

## Following the commandment of God?

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

**Isaiah 30:9-11.** "That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits: Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us."

This is one of the many passages in scripture that tells of those who were God's people who didn't intend to obey His commands. If it has been a one time happening it would have been one time to many, but it happened over and over. Those who did this never prospered, but that didn't stop others from doing the same thing. It is said that those who don't learn from history are going to repeat it. This is still true today as many people continue to follow the Lord, but are doing it their way.

In **Isaiah 30:9-11** we see the people telling the prophets to not tell them anything that they didn't want to hear. There are many, then and now, who will not listen to anything that is different from what they want

to believe. How many times have we heard someone say, "Well, I believe it this way!" Then usually they will go on to state some doctrine that is different from what God has said. We, mankind, certainly cannot change what God has said, and it is also certain that God will not change His commandments. The point is this, we either submit and obey God, or we are in rebellion against God.

Since I became a Christian and started studying the Bible it has been surprising to me to see so many, individuals and churches, who say that they believe and follow the Word of God, but don't in many doctrines. I have heard from the pulpit those who mock baptism, the Lord's Supper, church attendance, and even holiness. Try telling these folks about what the Bible says and they won't listen, but will tell you that the Bible "doesn't mean that!" I baptized a man in a hospital years ago and the hospital chaplain asked if he could come watch because he had never seen it done. This was after he gave up trying to talk me out of doing it.

Another man I heard on the radio once said that he was a homosexual and that it was alright with God. He said that the commandment against it was only a temporary commandment and was phased out when the nation

grew larger. What a blind and foolish man. God doesn't forbid sin for a short time, but He hates it always. Some will think that it bad, but will hold grudges against people. Others will lie and tell themselves that it was necessary.

Some preachers have been told to not preach on certain subjects. At times the preacher is dismissed and sometimes people leave to find a place that suits them better. If we truly want to serve God, then isn't that what we should do? He commands and His followers should be obeying Him. When we are our own person we want what we want. When we give ourselves to God we will want what He wants in our lives.

Maybe we need to ask the question, do we believe that God is the living God, and that Jesus is the Son of God? Then, is the bible the Word of God, or just the writings of man? If we believe that the scriptures is the Word of the true God, then how can anyone take any substitute for what God has said? It is foolish to do so. Do I dare to mention **Luke 6:46** again? Sure I do - "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" How will anyone answer that question when Jesus asks them about their disobedience?

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### DID JESUS REALLY CURSE THE FIG TREE ?

IT IS RECORDED THAT JESUS, ON HIS WAY FROM BETHANY TO JERUSALEM, AND BEING HUNGRY, STOPPED TO PICK FRUIT FROM A FIG TREE (MARK 11:12-14). BUT, ALTHOUGH THE TREE WAS IN LEAF, THERE WERE NO FIGS AND JESUS SAID, HEREAFTER, NO MAN WOULD EVER EAT FRUIT FROM THAT TREE!

SOME AUTHORITIES SAY JESUS, FOLLOWING THE ORIENTAL CUSTOM OF HOLY MEN, PUT A CURSE ON THE TREE, FROM DISAPPOINTMENT AT NOT FINDING FRUIT. OTHER AUTHORITIES STATE THAT, BECAUSE THE TREE WAS IN LEAF AND THEREFORE SHOULD HAVE HAD FIGS, JESUS WAS POINTING OUT THAT, WHEN ONE OUTWARDLY SHOWS A GOOD CHARACTER WITHOUT THE FRUITS THEREOF, HE IS A HYPOCRITE, OF NO VALUE TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD, BUT....

...STILL FURTHER AUTHORITIES MAINTAIN THAT, FOR JESUS TO CONDEMN A TREE, FOR NOT GIVING FRUIT, DOES NOT SEEM COMPATIBLE WITH HIS GENTLE LOVING NATURE AND, SINCE JESUS WAS AT JERUSALEM FOR THE PASSOVER, THIS PLACES THE TIME OF YEAR AT EARLY APRIL WHEN THE FIG TREE HAS JUST BEGUN TO LEAF AND GROW FIGS, WHICH THEN MATURE IN LATE JUNE... THUS, ALL JESUS MERELY DID WAS REMARK THAT, BECAUSE THE TREE HAD ALREADY BEGUN GROWING LEAVES, BUT NO FRUIT, IT WAS BARREN, AND NO ONE WOULD HARVEST FIGS FROM IT WHEN THE FRUIT SEASON ARRIVED!

EACH OF THESE THEORIES SEEM TO HAVE VALID POINTS, SO IT REMAINS FOR THE STUDENT TO MAKE HIS OWN CHOICE - WHICH DO YOU THINK ?



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