



"If you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."
John 13:17 (BSB).

"you will be blessed if you do them"¹ We have examined some Instructions of the Lord of the Church, Jesus Christ, in the last few weeks.² I hope that you have been a responsible and an obedient student, because as the Scripture says, it is not hearers, but doers of the Word that are blessed.³

As I sometimes reflect on my life, and by extension those of fellow believers on the struggles we have with life, there is always a recurrent fact that hits me, and it is that my problems, and that of the whole world, believers and non-believers alike, stem from DISOBEDIENCE. Starting from the Garden of Eden, human beings seem to have been doomed to a life of disobedience, the redemptive work of Jesus Christ notwithstanding.⁴ **The Bible (God) has given instructions, more than one for each day, just as the Bible has enough promises, also, more than one for each day. If a believer will take the time and commit to the discipline of obedience, he/she will live a joyful, peaceful, and satisfying life.**⁵ Prophet Micah stated, *He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?*⁶ But note the verses which preceded this verse, verses 6 to 7. These speak of lofty sacrifices – bowing, burnt offerings with thousands of animals, and even their first-born child. The prophet told them – Israelites, that those things are not necessary as they are not acceptable to God. The acceptable offering is OBEDIENCE to what God has revealed to them.⁷ Apostle Peter stated the same severally in his epistles, noting that the prophets of old foretold the coming of Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Church, and what is required of us is holiness made possible through obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ, not sacrifices and sinful lives.⁸ He went further to state the provisions which God has made for us in order to live a godly and satisfying life in this world, and be acceptable in the life to come with the Lord Jesus Christ. The exhaustive list did not include sacrifices of Bulls and Rams, and unbridled and uninformed fasting and praying.⁹ And talking about the abuse of, and unacceptable fasting and praying, God addressed this through Prophet Isaiah, where He noted that the Israelites presented as people who desired to please God even with fasting, but in their practice of fasting, there was all kinds of corruption and evils, which is why their prayers are not answered.¹⁰ Therefore, God lamented that His chosen people, Israel are a stiff-necked and disobedient people, their sacrifices being meaningless and worthless. His desire and command from the beginning, starting from the Garden of Eden is that human beings, especially His chosen people Obey Him.¹¹ But the people chose sacrifice over obedience, and annoyed Him almost as soon as they were removed from the place of slavery in Egypt. Hear God: *"Take your burnt offerings and your sacrifices and eat them yourselves! When I led your ancestors out of Egypt, it was not burnt offerings and sacrifices I wanted from them. This is what I told them: 'Obey Me, and I will be your God, and you will be My people. ... But My people would not listen to Me. They kept doing whatever they wanted, following the stubborn desires of their evil hearts. They went backward instead of forward."*¹² The meekest man of all time, Moses was provoked into offending God after over 40 years of meritorious service, such that he couldn't enter the promised Land, but only saw it from afar.¹³

How I wish we are all like King David whose most important desire was to be in the house of God and learn about His perfections.¹⁴ But no one can be in the house (presence) of God, how much more see God, without obedience that bequest holiness. No wonder King David is described as a man after God's heart by God Himself, his many faults notwithstanding.¹⁵ God blessed him with Jesus Christ, who is the Eternal King, whom God promised David to occupy the throne.¹⁶ Modern churches have perfected the art of substituting sacrifices for obedience. Lengthy periods of prayer and fasting, music festivals, daily and weekly activities, fund raising, and even humanitarian services, are continuously practiced instead of love, godliness, and righteousness. These have blinded the generality of members from seeing and knowing the impact of their disobedience – the Hard Places, filled with all forms of corruptions and evils prevalent in modern societies.¹⁷ Worse still, several hundreds, if not thousands, are daily led to the Lake of Fire, as they die without the right personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and has not lived a life that is acceptable and pleasing to Him.¹⁸ This is the bane of modern church, which I called churchianity many years ago! But this is the work of the devil who does not want anyone to be saved, and has found easy ally in gullible and greedy leaders, using his skill of cunning craftiness, and so people think they are doing well as believers but do not know that they are steadily working and walking their way to the Lake of Fire. Therefore, there are many dead churches today crowded to the brim with membership, enjoying and performing sacrifices, but deceiving and being deceived. They are like the churches of Sardis and Laodicea, described in the book of Revelations Chapter three (3). The warning by Jesus for those churches applies to these churches and their members today.

