

## “Teach them to Observe”

“Teach them to observe (especially with attention to details and behavior, to watch carefully) all that I have commanded you...” (Mt 28:20). This is for the purpose of arriving at a judgment. “Teach them to observe” also meant to conform one’s actions and practice to the commandments. That means those taught have to comply with the commandments of Messiah. One is to inspect one’s work and attitude, taking note of them as an augury — something that is experienced as indicating important things to come. Our course is set with the aim of future rulership in the coming Kingdom. This is so that our Master can have a proper Kingdom (Rev 1:6; 5:9; 3:21; 20:4-6; 22:5).

You can get a foretaste by a person’s attitude of whether he will be worthy of Messiah in the next age (Phil 2:5 and Rev 3:4). You can tell by His countenance upon His servant (Num 6:26), who will have the same countenance.

Rom 10:16 – Obeyed and believed, believed and obeyed. The essential part of the gospel is first to believe. This must happen before the commands of the gospel test one’s belief. No one can believe by hearing the second part first. Both are the essential aspects of the gospel.

There is, however, the essential gospel. An example of this 1 Cor 15:1-4, which contains the whole gospel:

*Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Messiah died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. (1 Cor 15:1-4)*

These verses cover both the essential facts of the gospel that one must believe and the commands one must obey to validate or authenticate and ratify his profession of belief, as 1 Cor 15:3 says, “First of all, that which I received...” This is as Rom 10:9-10, which is what one must believe in his heart (which happens by the reception of the

persuasion by the hearing of the gospel, Rom 10:14-17). Rom 10:16, however, speaks of obedience – for if one believes the gospel he or she will obey it.

The last words of Messiah to His apostles to be recorded are Mt 28:18-20. “So, make disciples, teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you.” *Teach* is #3100 in verse 19, and in verse 20 *teach* is #1321. To *observe* takes discipline, training, commands, and exhortation. They were to teach the disciples to observe, or obey, all that He commanded them to observe or obey (Acts 2:37-41). *Observe* (#5083) is to keep, observing as commands, ordinances, and traditions (2 Ths 2:15; 3:6). Disciples are to keep the commandments until the end, by which they are saved (Mt 24:13). Lk 14:26-33 confirms their belief (Jn 2:23).

Mt 28:19 in the NKJV is simple, stating that they are to “Go, therefore, and *make disciples...*” instead of “Go and teach all nations (or Gentiles)...” They were to *disciple* them by training, teaching, and correction, etc., even as 2 Tim 4:2, where Paul commanded his disciple Timothy (whom he called his *son* in the faith, 1 Tim 1:2).

### **They Heard and Believed (at Pentecost)**

Jn 18:37 – Why did He come humanly and spiritually into the world? (Jn 10:14,16,29). The gospel is:

1. The *essential* knowledge about Him and what He did;
2. The commandments He gave in order to establish a community of disciples to form a nation (Mt 21:43).

That is why He told them to teach the disciples to observe all things He had commanded them. The word *observe* means that the apostles are to make sure that these same commandments are kept by the new disciples they make (Jn 14:15,21). If they didn't, then Jn 14:24 would be theirs. The word *observe* is to guard, hold fast, keep, and obey (Jn 13:17).

Mt 28:20 – “Teaching them” means commanding them to obey all the things that He commanded His disciples, or taught them, and they obeyed, i.e., Mk 10:28-30, which are to be obeyed as all the other commandments He gave them to keep. If they, and all whom they commanded *observed* His commandments, then they could no longer live as they had been (going to church on Sundays, to put it in modern terms), but would form a community all to themselves (Jn 12:25-26). Jn 17:15-16 — They would be in the world, but not of it, as a community and not as individuals. And they were to be one (Jn 17:11,12,21-23).

So in Mt 28:18-20, *teach* is:

- #3100 in verse 19, “make disciples”
- #1320 in verse 20, “teaching them to obey”

all that they heard in the presentation of the comprehensive gospel. They heard and believed, and by gladly receiving the “many other words” they validated their belief in the Savior (Acts 2:37,40,41). So they were as Acts 2:44 says — all who believed after hearing the many other words were together and had all things in common. They began a whole new culture in the environment of the community (Acts 2:42) as disciples.

