

OBEDIENCE AND THE ABUNDANT LIFE

by A. D. Peisker

"Life is very simple, and yet how confused we make it seem," Mme. Chiang Kai-shek once said. She went on to illustrate like this: "In old Chinese art there is in each picture only one outstanding object. Everything else is subordinated to that one beautiful thing. An integrated life is like that. What is the one beautiful flower? As I feel now, it is doing the will of God."

Jesus Christ was a perfect example of that. Everything in His life was subordinated to God's will for Him. And anyone who would live a full life must place less value on everything else than he does on the will of God.

What does such obedience involve? No two of us will, in every detail, find an identical answer. There is a divine purpose for each individual which only God through his Spirit, Word, and providence can make plain.

There is, however, a general principle into which all of life's affairs, both small and large, must be integrated. An Old Testament sage said, "To sum up the whole matter, revere God, and keep His commandments" (Eccles. 12:13, Berkeley).

Sometimes it is easy to obey God; sometimes it is arduous.

Even Jesus found it that way. Young and eager, thrilled by His visit to the great Temple in the capital city, He found it easy—and doubtless extremely interesting—when God's will brought Him attention and commendation from the honored leaders of His nation. But it was vastly different some twenty years later in near-by Gethsemane; then it took all He had of purpose, of courage, and of strength. Nevertheless, he did follow through and fulfilled His redemptive work for mankind.

It is easy for us to obey God when to do so does not interfere too much with personal plans and desires. It is not too hard when no separation is involved, when there is not ostracism by long-cherished companions. It is not too difficult when to do right costs nothing in material goods. But it is harder when keeping God's commandments means a departure from familiar, pleasant paths, when doing so turns old friendships cold. It is also hard when to do right brings a loss of money or position.

But life lived by any other rule is self-destructive. Concerning living by our own rules, Dr. Eugene Frank wrote: "We go on doing what never works out. We go on defeating ourselves. We get angry with God because He won't let us have our own way."

"We get downright bitter with God who gently but firmly insists that His way is the only way that will work. Imagine a chemist getting angry with the universe because water is made up of two molecules of hydrogen to one of oxygen. Suppose he constantly tried to act as though water was H₂SO₄. Nothing he did would ever come out right. Water is H₂O."

The formula for an abundant life is simple: Obey God. But we cannot break that rule. To try is to break only ourselves.

—Pilgrim Holiness Advocate

30th Anniversary

The navigators marked their 30th anniversary this year with the dedication of Glen Eyrie, a thousand-acre Colorado estate with a 67-room castle, purchased through sacrificial gifts of friends throughout the world.

Glen Eyrie serves as international headquarters office, a year-round training base and conference center for the Christian laymen's organization.

DEATH

The funeral service of John Albert Justason was held in the Reformed Baptist Church, Black's Harbor, Wednesday, December 11th.

Mr. Justason was 75 years of age and was a charter member of the church. We found him a sincere Christian and always faithful to the program of the church.

Besides his wife, he leaves two daughters—Vivian at home and Helen (Mrs. Russel Tucker); two sons—Arnold and Reginald both of Black's Harbor; five brothers; four sisters; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren; nieces and nephews.

The funeral service was conducted by the writer, assisted by Dr. Brinton and Rev. Dale Green. To the sorrowing relatives and friends we extend our Christian sympathy.

Rev. A. D. Cann

DALHOUSIE REPORT

The Dalhousie Home Mission work was visited recently by Rev. H. R. Ingersoll.

Brother Ingersoll expressed the desire and hope that the work here might continue, both in the spiritual and organizational aspects and that souls might find Christ and walk in the light of holiness. Discussion was conducted concerning further development, the result being that a committee was named to investigate a favorable lot for the future permanent residence of the R. B. Church of Dalhousie.

Rev. Ronald Madden, Pastor

DONATIONS FOR NEW PARSONAGE AT AMHERST

A Friend	\$100.00
Rev. and Mrs. Paul Sanders	20.00
Lloyd Hayes	5.00
Albert McGeorge	25.00

Many Thanks.

God bless you,

Rev. H. O. McGeorge

REBUKED!

Once, when D. L. Moody was at the height of his ministry, he was traveling on a train with his friend, the gospel musician, D. B. Towner. A young man — drunk, bruised from a brawl, and in a fighting mood — boarded the train at a way-station. He recognized Mr. Moody and began to sing, in a loud and contemptuous way, some of the old gospel hymns. This incensed Mr. Moody very much, and he asked the guard to take charge of the young man.

In response, the guard spoke quietly to the drunkard and escorted him to the guard's van, where he washed the young man's face and bruises with his own handkerchief, and tried to make him comfortable. Soon the chap fell asleep.

Hearing about all this, Mr. Moody exclaimed to Mr. Towner: "And last night I was preaching about the good Samaritan! This morning I have my feet in the shoes of both the priest and the Levite. This is a terrible rebuke to me."

One cannot scold others into the knowledge of Christ, nor win them by a holier-than-thou attitude. Only by love and by the gracious touch of the Saviour's Spirit can men and women be drawn to the Lord, whom we profess to know and adore.

— Christian Comment

The King's Highway