

**Monday, 11 September 2017 Acts 26:15-19**

*And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' "Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,*

These words were spoken by the Lord Jesus Christ to Paul but aren't they also to us? We may not be persecuting believers, but each of us was denying Him.

He calls us to witness to those in our Personal Mission Field so that their eyes will be opened; "so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."

We must be able to declare that we have not been disobedient to the heavenly vision.

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**Tuesday, 12 September 2017 Acts 26:26-27**

*For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner. King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe."*

I will not be speaking to a king or even to someone familiar with the prophets, but everyone can see the evidence of the Creation or even the transformation in me. I need to study Paul's example as he preached to the Athenians on Mars Hill.(Acts 17:22-34)

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**Wednesday, 13 September 2017 Acts 28:23-26 28**

*When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. And some were convinced by what he said, but*

*others disbelieved. And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: "The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet: "Go to this people, and say, "You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive."...Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen."*

Paul recognized that he had invested as much time and effort as appropriate to convince the leaders of the Jews in Roman. I need to develop the same awareness as I present the Gospel. There comes a time when the further defense of the Gospel becomes an argument. Time to cut it off before that happens and allow the seeds planted to grow as the Spirit wishes.

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**Thursday, 14 September 2017 Romans 1:15-17**

*So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."*

An interesting passage for it ties together belief and faith. To paraphrase the old popular song, "Faith and belief go together like a horse and carriage, you can't have one without the other." Which is the fulcrum and which is the lever? I don't know, and it doesn't matter; Just as a bar and a rock are impotent alone, they become a powerful tool together.

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**Friday, 15 September 2017 Romans 1:28-32**

*And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.*

This passage mentions obedience to parents, but the focus

is on products of disobedience to the LORD, God, the Almighty summarized as "all manner of unrighteousness." This is not a buffet menu; it is an all or nothing. Obedience is one of those either/or words. I cannot pick and choose which sin I will allow into my life and which I will abstain. That's hypocrisy.

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**Saturday, 16 September 2017** Romans 2:6-8

*He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.*

A casual reading of this passage would support an argument for salvation by works, but that would be inconsistent with passages like Ephesians 2:10 *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."*

A proper reading indicates that obedience/disobedience is a result of faith/belief/trust/commit. It is the evidence of the reality of our conversion. (see James 2, especially vv 10,18)

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**Lord's Day, 17 September 2017** Psalm 119:145

*With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O LORD! I will keep your statutes.*

Lord, it is my earnest desire that I obey You with all my heart, soul, mind and strength. But I am easily distracted, quickly off chasing some will-o-wisp of an idea, like adjusting my screen brightness a few minutes ago. Loss of focus and purpose! And I heard Your Holy Spirit nudge me—remind me that this was not the way to spend my time at this moment—but I plowed on in my pig-headed fashion. HELP ME, Lord. Protect me from me!

# VOICES TOGETHER

*Daily Meditations from the Scriptures*



*September 11-17, 2017*

**Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 1 Timothy 1:12**

*I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service.*

Thank you, Christ Jesus our Lord, that You have given us the strength, that You have considered us faithful, that You have appointed us to our personal mission fields

*Guide us in all ways that we may never lose our focus on our appointed mission; to proclaim the Gospel, to carry the message of repentance and restoration to all people, nations and tribes, and to lead all to a life in the Kingdom of Heaven in the here and now. Amen*

*Creational Theology hint for the week*—How am I going to see the hand of the LORD, God, the Almighty today. He was revealed in yesterday's rainstorms as He is today in this pleasant sunny day. The weather of each day was appointed by Him to reveal the meticulous care and love whereby He constructed the Creation.

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