Since the days of Adam and Eve this penchant for disobedience and recourse to sacrifice has grown to unbelievable proportion.¹⁹ I'm not against what may be described as spiritual exercises, such as prayer and fasting, night vigils, Bible Studies, and other forms of fellowships. But when these have become just programmes, diverting attention from obedience and godly living, such that there is no positive correlation between these programmes and the quality of our daily lives, then, something is monumentally wrong.²⁰ It is returning to the practice by the Israelites, who lived consistently in disobedience while perfecting the art of



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sacrifice. They were so committed to sacrifices that they even sacrificed their children as burnt offering. This is an act that God said did not cross His mind to ask from them.²¹ So, as in the days of the Israelites so it is today. God says let your light (life) shine in the world made dark with sin and all forms of evil, so that He will be glorified (Obey Me).²² But NO; it is about sacrifices and the vanity of pursuing material wealth, while sin and every form of corruption is prevalent in the church, among leaders and the led. Then should anyone wonder why crimes and all kinds of evils are on the increase even among church members? When will believers know and deliver themselves, and return to the basic requirement of obedience, which God requires, and leave their leaders who have become so committed to acting as antichrists? The command from God is, Obey Me by letting your light show and reveal your good works, but how can people steep in corruption and the race for materialism, have good works to show? Good works has its foundation in genuine love for God, but no one can talk of loving the God that is not obeyed.²³ So, the absence of good works, and the darkness that pervades the world is a clear statement of the depth of disobedience among church goers. **Good works, which is really godliness and righteousness, is a very rare item in most parts of the Church today. What is common-place is disobedience by both leaders and their followers, decorated with sacrifices, titles, and grand auditoriums. They belie the real nature of churches today, and most churches can be described as Gilded Tombs. These are smokescreens and will turn into a large conflagration of fire at the appointed time.**²⁴

So, dear reader, we have shared with you few of the Instructions of the Lord and Master of the Church. Where are you on the obedience scale? Jesus categorically stated, now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.²⁵ Are you seeking blessings through the wrong means? This is a clear call to have a rethink. Obey your Lord so that you will have real blessings now, you and your family; and also, in the life to come that has no ending.²⁶ When God saved you from slavery to sin and satan, He did not ask you for sacrifices. There is no sacrifice that you could have ever provided that will give you reconciliation and eternal life with God. The best of your sacrifice is filthy beyond description.²⁷ Therefore, just like God reminded the Israelites, whose disobedience led them into terrible punishments,²⁸ Do not continue in disobedience and salve your conscience occasionally with all the various activities that now occupy you. Do the needed; Obey and be Blessed. Obey the Lord Jesus Christ and live an acceptable life to God. All the things which now take and consume your time and even life, will be destroyed with this world at the appointed time by the ONE WHO has said Obey My Commands and Be Blessed.²⁹ Now That You Know These Things, Do Them!

Have A God Centred And Focussed 2026.

Further & Daily Readings: John 13:12-17; Deut.10:12-21. 1. John 13:17; 2.Col. 1:18; 3. James 1:22-25; 4. Gen.3; Psalm 78:6-8; Jer.7:24-28; 5. 2Tim.3:16-17; 2Pet.1:3-9; Psalm 16:11; 6. Micah 6:8; 7. Micah 6:3-4, 6; 1Sam.15:22; 8. 1Pet.1:12-16; 9. 2Pet.1:3-9; 10. Isaiah 58:1-12; 11. Gen.2:15-17; Psalm 78:6-8; 12. Jer.7:21-24; 13. Deut.34:1-5; 14.Psalm 27:4; 15. 1Sam.16:1, 11-13; Acts 13:22; 16.Psalm 89:20-29,36-37; Matt.1:1,16; 17.Isaiah 1:11-15; 57:3-9; 18.Jer.23:1-2; 2Tim.3:1-9, 13; 19. Gen.4:3-8; 20. Jer.5:25-28, 30-31; 21. Jer.32:35; 22. Matt.6:16; 23. Luke 6:46; 1John 4:7-8; 5:3; 24. 1John 2:15-17; 2Pet.3:10-11; 25. John 13:17; 26. John 14:1-3; 27. Isaiah 64:6; 28. Jer.5:25; 7:18-20; 29. John 13:17, Acts 17:24-31; 2Peter 3:10-11.