The Mind of Christ

Obedience

Pastor Thomas asked the Deacons to open Bible Study with prayer. Pastor said we should all strive to be “Obedient” and to be the best Christians; God gives us the extra blessings. Pastor asked the Congregation to turn to the following scriptures:

Joshua chapter 11 verse 15:
15 As the LORD had commanded his servant Moses, so Moses commanded Joshua. And Joshua did as he was told, carefully obeying all the commands that the LORD had given to Moses.

Romans chapter 5 verses 17-21:
17 For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God’s wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ. 18 Yes, Adam’s one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ’s one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. 19 Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous. 20 God’s law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God’s wonderful grace became more abundant. 21 So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God’s wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Pastor said we don’t only get “Grace”, we get an “Abundance of Grace”; we can’t praise God enough. Adam brought condemnation and Jesus gave us the “Gift of Life”. It is always easy to follow the disobedient crowd, but you have to resist. This is how we should have a relationship with the Lord – Be “Obedient”. Standing for “Obedience” lets us know how we must be like Christ.

By One Person = Disobedience               By Jesus = Obedience

Hebrews chapter 5 verses 8-10:
8 Even though Jesus was God’s Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered. 9 In this way, God qualified him as a perfect High Priest, and he became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey him. 10 And God designated him to be a High Priest in the order of Melchizedek.

Pastor said Jesus had to suffer in order to know “Obedience”; we all have to suffer some times. If the Lord had to suffer, then suffering always has a place to bring us back to where God wants us to be. Pastor asked the Congregation: How many want to join the suffering ministry? There was no one, since no one wants to suffer.
I. Hebrews chapter 5 verse 8: Things Which He Suffered – Author of Eternal Salvation
   a) Humiliation
   b) Persecution
   c) Physical Pain
   d) The Cross
   e) Abandonment
   f) Rejection
   g) Betrayal

Pastor said even though folks don’t like you, you are striving to be like Jesus. Jesus told Peter that he will have to be rejected and going to suffer. Jesus suffered betrayal from his own disciples, because the disciples could not stay awake. We should thank God for the Holy Spirit, because he is your Comforter, Helper and sustains you from persecution that we go through all the time. We suffer and are persecuted because we are Children of God. God had to go through in order to become the “Author of Eternal Salvation”. Jesus is the “Author, Creator and Writer of the book”.

Hebrews chapter 10 verses 4-9:

4 For it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. 5 That is why, when Christ[a] came into the world, he said to God, “You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings. But you have given me a body to offer.” 6 You were not pleased with burnt offerings or other offerings for sin. 7 Then I said, ’Look, I have come to do your will, O God—as is written about me in the Scriptures.’’[b] 8 First, Christ said, “You did not want animal sacrifices or sin offerings or burnt offerings or other offerings for sin, nor were you pleased with them” (though they are required by the law of Moses). 9 Then he said, “Look, I have come to do your will.” He cancels the first covenant in order to put the second into effect.

Jesus came to take away the “First” (verse 9). Pastor Thomas asked the Congregation: What is the “First”? “He sets aside the ‘First to establish the Second’.”

John chapter 15 verses 18-23:

18 “If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. 19 The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you. 20 Do you remember what I told you? ‘A slave is not greater than the master.’ Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to me, they would listen to you. 21 They will do all this to you because of me, for they have rejected the one who sent me. 22 They would not be guilty if I had not come and spoken to them. But now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 Anyone who hates me also hates my Father.

Revelations chapter 22 verses 13-14:

13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.” 14 Blessed are those who wash their robes. They will be permitted to enter through the gates of the city and eat the fruit from the tree of life.
Pastor is connecting John 15:18-23 with Revelation 22:13-14. The world and the devil are going to do everything in their power to keep us from his commandments. We must repent and change our ways so we can move in the right direction.

Pastor asked a rhetorical question: If this issue is “Obedience” then the other side is disobedience. Why is it so easy to be disobedient?

Hebrews chapter 2 verses 1-4:
1 So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it. 2 For the message God delivered through angels has always stood firm, and every violation of the law and every act of disobedience was punished. 3 So what makes us think we can escape if we ignore this great salvation that was first announced by the Lord Jesus himself and then delivered to us by those who heard him speak? 4 And God confirmed the message by giving signs and wonders and various miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit whenever he chose.

Pastor said: How can we escape such great Salvation? There were people who rejected Salvation right in Jesus’ face. Jesus died for everyone not only us.

Pastor wants the Congregation to return on Tuesday, March 27 discussing “Hebrews 10:4-9, specifically, “What is the First”?