

God's Provision

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Many professing Christians today expect to get to Heaven through the Atonement of Christ, without obeying the commands of the New Testament. That is a real delusion from Satan. God's Word says that to be ready for Heaven we will have to be on scriptural grounds in everything and fully obedient to the Word of God as written in the New Testament. The Bible covers every phase and detail of the human life. It is very important to know God's plan and provision for our obedience.

When Adam fell into sin by listening to Satan and rejecting God's Word, he lost all power to obey God, or to trust Him. Every person born since that time has been born in the same condition—absolutely ignorant of God. Everyone has been obsessed with the idea that they can live a righteous life in their own strength, without God's help. That is the real seat of sin.

Every trouble that has come into this world, or into our life, has been the result of having our own way and going by our own ideas, shutting God out of our lives. Our God is merciful and has been working to bring us back to Himself. He has made a provision for us to come back, our sins forgiven, our hearts to be cleansed and to be filled with His righteousness.

The Blood of Jesus Christ has given us the right to have every blessing we need and desire as a free gift, without any merit or human effort on our part. The first thing God had to do in restoring His righteousness to us was to reveal to us that we had no righteousness of our own. He had to expose the false idea, or delusion, that we could live an overcoming life by our own efforts. He began with Abraham, then He gave the Law to the children of Israel at Mount Sinai, after they came out of Egypt.

The Law covered every phase of the human life, it was God's will concerning every part of their life, and then He told them that if they obeyed it—which was in their own strength—the greatest blessings of every kind would come into their life. If they disobeyed it, curses of the most dreadful kind would come to them. God gave them the greatest incentive that He could give to a created being, to obey that Word. Man started out to

obey God in his own strength and found out that it could not be done. He could not even obey the first commandment, which is, Matthew 22:37, *“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”*

The next important command is, Matthew 22:39-40, *“Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”* Jesus said upon those two commands the entire Bible was founded. Anyone who obeyed those two commands would be thoroughly scriptural.

Man started out to do his best, but the Jewish nation throughout its entire history did everything else but to love God with all their heart. They loved the idols and the gods of the land where they went to possess and got into such idolatry that God had to send them all into captivity.

Then some of them came back, but they did still worse—they murdered God's only Son. Instead of loving God with all their hearts, the law age ended in the terrible climax of murdering Jesus Christ, hating God so much they murdered His Son. That is as far away from loving God as it is possible to be. That shows that the carnally minded person hates God with all their heart and cannot do otherwise. They are under the control of Satan and Satan hates God, so anyone under his control could not be otherwise.

When man committed that greatest crime ever committed of murdering God's Son, he reached the climax of disobedience and rebellion. That proved that man was utterly powerless and helpless to obey God in his own strength.

This is the great difference between the Law and the Gospel. The Law was to be obeyed in human strength, under the Gospel we are to obey the commands of the New Testament just as strictly, but with this difference—we are to obey in God's strength altogether. It is the plan of obedience; If we take the Law, plan of obedience, into the Gospel, we will fail. When we take God's plan of obedience into the gospel, we will be able to live an overcoming life, love God with all our heart and love our neighbor as ourself.

The Gospel plan is that we are to obey the teachings of the New Testament in God's strength, and it is a very sensible and reasonable plan that God uses, even

from a human standpoint. If a person is obsessed with a wrong idea, the only way anyone can help them out is to let them try it to the limit, and when they have tried and proved it for themselves and have failed, they will be convinced that their way is wrong.

The Gospel, or the New Testament, is to be obeyed in God's strength just as strictly and carefully as any law that God ever gave in the Old Testament, and it is just as necessary for us to obey it to get to Heaven and to get every other blessing in this life, as it was to get any other blessing under the Law.

The only wise and safe plan for anyone to follow is what God has mapped out in the New Testament and it is absolutely necessary that we obey it to the letter, if we ever expect to get what God has for us in this life, as well as for Eternity. There is only one place of perfect protection and that is found in this pathway. And this is also the only pathway to Heaven.

