

Obeying the Gospel Call By Greg Rangel

As you read throughout the book of Acts, you cannot but see the importance of the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Apostles and disciples of the Lord dedicated their life and their death to the cause of it. They knew that there was nothing more important than having people hear the Gospel because they were so convinced that it alone was going to bring salvation to those who obeyed.

While in the presence of the religious leaders, Peter was commanded not to “... *speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said unto them, whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard*” (Acts 4:18b-20).

Peter knew that obeying God rather than man is what needed to be done. Otherwise, he would be in the wrong position. Peter being a politically incorrect individual in today’s terms, was not going to obey the commandments of men. It was Peter who had previously told the religious Jews that, “*Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved*” (Acts 4:10-12).

Peter and the rest of the Apostles and disciples of the Lord Jesus had the responsibility of preaching the Gospel to the lost. But what about those who heard them preach? Do they have any responsibility in obeying in what they heard? The author of Hebrews does teach that, “*Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip*” (Heb. 2:1).

The Greek word for ‘ought’ is *Deí* which means; ‘*must, necessary by the nature of things. Obligated to, morally or by virtue of personal obligation. An unavoidable, urgent compulsory necessity.*’ By that it is meant that we must give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard. We must embrace these things with all our heart and all our affection, our will, and not let them go. It is of great importance that we hold on to these things. We must keep them in our minds and conform our words and our actions to these things. If there is ever a strong warning it’s this one. We must give the more earnest heed “...*to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.*”

What things is the author of Hebrews talking about? Well, the author of Hebrews is talking about the Gospel and the Word of God. These are those things. How important it is that we pay attention to the Gospel of Jesus which we have heard. We need to. We must. We cannot afford not to pay attention!

Jesus Christ has done everything possible to save man. He willingly went to the cross to pay a penalty that He did not owe. He paid our debts. “*Surely he hath borne our griefs,*

and carried our sorrows ..But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed...the LORD laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Isa. 53:4-6).

Since Jesus knew that He must die for the sins of the world for the mere fact that there was no other way possible to bring salvation to humanity, how important is it for you and I to obey the Gospel call? Unfortunately for many it is not important at all. We live in a world in which people are too busy. They do not have any time for the Lord. They have much to do. And as it has been said by many, “why speak about death? That is too negative.” But we must obey the Gospel call. We cannot afford to ignore it. Receive Jesus today as your Lord and Savior. He will change not only your life, but also your eternal destiny.