

Listen and Obey: The Application of Scripture to Everyday Life

Introduction

Does God care what you do?

- Religion or relationship?
- Religion involves _____ and _____ associated with worship.

Our obedience is an outpouring of our _____ for Jesus. (John 14:15; James 1:27; 1 Samuel 15:22)

- Jesus: "Keep my commandments."
- Pure religion is caring for others.
- God cares more about obedience than he cares about _____.

Obedience to whom? (Exodus 5:2; Exodus 19:5; Deuteronomy 11:13–17; Acts 5:29; 2 Thessalonians 3:14)

Consequences for disobedience. (Romans 2:5–11)

Obedience comes from knowing and trusting God:

_____ → _____ → _____

Why should you read God's word?

We read the Bible not only to be informed but to be _____.

Since Scripture is God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16–17), it is absolute in its authority for doctrine and life.

To disobey the word of God is to disobey God himself. (1 Kings 20:35–36)

How do you make sure you're obeying God's word? (Leviticus 18:5)

How do we apply the direct commands of Scripture?

- Does it matter who originally received the command?
- Does the context of the command matter?
- Do we have to follow the command directly or are we allowed to make it work in our current context?
- How do we know if certain commands apply to us and other commands do not?
- Is it possible that by following the "letter of the law" we might miss the "spirit of the law?"

How does God confront us with His word?

"The Bible does two things: It announces what God has done, and it confronts its hearers with this news and its implications. For a preacher to expose the Bible, therefore, he must expose the Bible's announcement and confrontation."*

In applying the passage, you will be confronted in the following areas:†

- Your _____.
- Your _____ state.
- Your _____ state.
- Your _____ in the church.

A proper approach to studying the Bible‡

Goal of theological study: _____ (1 Corinthians 8:1)

"First, theological study must not be a barren academic search for ultimate truth." (250)

"Omniscience is not required, but faithfulness is." (251)

Motive for theological study: _____.

"Biblical knowledge unapplied destroys; knowledge applied gives life." (252)

Attitude in theological study: _____.

"An essential element in studying Bible doctrine is humility. Humility must clear the way for love to operate." (252)

Reasons we must have humility when studying the Bible:

- Revelation is only _____. (Deuteronomy 29:29; John 16:12)
- We are _____. (1 Corinthians 13:9–12)
- We are fallen.
- We must have an open mind to the Spirit's work.
- We must be willing to _____ before we hear.

"The eager search for basic truth is evidence of an active surrender of heart, which is a parent indispensable in the birth of humility." (257)

* Jonathan Leeman, *Reverberation: How God's Word Brings Light, Freedom and Action to His People* (Chicago: Moody, 2011), 124.

† *Ibid.*, 146–147

‡ Robertson McQuilkin, *Understanding and Applying the Bible*, (Chicago: Moody, 2009), 250–257.