
BIBLE TALK

This week our subject is: "**God loves everyone, but ...**" In other words, there are some things that have to be considered in addition to the fact that God loves people. Many think that because God loves them:

- It means they are automatically saved, or
- It means He will accept any type of worship which they may offer, or
- It means they don't have to obey His commandments

My friend, please consider the following, pertinent points:

- God loved Saul, who later became known as the apostle Paul, but just because God loved him did not mean he was automatically saved. Saul had to be baptized to have his sins washed away (Acts 22:16).
- God loved Cain and Abel, but when these men offered their sacrifices, God did not respect the sacrifice offered by Cain (Gen. 4:5). God specifically told what sacrifices were acceptable (Heb. 11:4), and when Cain offered something else, he was rejected – even though God loved him.
- God loved Adam and Eve in their innocent state. (Remember, God loves everyone.) But the fact that Adam and Eve were innocent and that God loved them, did not remove the need for obedience.

The point I want you to focus on is that God's love for men does not mean men are not required to obey what God said.

I recently had a Bible study with a church leader from a major denomination. We were discussing what was necessary for salvation. I asked a very simple question: "*Do we have to obey God in order to be saved?*" This church leader did not know how to answer that question. He told me with his own mouth, "*I don't know if we **have** to obey to be saved.*"

This is sad when church leaders don't know if obedience is required for salvation. Let Jesus answer this question:

Matthew 7:21

21 "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.**

Matthew 12:49-50

49 And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers!

50 "For **whoever does the will of My Father in heaven** is My brother and sister and mother."

If men want to go to heaven, they must obey God's word. If they want their worship accepted, they must worship according to God's instructions. If at any time a man or woman violates God's commandments, they must seek forgiveness on God's terms. Please remember, forgiveness is granted on God's terms. We cannot make up our own way of saving ourselves – this is what the Pharisees did.

It is not wrong to obey God. It is not wrong to teach people that they must obey God. The Pharisees did not obey God and they did not teach men to obey God. The Pharisees were guilty of disobeying God and teaching others to disobey. In their arrogance they thought they were so righteous that they could not possibly be lost. We must learn a lesson from their mistakes and not repeat them. But my friend, please remember: if you want to go to heaven you must obey what God said. It is not being Pharisaical to teach that we must obey in order to be saved.

1 John 2:3-5

3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our web site www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on ***Bible Talk***.