Psalm 1: How to be an Oak by Eric Eagle Psalm 1; Matthew 7:24-27 January 19, 2025 Sermon Notes

| |
|---------------------------------------|
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| |
| (See the Meditation on the back.) |

Meditation

What is "the obedience of faith"? Faith, self-renouncing trust in Jesus Christ, is obedience to the gospel command to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. But it is doubtful if this is quite what 'the obedience of faith' means. More likely, this phrase is telling us that faith in Jesus Christ initiates a believer into a life of obedience to Jesus Christ. Where there is no heart obedience to Christ, there can be no saving faith in Christ. This should be obvious to all of us. Faith is not mere notional assent to biblical propositions. Faith, what the Bible means by faith, takes you into Christ, brings you into living personal union and communion with Christ...

There is another aspect or dimension to 'the obedience of faith'. The Christian's obedience of Christ is to be a believing obedience. All we do we are to do in faith. This is what distinguishes evangelical obedience from legal obedience. Legal obedience is fueled by a desire to earn merit with God. It is born of fear not love. It is duteous without being truly dutiful. In contrast, evangelical obedience is fueled by love and thankfulness. It is prompted by a desire to please the Savior. It sees obedience to God's commandments not as a duteous chore, but as a true delight (Psalm 119:24, 35, 47, 70, 97; John 14:15). Love truly does make obedience sweet.

The obedience of faith: How does your life and my life measure up? Is our faith a truly biblical and saving faith, that is, a faith that loves and pursues obedience? Is our obedience to Christ fueled with thankfulness and love? Is our obedience partial and selective? Or is our obedience 'all round'? Do we grieve over our failures in obedience, above all because our failures grieve our beloved Savior who died that we might live?

It was common in some church circles in years past to say that Jesus could be your Savior but not your Lord. That first you receive Him as Savior and then, at some later time, receive Him as Lord. This thinking led to the astonishing notion that there could be such a thing as a Christian who lived in disobedience to Christ. It is true that all Christians sin and sometimes very badly. But if we say that we know Christ but do not keep His commandments, we are liars and the truth is not in us, so said the Apostle John (1 John 2:4). One of the 'birthmarks' of a Christian is a heartfelt sorrow and grief over disobedience and a daily resolve, dependent on the Lord, to live more obediently to His commandments.

The Psalmist wrote, 'O how I love Your law.' We who live this side of Calvary have even greater cause to say, 'O how I love Your law'. Do we?

Ian Hamilton