

Obey

By Clifton Angel

My son is now six years old. Consider this excerpt from when he was two: My 2-year-old son knows the word 'obey' and somewhat understands it. However, what motivates him to practice it can vary. For example, one of his favorite things right now is a large floor puzzle that's in the shape of a barn, and it has farm animals standing in front of the barn. He's really impressed us with his ability to put the majority of it together by himself. He takes it apart and puts it together over and over; however, he likes to place it right in the path where we walk through the house. So, one night recently, before bath time, I told him we needed to clean up the puzzle. He proceeded to put the puzzle together, despite my saying it again a little firmer. Shortly after, my wife chimed in and said, 'If you want dessert, you need to clean up your puzzle.' He immediately began putting the pieces in the box. Sometimes, punishment/discipline motivates him to obey. Sometimes, rewards motivate him to obey. And, it is my hope that one day he will obey because of his love for us as his parents.

What motivates us to obey God?

Some are motivated to obey God in view of punishment. It is reasonable, logical, and Scriptural to obey God for fear of punishment. For, "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

Some are motivated to obey God in view of reward. It is reasonable, logical, and Scriptural to obey God for desire of reward. The same passage states, "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

But, how many are motivated to obey God out of true love of Him? Jesus said to His apostles, "If you love me, ye will keep my commandments" (John 14:15). We often use this passage to note that showing our love to Christ requires keeping His commandments—and that is true. But, perhaps Jesus' statement was more about love than obedience. For, He knows obedience will be automatic, once we have grown to true love for Him. Yes, we have to continue to obey Him and build our relationship with Him in order to grow in our love for Him.

Many obey for fear of punishment, and that is okay. Many obey for hope of reward, and that is okay. How many obey because of love? When someone is speaking, we are much more attentive to the words being spoken, when we love and respect the one who is speaking. This certainly applies to our love for Christ. "We love (him) because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19).

God loves you; do you love Him? Have you obeyed Him? Are you obeying Him?



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840
(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

Paul Cowles, Evangelist- (607) 592-8091

November 13, 2022

All the Churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

Today's Sermon: Opportunity Knocks

Mark Hatfield will be preaching today.

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

Notes for Sunday morning and Wednesday evening classes are available on the website.

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Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Mark Hatfield will be telling us about MAGI boxes and the mission.
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** 6:30pm November 16, on Zoom, Paul is teaching from James.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday** December 18th.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class –Tuesday November 15, Lesson 13, Day 3, 10am on Zoom.**
- ❖ **Next 5th Sunday Singing-** January 29th.



Robin and Pat Guthrie from the Kittanning church have once again traveled up here to serve us and friends and neighbors a home-cooked **Thanksgiving meal**. About 20 of us enjoyed this delicious dinner last evening. **Team 3 won the TTT trophy for the Thanksgiving trivia competition.**

Mark Hatfield from Pittsburg, who is the regional **MAGI box** coordinator, will be giving a **presentation about the work today** during Bible class time and as part of the worship service. Be sure to get to know Mark and his daughter Jocelyn who is here with him. They have also brought our 80 boxes to fill and have T-shirts to hand out to those of us who want them.

Please stay after worship to enjoy a fellowship meal with us downstairs in the fellowship room. This is our traditional Thanksgiving leftover meal. As we learned last night during our trivia game...leftovers are the favorite part of the Thanksgiving meal for most Americans.

PRAYERS

- **Continue to pray for the people of Ukraine!** These people are living every day through a war. Remember to also pray for the people in **Russia**, especially for the church.
- **Jackie** left on November 11th for Oklahoma to stay with her daughter Vicki for a few months over the winter. We are grateful to God that she and her daughter-in-law, Beth, had safe travels and we pray for a good sojourn for her.
- **We pray for safe trips for the Gutheries and the Hatfields as each family makes their trips back home today.**
- Pray for these people:
 - **Mike Walls** (frontal lobe dementia), and his wife Carrie and the family. Mike is planning on heading back out to L.A. soon for more surgery.
 - **Henry Rounsville** has started radiation therapy and we pray that it will remove the cancer. Also pray for Henry's sister Caroline while he is ill.
 - **Zach Cowells (overseas deployment with the Army)**
 - **Dan Myers (lung cancer)**
 - **Jerry Lowe (connection with a church in Las Vegas)**
 - **Darlene's friend Connie** (stage 4 lung cancer, spread to brain) They are trying targeted radiation.
 - **Doug Elsbree's friend Dave Merrill-** (liver cancer) He has now quit work.
 - **Steve Noble** (lung transplant) having problems with the transplant.
 - **Jim Sexton** (esophageal cancer) not out of the woods yet, but lymph system appears clear of cancer.

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.