

This email is the *third in a series of articles* that I've titled "GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW". Each of these articles builds upon previous articles, so I would suggest that you print each article for future reference or save it on your computer. It is my hope that these articles will be beneficial to everyone who reads them. Please share them with your family members and feel free to email any questions or comments to me.

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## **GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW!**

God wants you to know what is involved with obedience to Jesus Christ. By obeying Christ (keeping his commandments), you are manifesting your love toward him. Remember Jesus said in John 14:15 (KJV), "If you love me, keep my commandments." Furthermore, Jesus "became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" (Hebrews 5:8-9 KJV). Before we determine from the New Testament what is involved with obedience to Jesus and his gospel, a consideration of what will happen to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ should help us understand the importance of obeying him.

The question about the plight of those who obey not the gospel is posed in 1 Peter 4:17 (KJV): "For the time *is come* that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if *it* first *begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God?" The answer is found in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 (KJV): "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power." Our love for Jesus should be sufficient to motivate us to obey him, but if that is not adequate, then not wanting to be punished with everlasting destruction may be just the motivation we need for learning what is involved with obedience to the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Since Jesus' words will judge us in the last day (John 12:48), what is our obligation toward Jesus and his words (the New Testament)? First of all, faith in Jesus is absolutely necessary if we want to be pleasing to God: "But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6 KJV). Secondly, the kind of personal faith that pleases God must be based upon his word: "So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17 KJV). And last but not least, there is only one faith system (the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ) mentioned in Ephesians 4:4-6 that we must believe and obey, "*There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all." In the next article we will begin an examination of the one faith system revealed to us by the Holy Spirit through Jesus' apostles.

"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear,  
slow to speak, slow to wrath." (James 1:19 KJV)