

Obligations of a Christian

Romans 8:1-2 read

When you have been saved you no longer have the bondage of the law from sin or death.

That is a powerful thing to understand. Jesus has taken all that off your plate.

If you are in here today and know Christ as your Lord and Savior, you are no longer under law and no longer fight against flesh and blood.

That is very freeing if you can wrap your head around it.

However we are told in **Ephesians 6:12** For we no longer wrestle against flesh and blood

But against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places or as one translation has it in supernatural places.

We have an enemy folks. He roams around to seek whom he may devour and destroy.

Contrary to popular worldly belief the enemy does exist.

You need not look any further than your surroundings to watch him work.

Turn on the news—Listen to your peers at work—the troubles in their life.

It may be their marriage is falling apart—maybe their children are going down the wrong path

Or they can't pay the mortgage—they need a different car—their health isn't the best

No matter the ailment the contributing factor to the problem is the enemy and the lack of us understanding that we gave him an in.

We give the enemy openings in many ways. Lifestyle choices, what we say, what we compromise too

Pride, unforgiveness and the list goes on and on.

But I have good news for you today. Jesus is still on the throne!

And all though everything I just said to you is true, we have someone who loved us so much that He laid down His life for us.

By Jesus doing that we are free. We are Christians freed by Christ and saved by grace. Nothing we could have ever done could save us. Only the blood of Christ and His sacrifice pay the debt.

Salvation is free. Your sins were paid for, your healing was paid for, anything and everything you will ever need paid for you, was paid that day on the cross at Calvary.

How many of you in here today claim to be a Christian?

I am here to tell you today that you have obligations!

In **John 14:15** Jesus says—If you love me keep my commandments

John 14:21 read **John 14:23** read

So one of the first obligations we have is to Obey God's Word

John 14:24 read—use paper for reference

In order to obey God's Word we must first study God's Word so that we know how we are supposed to be living.

Romans 12:1-2 Read

#2 we must share the Gospel **Matthew 28:18-20 read**

This one is tough for a lot of people. They don't know how to break the ice in a conversation or how to bring the subject of Jesus up. I promise you once you start doing bringing it up, it becomes second nature and you start doing it without even thinking about it. It is an obligation as a Christian to spread the Word.

#3 we must love our brother and sisters **1John 5:1-3 read**

You should have a desire to help one another as a Christian. There should be something in you that makes you want to show compassion towards your brothers and sisters. One of our greatest examples of this is the story of the raising of Lazarus.

John 11:32-44 Read

#4 we must forgive **Luke 6:37 Read---****Luke 17:3-4**

This is mandatory as a Christian! Why is forgiveness so important? Because there is no one in this Church this morning that hasn't needed it. There is not one of us that haven't made a bad choice or choices that needed to be forgiven. The only one that walked this earth and did not need forgiveness is now seated on the right hand side of The Father. We must forgive!

#5 helps us do all of the first 4 obligations we have talked about.

#5 Set our minds on things above **Colossians 3:1-4 Read**

This whole Christianity living is 2 phases with one focus.

Phase one is serving the Lord Jesus Christ here on earth with the thoughts and mind being on Heaven and the promises to come. But included in that first phase is promises from our redeemer of abundance and love and strength to see us through this life. Jesus see's to it that you truly want for nothing on this earth if you are living for him.

He is the provider

He is the healer

He is the redeemer

He is the chain breaker

He is the way maker

He is simply everything you will ever need

Phase 2 is where it really gets good. I believe that in a blink of an eye you are in the presence of the Lord.

In **Luke 23:43** Jesus said to that thief on the cross—Assuredly I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.

This is when you get to see those streets of gold.

You get to check out that mansion, that place Jesus said he was going to prepare for you.

This is where you get to live without hurt—pain—disease—with no more tears only joy.

Where all your imperfection becomes perfection.

Where you feel the joy and love of perfection with no worries of pleasing anybody but the Lord!

If you have made this decision to be a Christian I cannot tell you how happy I am for you.

If you haven't made that decision I hope today will be the day.

Please take into consideration the 5 obligations that we talked about today.

Obey God's Word

Share the Gospel

Love your brother and sister

Forgive

Set your mind on things above

We all fall short. Don't beat yourself up if you are a little slack on one of the topics we went over.

All the Lord ask is that we do better. Being a Christian is not about being perfect. If we were perfect there would be no reason for Christ.

If you look at the crosses we give out here at the church, I always give them away with this speech.

You see how they are imperfect?

I always say this is an imperfect cross for imperfect people made perfect by the cross!