



GLOBAL GRACE NEWS

GGN is a teaching resource for ministers and churches all over the world. We advocate the gospel of the grace of Jesus Christ - Jesus alone, grace alone, faith alone. Our purpose is twofold: to help the Church rediscover Jesus and to take this message to the world.

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## Programming your *heart*

Welcome to the start of a new, prosperous year with Global Grace News! We are grateful to realize that increasingly more fellow laborers in Christ are joining GGN. Every teaching article on this website will point us towards Jesus, and remind us of what we already have in Him. It is important for all of us to succeed and flourish in life, and our desire at GGN is to share with you the gems we have discovered from the Word of God.

Your heart is your inward person - your spirit and soul in combination. A life is much like a tree; the root is the heart and the fruit depicts life's situations and circumstances. Just as when we eat the fruit of the tree, it tastes sweet or sour, so do the circumstances of our life. In His teaching about the heart Jesus says: "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things"(Matthew 12:35).

# GOOD NEWS *Obedience*



By Scott McIntyre

## Paul warns about disobedience. But what does it mean to obey the Lord? Let's have a new look at the good news about obedience!

Obedience has certainly been the topic of many sermons over the years. From fire and brimstone threats for disobedience, to promises of great reward for those who obey, preachers have proclaimed their views concerning obedience to God's Word.

Is it important to obey God's Word? Certainly it is. But what is the word from God that we are to obey?

### Israel's disobedience

In Hebrews 3 we read a reflection

upon part of Israel's history which was first recorded in Numbers 13 and 14. During the time of Moses, God told Israel that He would enable them to enter the Promised Land by giving them victory over the nations that opposed them. The people, however, after hearing what they perceived to be a terrifying report about the strength of the other nations, refused to enter the land. In spite of God's promise and unlimited ability, Israel refused to trust His Word. Consider the result of Israel's lack of trust:

"...to whom did He (God) swear that they would not

“Treasure” denotes something hidden. Jesus’ message is obvious - good or evil things can be hidden in the heart, and whatever is in the heart affects our life. If we want a good life, we need to make sure that our heart has a good treasure.

We know our thoughts are important, but what makes us think what we think – our heart. Look at this sequence:

Programming > Thoughts > Words > Action > Results

All of us want good results, but good results are preceded by positive actions. Fruitful actions are preceded by wise words, which in turn are preceded by godly thoughts. The thoughts, however, are the result of the programming in our hearts. In the light of God’s Word, the way our heart is programmed determines our life.

God’s people can prosper even when the world is speaking defeat, negativity and collapse. The worst of times become the best of times with God! Make sure your heart is filled with a good treasure. With God, these are the best of times for you!

God bless you,

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enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief” (Hebrews 3:18-19).

The first thing we need to note is that God equates unbelief with disobedience. For Israel, not trusting in God’s promise and ability was disobedience.

Now what about us? The usual sermon about obedience includes commandments that the preacher thinks the people are not obeying. But in light of God equating belief with obedience, our actions are not the first place where obedience must occur. Where then does obedience begin? Actually, it is the same place where everything in our relationship with God begins - THE GOSPEL!

## Believing is obeying

The earliest recorded message we have from Jesus’ ministry is found in Mark 1:15: “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” Now go back to Hebrews. We noted earlier that, because of unbelief/disobedience, Israel did not enter the Promised Land and the corresponding rest from their enemies that God had promised. Well, in the same context, God went on to say that His rest is still available to people, and “we who have believed do enter that rest” (Hebrews 4:3). Believed what? The Gospel of the Lord Jesus. In fact we are exhorted to “be diligent to enter that rest, let anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience” (Hebrews 4:11). If Israel’s unbelief was called disobedience, then belief on their part would have been obedience. The same is true for you and me today. When we believe the Gospel,

“GOD EQUATES UNBELIEF WITH DISOBEDIENCE”

we are obeying God. To not believe the Gospel is disobedience just like Israel exhibited.

