

Do We Serve God  
For Nothing?

# Did Cain serve God?

- **Yes:** he brought a sacrifice
- **No:** he did it 'his way' (cf. Mt.7:13f.; Jer.10:23)
  1. Nu.20, Moses
  2. Job 1:6-11, satan
  3. Jews, Mal.1:8-13; 3:14
  4. Demons, Mk.5:...12

They came out because Lord commanded it

Not to obey

Not to serve

But to escape Lord's wrath

## Our service to God includes . . .

- Bible study, at home / with others, Hb.5:14
- Assemblies, Hb.10:25
- Share gospel with others, 2 Tim.2:2
- Abstain from popular sins, Gal.5

I. We Do Not Serve God For...

# Tradition

- Mt.15 – what is tradition?
  - “Instruction that has been handed down”
  - We don’t even follow apostles’ teaching because of custom

# Prestige

(respect, status, reputation...)

- Mt.20:20-24, disciples had wrong concept
  - Jn.12:42-43 (41, 44)
  - 1 Co.1:26
  - 1 Co.4:13, *we have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things...*
    - **Filth**: dirt, refuse, off-scouring: the residue from scrubbing something
    - **Offscouring**: what has been scraped off.  
Strigil

# Worldliness

- Jn.6:26-27, disciples had wrong concept
  - If they followed Lord for food, they would last until someone offered a better menu
  - Many choose a church because of entertainment / recreation they provide...

# Money

- 1 Co.16:1-2
- Ep.4:28
  - Disciples were taught to give, be considerate of others (Ac.20:35)



I. We Do Not Serve God For...

II. Why Do We Serve God?

# 1. We associate with finest people on earth

- Acts 28:....14-15
- 1 Jn.3:16
- Ph.1:16

## 2. The consequences of disobedience

- 2 Th.1:6-10
  - God is righteous, 6. Requires recompense
  - God will recompense, 6. “Repay” – Ps.73
  - Day of reckoning and ruin, 6, 8-9
    - Lk.16, rich man lost...

Riches, 19

Well-being, 23

Happiness, 19

Mercy / relief, 24

Life, 22

Hope, 25-26

Influence, 27-28

### 3. The blessings of obedience

John never uses words 'obey / obedience'  
– he does use synonyms

- 1 Jn.2:3, approval of God
- Does it matter?

Sam Morris: “We take the position that a Christian’s sins do not damn his soul. The way a Christian lives, what he says, his character, his conduct, or his attitude toward other people have nothing whatever to do with the salvation of his soul...

All the prayers a man may pray, all the Bibles he may read, all the churches he may belong to, all the services he may attend, all the sermons he may practice, all the debts he may pay, all the ordinances he may observe, all the laws he may keep, all the benevolent acts he may perform will not make his soul one whit safer, and all the sins he may commit from idolatry to murder will not make his soul in any more danger. The way a man lives has nothing whatsoever to do with the salvation of his soul” – Tract: Do a Christian’s Sins Damn His Soul?

### 3. The blessings of obedience

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- 1 Jn.2:3, approval of God
- 1 Jn.3:22, peace with God

## 4. Gratitude

- Luke 15, prodigal
- Luke 18, publican
- Luke 19, publican

## Dt.16

<sup>16</sup> “...they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed. <sup>17</sup> Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you.”

Poor widow, Mk.12:44

How should we respond to God (Jn.3:16)?

“Mind, it is our best work that He wants, not the dregs of our exhaustion. I think He must prefer quality to quantity” – George MacDonald