Mt 28:19 — “To teach” is #3100 and “to be a disciple” is #3101. So what were the apostles to do? Go teach all nations, or go make disciples of nations? #3100 is to disciple the follower. It is to make a disciple and to instruct. This word in Mt 28:19, *teach* or *make disciples*, does not mean, whatsoever, just to learn or be taught or “be disciplined” without any attachment to the teacher who teaches. It actually means not only to learn but also to become attached to one’s teacher and become his follower in doctrine and conduct (1 Ths 2:14; Acts 2:42; 1 Jn 1:3). It means to live in a place where one can be taught night and day. It means to be an adherent who accepts the instruction given to him and makes it his rule of conduct, as John’s disciples did (Mt 11:2; Mk 2:18,23; Lk 5:33; 7:18; Jn 3:25). Our Master had disciples. They were His adherents who made His

teaching the basis of their life’s work and invited all those who believed to take up their cross and follow Him (Mk 10:21; Mt 8:1; 9:19; 14:22; Lk 14:26,27,33; Jn 9:27; 15:8).

So according to Lk 14:26-27 and likewise Lk 14:33, does anyone who is *not* a disciple have eternal life? (Mk 10:17). He commanded His disciples to go make disciples, teaching them to obey all He commanded them. This is what made them into disciples, as in our Master’s words, “No one can be My disciple unless...” (Lk 14:26,27,33, etc.), as He told the rich young ruler in Mk 10:17,21,28-30, and this is eternal life (1 Jn 2:3-6). 1 Jn 1:3 – They believed in the same one that John believed in (Jn 13:20).

1 Jn 2:18,22 – “Anti-Christ” includes those whose lives in the community deny the life of Messiah. They profess that Messiah lives in them, but they rally to the call to leave and then come against the Body, to try to discredit it (because it is a threat to Satan, who actually controls them, to try to frustrate Heb 10:13). They deny the Father and Son and Holy Spirit who dwells in the disciples (1 Jn 2:26).

### **Romans 10:16**

No one can obey the commands of Messiah in order to believe in Him. The commands are there to prove our belief in Him and to take us to the conclusion of His will on earth in this age (Isa 53:10). The gospel is the good news of the Kingdom, His reign, as a witness on the earth (Mt 24:14; Jn 13:35; 17:23). This life provokes the questioning of 1 Pet 3:15 by the demonstration of 1 Pet 2:12. It is something to *behold*.

The pearl is the gospel of the Kingdom (Rom 10:16).

1 Pet 4:17 – Again that day of judgment draws near.

How can anyone “obey the command to believe in Christ” as a footnote in a Bible asks? That is what “obey the gospel” means to them, as they would think that is what Acts 16:31 means. But to obey the gospel means that the essential aspects must be heard first. Then the many other words must be heard to confirm the faith or belief. That trust is the seal of Eph 1:13, which determines who receives the Holy Spirit according to Acts

5:32. Those who will not keep His commands – not obeying Him or the gospel – will experience the wrath of God (Jn 3:36; 2 Ths 1:8).

Gen 26:5; Rom 6:17; 10:16 – If one *believes* the report, he will also *obey* the gospel (Acts 2:40-41). Jn 3:18-19,36 – Whoever believes obeys the gospel. But those who do not believe do not obey the gospel (Jn 3:18), and the wrath of God abides upon them. These who say they believe but do not obey the gospel are all liars – for they claim to know Him but do not obey His commandments (1 Jn 2:3-6,9-11). “Hate” means they do not love (1 Jn 4:20). To ignore a brother is the highest form of hatred, especially one in need (1 Jn 3:17).

1 Jn 5:10-13 — The life is the witness that cannot be refuted or discredited. But we have enemies from without and from within. Ex 23:20-24; Heb 10:13; Gen 15:18-21; 18:19 – Enemies of the cross will try to refute it and discredit it, but the witness cannot be put out from “without” – only from “within.” Rev 2:4-5 or 3:4-5 or 3:16 – “Because you are lukewarm I will vomit you out of My mouth.” And because you say you are “ok” and do not seek Him, but have forsaken Him, He will forsake you (1 Chr 28:9). But there is an alternative: Rev 3:19-22; 2 Tim 2:12; and Rom 8:17.