## Obeying the Truth of the Gospel

Consider the Galatians when Paul wrote to address a drastic problem. They had received the Gospel; they had received the freedom of Christ and were in fact “running well” (Galatians 5:7a). But something happened - they had come under the influence of religion. They had been “bewitched” into mixing Jesus (grace) with human performance (legalism). And what did Paul have to say about it? “Who hindered you from obeying the truth?” (Galatians 5:7b). If the Galatians were not obeying, they must have been disobeying. And what were they disobeying? The truth of the Gospel. Paul did not write to them about any commandments they were violating, or any traditions they weren’t keeping. He wrote to them about standing “in the liberty by which Christ has made us free” (Galatians 5:1). For the Galatians, and for us today, obeying God was and is a matter of believing the Gospel. Christ has put away our sin; He alone is our righteousness. He lives in us and we are one with Him. Obey God! How? By following a list of

“OUR ACTIONS ARE NOT THE FIRST PLACE WHERE OBEDIENCE MUST OCCUR.”

“ TRUSTING SOLELY IN THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD JESUS AND ACKNOWLEDGING HIS PRESENCE WITHIN US WILL NEVER INSPIRE US TO SIN ”

commandments? No. By believing the Gospel of the grace of God.

Now, what I have just shared might make some people a bit nervous. So I will share this thought: trusting solely in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus and acknowledging His presence within us will never inspire us to sin. Instead, the more we consider Jesus and grow in our understanding of Him, the more responsive we will be to Him at every moment of every day. And Jesus will always lead us in the way that is right.

Consider the subject of forgiveness, for example. The majority of Christian people in the world today would agree that it is important for us to forgive other people when we feel that we have been wronged. I certainly agree with that belief. In fact, unforgiveness on my part would be equally damaging, if not more so to me than it would be to the person I was refusing to forgive. Forgiving others is certainly an important

part of our lives. And the Gospel is our source of help when we need to forgive: "... as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also

“ WHEN WE BELIEVE THE GOSPEL, WE ARE OBEYING GOD. ”

must do" (Colossians 3:12-13). What will help us forgive others? Believing (i.e. obeying) the good news that God, in Christ, has forgiven us.

We can apply the same truth to every aspect of our lives. The Gospel declares that you are righteous in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:21, Romans 5:17). Therefore, believe that because of Jesus your relationship with God is perfect and unbroken. Nothing you do can make God stop loving you, and there is nothing you need to do to improve your relationship with Him. He loves you. He is ever present with you. He has made all things right between you and Him. Relax and enjoy the fellowship of the Lord Jesus.

The Gospel declares that by the stripes Jesus bore on His body you have been healed (1 Peter 2:24).

Therefore, live as a person who has been healed and made whole.

The Gospel declares that God, through Jesus, has reconciled the world to Himself and He is not holding people's sins against them (2 Corinthians 5:19). Therefore, we have no need to be critical of people who have yet to trust in Jesus.

Instead we are ambassadors for God with a good news invitation to deliver to every person.

Jesus will always lead us in the way that is right and enable us to live in that way.

Is it important to obey God? Absolutely. Therefore, believe the Gospel!



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# Christ

## After the Resurrection

By Åge Åleskjær

After the Resurrection people did not recognize Jesus until He revealed to them who He was. Jesus wants us too to know Him as the risen Jesus.

“Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Cor. 5:16-17).

“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.” (John 14:19:20).

To know Christ after the resurrection is a fantastic dimension of being born-again. John 14:20

reveals that Jesus is not only speaking about the immediate appearance that happened during the forty days between the resurrection and the ascension. But here He is speaking about us “seeing Him” when we live under the New Covenant - “in that day” when the Spirit has come and Jesus has ascended to heaven.

2 Cor. 5:16-17 makes this even clearer. Paul speaks about knowing Christ in another way than what they had - those who had known Him according to the flesh.

Jesus promises to manifest Himself to those who love Him (John 14:21). And therefore we can say that, “truly our

fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:3).

### The Resurrection

Without the resurrection our faith is nothing. “And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty” (1 Cor. 15:14).

“And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished” (1 Cor. 15:17-18).

The resurrection is central in the faith that saves. “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him

“It is in the resurrection that Jesus is declared to be the Son of God with power”

from the dead, you will be saved” (Rom. 10:9).

Tradition has not given the resurrection the right attention. Many people have not understood that we are born anew through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Pet. 1:3). It was in the resurrection that Jesus became the firstborn among many brethren (Rom. 8:19). It is in the resurrection that Jesus is declared to be the Son of God with power (Rom. 1:4). It is when the resurrection takes place that this Word is fulfilled: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You” (Acts 13:33 and Heb. 1:5).

