

“Obey to Glorify and Honor the Father and Son—Part 2”

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By Dave Hahir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with my series. The title was “Obey to Glorify and Honor the Father and Son—Part 2.” This series is related to a presentation that I gave on Saturday, Oct. 18. In that presentation, I presented three reasons why we obey God.

Those three reasons were the following.

- To Be Blessed Now
- To Be Blessed at the Resurrection
- To Glorify and to Honor the Father and the Son

When I covered the concept of being blessed now, I gave two presentations. When I covered the concept of being blessed at the resurrection, I gave three presentations. When I now cover the concept of glorifying and honoring the Father and the Son, I anticipate giving three studies.

- Part 1 was about “The Father and Son Glorify and Honor Each Other.”
- Part 2 was about “The Father and Son Glorify and Honor Themselves Through Flawed People.”

Reminder

Here is what I mentioned in last week’s article: “Our obedience is valuable, but the following five concepts put our obedience in perspective.”

- Our obedience does *not* show how great we are.
- Our obedience reveals the power of God’s forgiveness.
- Our obedience reveals the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Our obedience is our opportunity to thank the Father and the Son.
- Our obedience is the opportunity to love God and to love people.

Our sinful nature

Let's notice some facts about our sinful nature in Romans 3.

- Romans 3:10—There are none who are righteous—no, not one.
- Romans 3:11—There are none who understand, and there are none who seek after God.
- Romans 3:12—They have all turned aside. They have together become unprofitable. There are none who do good—no, not one.”
- Romans 3:13-14—Their throat is an open tomb. With their tongues, they have practiced deceit. The poison of asps is under their lips. Their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.
- Romans 3:15—Their feet are swift to shed blood.
- Romans 3:16—Destruction and misery are in their ways.
- Romans 3:17—They have not known the way of peace.
- Romans 3:18—There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Eight famous examples

Consider how the following eight examples reveal how the Father and the Son glorify and honor Themselves through flawed people.

1. Noah got drunk (Genesis 9:21).
2. Abraham identified his wife as his sister—to Pharaoh (Genesis 12:11-18) and to Abimelech (Genesis 20:1-18). Some Bible students wonder if Genesis 20:13 shows that Abraham did this behavior on other occasions as well.
3. Isaac identified his wife as his sister to Abimelech (Genesis 26:7-11).
4. Rebekah hatched a plan to deceive her husband, Isaac, to steal Esau's blessing to be given to Jacob (Genesis 27:5-23).
5. Jacob followed Rebekah's plan to deceive his father, Isaac (Genesis 27:24-29), to steal Esau's blessing.
6. Moses explained how his anger caused the Lord to withhold a blessing (Deuteronomy 3:23-27).
7. David committed adultery (2 Samuel 11:2-4) and covered his sin by committing murder (2 Samuel 11:14-17).
8. Paul testified that he tormented saints, punished them and persecuted them (Acts 26:10-11).

Obvious question

Let me ask you—how did any of that behavior by people glorify and honor the Father and Son?

I am sure that Bible students would say: "It is what those people did after their sins that glorified and honored the Father and the Son."

I believe that statement to be true. But I believe that there is a greater part to the story.

I believe that those eight examples point more to the Father and Son glorifying and honoring Themselves through flawed people.

Let's return to Romans 3.

Blood and water

- Romans 3:19—The law identifies sins and reveals that all people are guilty.
- Romans 3:20—"No flesh will be justified in His sight by the deeds of the law."
- Romans 3:21—The righteousness of God (apart from the law) was revealed by the Law and the Prophets. Remember the book of Exodus.
- Exodus 12:7, 13—The Lord told Moses that they would be saved by the blood of the lamb.
- Exodus 12:22-23—Moses told the elders that they would be saved by the blood of the lamb.
- Exodus 14:24-29—This biblical account explained that the people were saved through water (picturing water baptism in the New Testament).
- Exodus 20:2—The Lord God explained that He saved them from slavery and bondage. (In verses 3-17, He gave them His expectations—but He saved them before He gave them His expectations.)

Passed over

Let's return again to Romans 3.

- Romans 3:24—Since all people have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, we are "justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."
- Romans 3:25—God set Christ as a propitiation by His blood—to demonstrate His righteousness—because in His forbearance, God had "passed over the sins that were previously committed."

Words and actions

Here is a fair question: How do people give glory and honor to God? People can give glory and honor to God by their words and their actions.

Here are some of the correct words.

- Saying thank you directly to the Father and Son.
- Expressing glory, honor and worship directly to the Father and Son.

- Publicly glorifying and honoring the Father and Son.

Here are some of the correct actions.

- Repenting
- Loving and serving the Father and Son.
- Loving people.

Who deserves the greater glory?

- It is certainly proper for people to respond with correct words and actions.
- But the greater action is when the Father and Son give salvation—as they glorify Themselves through flawed people.