

DIRECTION 9 (GOSPEL-DRIVEN OBEDIENCE)

SUMMARY: IN ORDER TO SINCERELY KEEP THE LAW OF GOD, YOU MUST FIRST RECEIVE THE COMFORT OF THE GOSPEL. P. 117

INTRODUCTION:

- A. A LEGAL COVENANT, P. 117
- B. LAW-DRIVEN OBEDIENCE, P. 117

ADDICTED TO A LEGAL METHOD OF SALVATION: “.WE ARE BY NATURE SO STRONGLY ADDICTED TO THIS LEGAL METHOD OF SALVATION, THAT IT IS A HARD MATTER TO DISSUADE THOSE THAT LIVE UNDER THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL, FROM PLACING THE DUTIES OF THE LAW BEFORE THE COMFORTS OF THE GOSPEL.” P. 60, ORIGINAL; P. 117 REVISED

LEGALISTS VIEW OF OBEDIENCE: “THINK IT IS UNREASONABLE TO EXPECT COMFORT BEFORE DUTY, AS WAGES BEFORE WORK, OR THE FRUITS OF THE EARTH, BEFORE THE HUSBANDMAN’S LABOR (2 TIM. 2:6).” P. 60, ORIGINAL; P. 117, REVISED

- C. GOSPEL-DRIVEN OBEDIENCE, P. 118

“THE COMFORT OF THE GOSPEL DOES NOT ONLY COME TO YOU BEFORE YOU KEEP THE LAW, BUT GOD ALSO COMFORTS YOU ON EVERY SIDE, BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER YOU KEEP HIS LAW.” P. 118

“YOU MUST RECEIVE THE BLESSINGS OF THE GOSPEL BEFORE YOU CAN EVER KEEP THE LAW.” P. 118

PROPOSITION: 7 REASONS WHY YOU NEED THE COMFORTS OF THE GOSPEL IF YOU ARE TRULY GOING TO KEEP THE LAW OF GOD: PP. 118-124

LESSON:

- I. NEEDING THE COMFORTS OF THE GOSPEL FOLLOWS ALL THAT I HAVE SAID THUS FAR ABOUT HOLINESS. P. 118-119
- II. THE BIBLE STATES THAT PEACE, JOY, AND HOPE ARE THE FOUNTAIN FROM WHICH ONE’S OBEDIENCE FLOWS. P. 119

“FEAR AND OPPRESSING GRIEF ACTUALLY HINDER YOUR OBEDIENCE...YOU MUST HAVE SPIRITUAL COMFORT IF YOU ARE GOING TO OBEY GOD’S COMMANDMENTS.” P. 119

- III. THE USUAL WAY THE SCRIPTURES PROCLAIM THE METHOD OF GOSPEL-DOCTRINE IS THIS: GOD COMFORTS OUR HEARTS FIRST IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH YOU IN EVERY GOOD WORK, 2 THESS. 2:17. PP. 119-120

NOTE: SCRIPTURE PASSAGES WHICH MAKE GOD'S GRACE YOUR MOTIVE FOR OBEDIENCE: ROM. 6:11, 14; 8:9, 11; 1 COR. 6:15, 19; 2 COR. 5:21; 6:18; 7:1; EPH. 4:32; 5:1, 2, 8; COL. 3:1, 4; HEB. 13:5, PP. 119-120

"THE GOSPEL IS WHAT ENCOURAGES YOU TO OBEY GOD." P. 120

- IV. THE NATURE OF THE DUTIES OF THE LAW (I.E., OBEDIENCE) MEANS THAT YOUR SOUL MUST BE COMFORTED BY THE GOSPEL IF YOU ARE GOING TO OBEY GOD. P. 121-122

"YOU CANNOT POSSIBLY OBEY GOD IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE COMFORT OF THE GOSPEL." P. 121

- V. PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT YET CHRISTIANS, NOT ONLY NEED LAW, BUT THEY ALSO NEED TO BE GIVEN A RICH SUPPLY OF GOSPEL ASSURANCE TO ENCOURAGE THEIR SOULS TO OBEY GOD. PP. 121-122

- VI. BOTH SCRIPTURE AND EXPERIENCE SHOW YOU THAT GOD ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO LIVE HOLY LIVES BY FIRST ASSURING THEM OF THE GRACE HE HAS GIVEN THEM IN THE GOSPEL. P. 122-123

"ON THE WHOLE, THE ASSURANCE OF THE GOSPEL ESTABLISHES AND MAINTAINS HOLY LIVING." P. 122

- VII. LOOK AT PEOPLE WHO DO NOT BELIEVE THEY MUST RECEIVE THE ASSURANCE OF THE GOSPEL BEFORE THEY OBEY. PP. 123-124

"IF ASSURANCE DEPENDS UPON YOUR ABILITY TO DO GOOD WORKS, THEN ALL TRUE SPIRITUAL ASSURANCE WILL TOTALLY DISAPPEAR FROM THE EARTH. NO SALVATION WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR ANYONE. THIS IS WHAT THE LAW REQUIRES OF PEOPLE- WORK TO GAIN YOUR ASSURANCE OF ACCEPTANCE WITH GOD. THE LAW BRINGS ABOUT NO COMFORT, BUT ONLY WRATH (ROMANS 4:14-15)." P. 123

"A DEPRESSING, UNCOMFORTING GOSPEL CANNOT COME FROM GOD THE FATHER, WHO IS THE 'FATHER OF MERCIES, AND THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT' (II CORINTHIANS 1:3). AN UNCOMFORTING GOSPEL CANNOT COME FROM CHRIST, WHO IS THE 'CONSOLATION OF ISRAEL' (LUKE 2:25). AN UNCOMFORTING GOSPEL CANNOT COME FROM THE SPIRIT, WHO IS 'THE COMFORTER' (JOHN 14:16-17)." P. 124

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