

**Monday, 2 October 2017 Romans 6:16**

*Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?*

One of the problems plaguing the Western Church is an understanding, a life changing comprehension of the term "obedient slave." It is at the root of our acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Master. As an employee, I had the right, even the responsibility, to question my employer's instructions. After all, I had been hired for my expertise in selected areas. Granted, when the boss said, "John, do it!" my choice was either do it or quit.

In reality, the word, "obedient" adds nothing to our understanding. A slave is obedient, he has no choice. The question is "Who is Lord and Master of my life? Satan or the LORD, God, the Almighty?" There is no middle ground.

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**Tuesday, 3 October 2017 Romans 6:17-18**

*But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.*

Hallelujah! I'm still a slave, but now my Lord and Master seek my good rather than my death. His yoke is easy, and His burden is light. And He shares the weight of my burdens. Slavery has become delightful; it has become a life of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Kingdom of Heaven. Hallelujah!

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**Wednesday, 4 October 2017 Romans 9:30-33**

*What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, as it is written, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."*

Faith/belief is the key; it is the piercing light that enables me to see the stumbling block, the impediment in my path, to avoid tripping. It is the key that provides the Holy Spirit to guide me into all truth.

The Law has not changed; "Thou shalt have no other Gods before Me" is still "Thou shalt have no other Gods before Me," but my understanding and my willingness to seek obedience, to not stumble over that command have been radically changed. I want to please the One who lifted me out of sin and death.

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**Thursday, 5 October 2017 Romans 10:3-4**

*For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.*

"the end," not the termination but the goal, the fulfillment of the law. The only requirement is to believe; to accept Him as Lord and Savior. And to believe is to trust Him in every aspect of my life; nothing held back from His rule.

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**Friday, 6 October 2017 Romans 10:8-10**

*But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, **if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.** For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.*

"Confess with my mouth, believe in my heart" are two phrases that demand action and participation by me. To confess is more than an admission that I was a naughty boy and took a cookie; it is to concede that Jesus is Lord of my life. It must be a life-transforming admission.

To believe in my heart likewise is a conviction at the very core of my being that Jesus Christ lives; that the resurrection is a complete validation that the LORD, God, the Almighty has accepted His sacrifice on the cross as atonement for my sin.

No debate necessary or allowed.

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**Saturday, 7 October 2017 Romans 10:8-10**

*But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.***

Justified is a word with rich synonyms: freed, absolved, warranted, even adjusted. All consequences of belief in the heart, evidence of the transformation that accompanies salvation.

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**Lord's Day, 8 October 2017 Psalm 119:169**

*Let my cry come before you, O LORD; give me understanding according to your word!*

Give me understanding according to Your word! Lord, there is no other basis for understanding that is assured of truth and justice, none other but Your word. Lord, lead me to those passages of Scripture that will provide that understanding and open them to me.

Voices Together is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, [www.ailbe.org](http://www.ailbe.org); along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ. These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to: Pastor John Nunnikhoven, The Church at Prison, Inc. PO Box 8318, Essex Junction, VT 05452

or to [prior@ailbe.org](mailto:prior@ailbe.org)

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Realizing the presence, promise and power  
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# VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



October 2-8, 2017

**Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: 2 Timothy 1:15-18**

*May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains. On the contrary, when he was in Rome, he searched hard for me until he found me. May the Lord grant that he will find mercy from the Lord on that day! You know very well in how many ways he helped me in Ephesus.*

May the Lord show mercy to the families of the [congregation] who have frequently supported each other in prayer during times of illness and affliction. The love and concern exhibited by the saints is a powerful testimony to binding power of the fellowship that has been inspired by the Holy Spirit moving among us.

May we continue to grow as a body of believers united in You.  
Amen

*Creational Theology hint for the week—A prayer “O God who rules the Internet “*

*My hands upon the keyboard. /Keep my eyes from evil. /The world is at my fingertips. Keep my thoughts from evil. /Untold wealth of knowledge. /Keep my heart from evil. /O God rules the Internet, /O Christ of the wireless networks, /O Spirit of the world of information, /Turn my eyes to You, /Fix my thoughts on You, /Attune my heart to You. /You are Ruler of the wild streams of information, /Of the chaos of images, both seemly and unseemly. /There is nothing You do not touch. /There is nothing beyond the reach of Your fingers. /There is nothing that cannot be redeemed by You. /Open my eyes, O God. /Show me Your truth in all I read. /Show me Your beauty in all I see. /Show me Your love in all there is.*

Anamchara Books. *Earth Afire with God: Celtic Prayers for Ordinary Life* (Kindle Locations 289-300). Anamchara Books. Kindle Edition.