when we don't heed the call of "Ye shall be holy."

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Illustrations:

A story of God inspiring strong preaching at the Faith Home in Zion. "Those hearts really wanted to be ready for the coming of the Lord, and Jesus Christ unsheathed His sword. Do you know that He says, 'As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten'? And when He doesn't rebuke and chasten us anymore, it's a sure sign that He's given us up to a reprobate mind. He said, 'He has turned to his idols. Leave him alone. There's no more use.'" (from 10:47)

Comments on the moral decline of Brooklyn. (from 13:49)

The Swiss carnival of Fasnacht. "I was smitten with such conviction. ... I had my fill." (from 16:47)

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/hans-r-waldvogel/obedience-let-him-finish-the-good-work-begun-in-you-to-will-and-to-do-of-his-god/>

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