

Keynotes from Pastor Tim's am YouTube Sermon on Sunday 16th February 2020

Following Jesus into obedience (Pt 1) Justification

(Please read these notes whilst watching or listening to the sermon)

Romans 6:6-7 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin.

No matter how independent we think we are, and what stage of life we are at, we all follow someone and are influenced by them. We all have role models we copy. Apprenticeships work because the young person learns by watching and copying a master craftsman, until they become as skilled as their teacher.

The reality is that the person we spend the most time with is the person we become most like.

Jesus' command to us is found in Matthew 16:24: If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.

- In our culture, a cross is a trial you have to carry, such as an illness or a difficult person in our life, but that's not what Jesus meant.
- In his day, carrying your cross meant you were going to a place of execution, where you would die on the cross you were carrying. This was what Jesus did – he carried the instrument of his execution to the place where he would die.

When Jesus commands us to take up our cross he is calling us to die in the sense of dying to our own selves.

- Instead of having God rule over us, we have put ourselves on the throne of our lives, and selfishness and pride rule our hearts.
- Jesus died on the cross for us so that we can have eternal life but he calls us to follow him by dying to self, dying to our sinful habits and to our selfish ambitions.

To follow Jesus means to follow him into a life of obedience to God the Father – a life he models for us and enables us to live.

- The righteousness that commends us to God is the righteousness of Jesus, which becomes ours when we trust in Jesus.
- We don't work to make ourselves right with God - rather we trust Jesus to make us right with God.
- All this is an act of God's grace. **Romans 15:19-20** For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. ²⁰ Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,

Grace triumphed over sin and the result was eternal life for all who trust in Jesus.

Some might say if that's true, then it doesn't matter how I live but to think like this means you haven't understood the Gospel, and worse, you aren't really saved.

- Paul responds to this in **Romans 6:1-2** What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² **By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?**
- We have died to sin. Paul show us that we are united to Christ, so died with him.
- That death was a dying to sin.

Romans 6:3-5 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his

It is faith that unites us to Christ – not intellectual agreement with the facts about Jesus.

Faith agrees that:

- Jesus is both God and man

- He lived a perfect life and died as a substitute for us, taking our sin and guilt on himself
- He rose from the dead with a real resurrection body and ascended back into heaven to sit on the throne of God
- He will return to this earth in power and glory to bring all things to an end

More than that, however, faith unites us to Jesus so that:

- He comes to dwell in us by his Spirit, and we dwell in him
- The life he lives, we now live
- We are in a very real and spiritual union with him, where our lives are wholly bound to his

To follow Jesus means to follow him in a life of obedience to the Father.

What did Jesus' life of obedience look like?

1. Jesus obeyed his Father by coming to this earth.

John 8:42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.

- The religious leaders question who Jesus' Father is. Jesus responds by showing them that if they really knew God, they would love him (Jesus). This is a test for us too. If we love Jesus, then it is an evidence that we really know God and have eternal life.
- Jesus shows them that God the Father sent him (v42 above), having agreed in eternity to save a people chosen by God. God is holy and does burn with righteous anger against sin, but at the same time he is a God who loves those same sinners, and out of that love, he sends the Son for us.
- Out of love for the Father and love for us, Jesus obeyed his Father by coming to the earth.

2. Jesus obeyed his Father by speaking his Father's words

John 12:49-50 For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. ⁵⁰ And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me."

- Jesus heard what the Father wanted him to say and obeyed the Father by speaking the exact words.
- **That cost him his life.** People were happy to accept his miracles, but were offended by his words. **John 10:33** The Jews answered him, “It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God.”

3. Jesus obeyed his Father by fulfilling all scripture

- Everything about Jesus’ life on earth was written beforehand in the Old Testament. They prophesied that he would be: born of a woman; both God and man; despised and rejected by us; a saviour from sin; raised to life; exalted in heaven.
- In the gospels we see that he lived out that narrative with intentionality.

4. Jesus obeyed his Father by dying on the cross

- He knew it would involve intense physical suffering – being beaten, nailed to a cross and left to die an agonising death.
- He knew it would involve intense spiritual suffering – experiencing for the first time human guilt as our sin was put to his account, and then knowing the just wrath of a holy God.

His obedience comes into sharpest focus in the cross when he set his face towards Calvary and out of love for the Father, obediently lifts the cross carrying it to the place of execution.

What does all this mean for us?

- We have a righteousness that commends us to God the Father. Jesus’ life of obedience was the life we should have lived but haven’t.
- Because of our failure to obey God, what we deserve is to feel the weight of our guilt for all eternity under the righteous wrath of a holy God.
- Jesus experienced all that for us – though he had done no wrong, he was punished in our place.
- We stand forgiven at the cross because our sin has been removed from us when we trust in Jesus.

However, if all God did was remove our sin, then we still couldn't stand in his presence

- We need to be made righteous, to have a positive righteousness that commends us to God.
- Christ did this for us through his obedient life on earth.
- He was the only human being who had ever lived a perfectly righteous life
- His righteous life is credited to us

If Jesus hadn't lived in obedience to his heavenly Father then we would have no righteousness to commend us to God.

- The righteousness we need to stand in the presence of God is Jesus' righteousness alone, and that's what we get when we put our trust in Jesus.

Does that mean it doesn't matter how we live? **Romans 6:2** By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

- Jesus obedient life is an example for us to follow.

To follow Christ means we follow one who lived obediently, and through that obedient life he provides a righteousness for us that enable us to stand in the presence of our Holy God.

Why would you not want to follow him?