

# Obedient Children



**D**isobedience to God is the root cause of all the hurt and pain that is in the world today. Adam's disobedience in the Garden of Eden brought the entrance of sin into the world, and man was driven out of paradise to forever have his existence in an earth which was cursed because of sin. The Apostle Paul addressed this issue to the Romans, writing, *"Wherefore, as by **one man** sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned"* Romans 5:12. That *"one man"* was the first man Adam. The apostle expands on this, saying *"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so **by the obedience** of one shall many be **made righteous**"* Romans 5:19. Notice there is a second *"one man"* in this verse. Paul said to the Corinthians, *"The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven"* I Corinthians 15:47. Paul continues in the next verse, *"As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly"* I Corinthians 15:48. The first man Adam was disobedient, and **was capable of disobedience** even before he disobeyed God. The second man was the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was *"obedient...even to the death of the cross"* Philippians 2:8.

When God created Adam in His image and after His likeness, He gave him a "free will," which means Adam could choose which course of life to take. As a test for man, God placed two trees in the midst of the Garden of Eden; the tree of life, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Only one commandment was given to Adam, and that was to not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, *"for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"* Genesis 2:17. We know the record, that Adam disobeyed God, with the result that through his disobedience, *"sin entered into the world, and death by sin"* Romans 5:12. It was through Adam's disobedience that *"many were made sinners"* Romans 5:19. In this we clearly see that Adam was **capable of disobedience** even before he disobeyed. If Adam had eaten from the tree of life, I believe the tree of knowledge of good and evil would have been removed from the garden and

the serpent would have been banished forever. The one commandment would have been fulfilled, and the entire earth today would be the paradise of God, inhabited with obedient children of God. Instead, through the disobedience of Adam, the entire heavens and earth were cursed by sin, and must come to their end. The Apostle Peter described in detail what that "end" shall be:

*"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which **the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.**"* II Peter 3:10

*"Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for **new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.**"* II Peter 3:13

The promise of a new heavens and a new earth was first given through the prophet Isaiah: *"For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind"* Isaiah 65:17. It will be a *"new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness."* The inhabitants will be those whom Christ has *"made righteous"* Romans 5:19. They will have no sin, and will not be "capable" of disobedience. If this were not so, the new heavens and new earth would become as sinful and corrupt as is this present evil world.

All the promises of redemption are true to those who abide *"in Christ."* Sadly, many having once known Christ, do not abide in him. This will not be the case in the *"new heavens and new earth."* Its inhabitants will spend eternity *"in Christ."* We see the glory of abiding *"in Christ"* when we consider the effect on those who abide in him today.

*"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for **his seed** (those born of God) **remaineth** (abide) in him (Christ): and **he cannot sin**, because he is born of God."* I John 3:9

This is, without a doubt, one of the most misunderstood verses in the New Testament. The words *"cannot sin"* are a great stumbling block to those who

continued on next page

are merely religious, but to those who are “born of God” and “abide in Christ” I John 3:6, they are the source of glorious liberty to love and serve God. The word “cannot” as translated from the Greek is defined as “absolutely not able or possible.” When the Law says we “cannot sin,” it is a commandment with severe penalties attached for those who we do sin. On the other hand, when the gospel says those who are born of God “cannot sin,” it speaks of the disability of those who “abide in Christ” to continue in sin. This disability is produced by a lack of sin in the heart, which sin is taken away from those who abide in Christ.

It is important to understand the difference between what man calls sin and what God calls sin. The scribes and Pharisees had a “sin-test” which not even Jesus could pass. They said, “We know that this man is a sinner” John 9:24. His sin? He had healed a blind man on the Sabbath day. You will never pass the “sin test” given by man. The scripture is very clear concerning the sins a child of God who abides in Christ “cannot” do.

The Apostle Paul listed ten things a person cannot be and enter the new heavens and new earth. He said, “Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God” I Corinthians 6:9-10. Paul also gave the remedy: “And such were some of you: but ye are washed (by blood Revelation 5:1), but ye are **sanctified** (by blood Hebrews 13:12), but ye are justified (by blood Romans 5:9) *in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God*” I Corinthians 6:11.

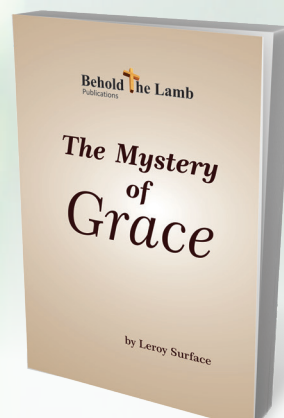
To the Galatians, Paul listed seventeen things a person **cannot do**; they are, “...adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God” Galatians 5:19-21. Furthermore, Paul said, “Let no man deceive you with vain words: for **because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience**” Ephesians 5:6.

Consider that a turtle does not have the ability to fly. It does not abstain from flying through effort, but

through inability. It is the same concerning the things which the apostles said those who abide in Christ “cannot” do. John told us Christ “...was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not...” I John 3:5-6. The scripture is clear! Since Christ came to take away our sin, those who abide in him do not sin. They cannot because sin has been taken away, out of their heart and out of their nature.

Peter says we are the “elect, according to the foreknowledge of God...” I Peter 1:2. The New Covenant “elect” are those who are “born of God” and “conformed to the image of His Son” Romans 8:29. They are “obedient children” I Peter 1:14, and not as Adam, who was disobedient. God is their Father, and they are holy because their Father in heaven is holy I Peter 1:15-17. Disobedience has no place in those who abide in Christ, just as the children of disobedience will have no place in the new heavens and new earth. Those who were once “the children of disobedience” Ephesians 2:2 have been sanctified “unto obedience” by the same sacrifice of the Son of God that has saved us from sin.

*“Only one life will soon be past; only what’s done **by** Christ will last.”*



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