It is in the resurrection that we were “created in Christ Jesus.” The new creation is directly connected to the resurrection.

### Jesus of the 40 Days

It is exciting to study Jesus during the forty days after the

resurrection before the ascension.

Those who used to know Him in the flesh did not recognize Him anymore. That is because one could not know Him in that way any longer (2 Cor. 4:16). So the world saw Jesus the last time when He hung on the cross. Those who lived and moved in the physical, human realm did not see Him anymore.

He had risen with a physical body, but it was a glorious body. This is why they did not recognize Him.

Mary thought it was the gardener. The two travelling to Emmaus thought He was an ignorant stranger, and the disciples wanted to ask Him, “Who are you?” when they met Him at the seashore.

Revelation was a must to recognize Jesus after the resurrection. Suddenly Mary

saw that it was the Master. Suddenly the eyes of the two travelling to Emmaus were opened and they saw it was He. And John said when He saw Jesus on the shore, “It is the Lord!”

### An Example To Us

Catch this glorious revelation: when Jesus showed up in the garden at the tomb, He showed up as a normal person. He pretended to be a gardener. At a certain point He revealed who He really was. When He walked with the “Emmaus disciples,” He pretended to be an ignorant stranger, but He expounded to them on all the Scriptures.

At the seashore He grilled fish, and appeared to be a normal man in charge of the barbeque—a role most men can relate to.

*But in reality He was the Son of God!*

At the right moment He revealed to them who He was. This is a hint to us in how we can practice to live as people of God here in this world. We are the children of God; we have been raised with Him and are seated with Him in heavenly places. It is no longer we who live, but Christ lives in us. We are as He is in the midst of this

“Revelation was a must to recognize Jesus after the resurrection”

“ At the right moment He revealed to them who He was. ”

world.

But we have to pretend that we are completely normal human beings! We must not be too quick to disclose who we really are. We have to act like a normal gardener, a normal person barbquing, and an interested listener to news being told.

Then the right opportunity will be given for you to reveal who you really are!

### To Know the Risen One

Jesus wants us to know Him as the risen Jesus! He is no longer on the cross. Those who have not gotten hold of the resurrection only carry a crucifix with a dead Jesus on it.

We know that He lives, and we see Him; because He lives, we live! There is communication and contact in the land of the living. The Holy Spirit will introduce you to the Risen One. It changes your life.

You will discover what it means when the Spirit, who raised Jesus from the dead, dwells in you. He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you (Rom. 8:11).

You will discover that the life of Jesus is revealed in your mortal body. It gives vitality, health, and energy in a supernatural way. Jesus lives in you.

### Healing

The faith in the Risen One heals the sick.

It was the fact that Jesus had risen from the dead that healed the lame man in Jerusalem (Acts 3:16 and 4:7-12). It is when the life of Jesus is revealed in our mortal bodies that the healing anointing flows. It is the power of the resurrection that gives life to our mortal bodies through His Spirit. It is all about being conscious of the Risen One.

### Personal

Dr. T.L. Osborn explains that what changed his life and ministry was meeting the risen Jesus.

He tells that he saw Jesus in the ministry of another man. A

“ It is the power of the resurrection that gives life to our mortal bodies through His Spirit. ”

man who performed signs and wonders in the name of Jesus opened his eyes to the living Jesus.

Then Jesus revealed Himself to him. Jesus stood in his room from about 6:00 a.m. in the morning. Dr. T.L. Osborn says, “When you get to see Jesus, you will never be the same again.” And, last but not least, he saw Him in His Word.

Paul is again and again testifying about his meeting with the risen Jesus.

I am so happy that I met the living Son of God. On January 29, 1970 He revealed Himself to me over the rooftops in a small town in Norway, and I got a firsthand experience that He is the One baptizing in the Holy Spirit.

Since that time I have lived with the consciousness that He lives in me. He lives His life through me, and His life is revealed in my body.

When you meet the Risen One, you will never be the same again!



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## I Thought I Understood The Message

"God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble." This was the kind of scripture I would not do without, especially when I wanted to really pin people down based on what they hadn't done in order to be accepted by God. Anything that made people feel inadequate and inferior was like a great revelation that I often shared.