Matthew 7:13-14, Jesus said to—*“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”*

The “straight and narrow way” that Jesus speaks of is that we are to be on Scriptural grounds in everything. If we were found in an unscriptural position when Jesus comes, we would not be ready to meet Him. If we are found when Jesus comes, with anything in our heart against anyone, it doesn't matter what desperate thing they have done to us, we will not be ready to meet Him. This may seem strange to some people, but if we do not meet wrongs that are done to us, we will not be ready to meet Jesus. If we would get into a tough battle physically, financially, or in anything else, and we compromised with God's Truth, we would go straight to the Lake of Fire, if we did not repent of it.

If we cannot trust God for the little things of this life, we could never trust Him throughout the endless ages of eternity, for our spiritual needs. Jesus tells us in plain language that if we are not faithful in that which is least—which is money—we will never be faithful in that which is much, which is our spiritual life.

Luke 16:10-11, *“He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the*

least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?" If we have not been faithful in that which is another man's (the money God allows to pass through our hands), how can He entrust to us that which is our own, which is eternal life?

Verse 12, "And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?" Then He goes on to say in vs 9, "Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations."

Then we are told, James 1:12 just how we are to meet the various trials and temptations that cross our path. (Vs 12) *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.*

To give a literal translation of that verse, it would read, "Happy, very happy, is the man who meets his trials and goes through them in a scriptural way, for when he has stood every test successfully, he will receive the crown of eternal life, which God will give to all those who love Him."

If anyone was in a serious physical battle and thought God would not help them and compromised by using some human means of some kind to get help, they would never get eternal life, although, God in His great mercy, will always give people like that a chance to repent, but it must be a real repentance.

This is illustrated in the lives of King Saul and David. Both had compromise in their hearts. David got rid of it, but Saul never did, and as far as the Bible seems to reveal, Saul never made eternal life. God gave both of them many chances to repent. David took advantage of God's mercy, but Saul rejected it.

Our obedience is to be in God's strength. God never asked anyone to obey His Word in their own strength. Any obedience to God in our own strength will be a curse instead of a blessing. This is brought out clearly, 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not

charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

He means that if we did all this and were not controlled by divine love, or if it was all done in our own strength and according to human plans and ways, it would not do us the least good. That is God's plan in the New Testament; the important thing for us is to NOT to do things in our own strength and by our own efforts. We are to see that we have Jesus Christ enthroned within us, and that God's righteousness is there before we ever attempt to obey any part of the New Testament. That is God's teaching all through the New Testament, we are to be sure we have God's love in our hearts first of all.

Solomon, who was under the Law, said in Proverbs 4:23, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Then Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

There are two things that are necessary to get the love of God in us. The first is real repentance; the second is real faith in God. This is not just an arbitrary choice, but it is absolutely necessary in order to receive it. No one can do anything for another person without their consent or surrender of their will.

We have the power of choice. If we want God's power to work for us, we need to go about it the same way we would with any other personal dealings with man. The Blood of Christ is the merit and has paid for the use of God's entire power and resources. 2 Peter 1:3, "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:" Romans 8:32, "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"

The moment we surrender our will to God's will and accept His easy conditions, His power will begin to work for us, and all our efforts are laid aside. 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

That means we are to acknowledge that our ways and plans are wrong and give up our own way of living

to please God and accept His will and plans. When we have confessed our sins and have been really and truly willing to give up our ways and accept God's ways, from that moment we are to believe that we have a clean heart and are really cleansed from all unrighteousness. We are then in a position to, (as Romans 6:11 tells us) "reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Then we can believe that we are righteous, and that we are holy and acceptable unto God and that Christ has come into our life. Romans 12:1, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

As long as we maintain an attitude as Paul did, "That Christ is dwelling in our hearts by faith," such a choice will enable us to live an overcoming life and obey the entire New Testament. But if for one moment we allow Satan to convince us that we are not forgiven and cleansed and we are not "dead indeed unto sin and living for God through our union with Jesus Christ," we will begin to fail, because we are looking at our weaknesses and failures and will try to obey God in our own strength, as they did under the Law.

The most important thing for us is to maintain on the authority of God's Word alone, a clean heart and that we have the righteousness of God in us. Romans 10:10, "for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness."

Satan's aim is to convince us that we do not have a clean heart and that we are not "dead indeed unto sin." Our hope of Heaven depends upon believing our hearts are clean and that we have God's righteousness, solely on the authority of God's Word and through the Blood of Jesus Christ. We must "fight the good fight of faith," by refusing to accept any suggestions of doubt that come into our mind, which are direct from the devil.

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