### STRUGGLING TO BE WORTHY

What humbleness meant to me was all about how it looked from the outward. What grace meant to me was so limited; it was just about the ability to endure trouble. I would sometimes relate this to moments of worship where people sobbed and cried, and looked like they were just so desperate. In this way I would teach on worship and, of course, quote some Psalms of David like "I am desperate for you lord" and such. Each time people looked desperate in a way it seemed like this was a clear sign of the perfect glory of God manifested among us. The more I made it hard for people, the more I felt like I was true to the "gospel." It made it worse when times,

situations or moments in life became tough for people. One could easily relate to the feeling that God prepares people the hard way. Sometimes we would relate the things we've gone through to the manifestation of the glory of God in our lives. No wonder many like me are sometimes found ensnared by these dangerous thoughts - thinking that the anointing of God in our lives is directly proportional to what we had done and encountered in life. Like if we had gone through hardships in life, we would get a stronger anointing.

Having been born in a preacher's family, I have seen the struggles of my parents while we grew up. We would go without food and school fees. Being the firstborn in this kind of setting was never easy. Sometimes I would be handed over to family friends because my parents just couldn't afford the expenses. My health would deteriorate because of food deficiency diseases and being bitten by Gingers all over my feet and hands. All of this was like another great gauge for the worthy vessel of being God's servant - no place to sleep except in the same shade with the goats; no blanket to cover with

“What grace meant to me was so limited; it was just about the ability to endure trouble”

except sisal sack that worked as my sheet and blanket at the same time.

Well, when you have such a background and are now used by God, it's easy to think that you have gone through all that it takes to be made a true servant of God. This is how I felt. I always felt like other people had not gone through enough where they could be used by God, or maybe that they had just not paid a real price. I actually thought one earns a right to be used by God based on what they had done, seen or gone through. In other words, it's just like saying God squeezes people to nothing in order to

“I actually thought one earns a right to be used by God based on what they had done, seen or gone through.”

have them carry His message. No wonder some people brag of their life in Jesus in relation to what they have done. I thought I had paid a high enough price so, therefore, I would use phrases like "If you want to walk in the same anointing like I do, you must go through what I went through." I believed the lie that "The anointing doesn't come easily; you must work for it."

## WHAT JESUS HAS DONE

This is how I lived until the mystery of the Gospel was shown to me. It is the Gospel that helped me find my identity in Christ. My own works and my experience would no longer be a measure of my holiness or righteousness.

The Gospel, meaning "the good news of what Jesus has done," helped me realize that the essence of yielding to Christ is totally based on His grace revealed by love and goodness through the generations. Many people think it's all about how you work, how you talk and how you behave. But this basically means SELF DEPENDENCE.

Trying to do things on our own always denies us the opportunity to yield when issues of life storm against our desires. I then realized the Gospel is vital, for it is not about the power without but the power within that flows to the outward. The life of Jesus working through us is all in all to help us do every good work.

It is in Christ that I found the opportunity to yield and more so the ability to yield. To me this is nothing but grace where nothing of my own can stand as a price, for it is all about what He has done. God has given us an opportunity to depend on Jesus and He has also provided help to enable us to depend on Christ by His Spirit (2 Cor. 3:5-6).

## MINISTRY WITHOUT STRUGGLE

I now enjoy ministry more than ever. Ministry has become easier and without struggle. I can now enjoy serving at rest in what Jesus has already done. The burden of Christ is light and easy to carry. Even so in the ministry of reconciliation - it's not about

“ I can now enjoy serving at rest in what Jesus has already done. ”

what people have done but what Christ has done. God is not manipulating us to humility or forcing us to yield, but His goodness and mercy revealed to us and through us teaches us to walk hand in hand with Him throughout life.

More often I would think He was behind circumstances of life, like when I faced issues of poverty, relationship breakdowns and such. I would often think He wanted me to pay for His anointing, and I was looking for what I would have to do. The Gospel, as the power of God leading to salvation, reveals something so different. The price He paid on the cross is exceedingly incomparable. None of the things I thought could stand as a price compares to what JESUS has DONE. This is what brings about true change – the knowledge of who Jesus is and what He has done.

Knowing Christ is, therefore, based on Christ alone - not our works and deeds whether good or bad.



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“ None of the things I thought could stand as a price compares to what JESUS has DONE. ”