

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

JULY 27, 2022

GENESIS 17:23-27

INTRODUCTION:

1. God's covenant with Abraham was sealed with circumcision.
 - a) It was a sign to remind them that they were the people of God. (Gen. 17.7,11)
 - b) It was to be "*throughout their generations...for an everlasting covenant*" (Gen. 17.9,13).
 - c) It was to be performed at the age of eight days. (Gen. 17.12)
2. In keeping with the command of God and in demonstration of faith, Abraham obeyed.

I. WHEN DID ABRAHAM OBEY?

- A. Abraham did not wait until it was convenient to obey the commands of God.
 1. **GENESIS 17.23:** "*So Abraham...circumcised the flesh of their foreskins that very same day, as God had said to him.*"
 2. **GENESIS 17.26:** "*That same day Abraham was circumcised, and his son Ishmael*"
- B. We often fail to obey the commands of God because of procrastination.
 1. Procrastination is avoidance of our responsibilities by delaying them perpetually.
 - a) What are some of the reasons that people procrastinate?
 - b) What are some steps that we can take to overcome these obstacles?
 2. Felix procrastinated in obeying the gospel telling Paul, "*when I have a more convenient time I will call for you*" (Acts 24.25)
 - a) What caused Felix to procrastinate? "*Felix was afraid*" (Acts 24.25)
 - b) Compare that to the Ethiopian Eunuch. (Acts 8.36, with 30,31)
 3. Ananias asked Paul, "*And now why are you waiting*" (Acts 22.16)
- C. Laziness can lead us to be disobedient to God's commandments.
 1. Warnings against laziness. (Prov. 22.30-34; 26.13-16; Eph. 5.15,16)
 2. Laziness is equated with wickedness. (Matt. 25.26-30)
 3. Without something productive to do, idleness leads to sin. (1 Tim. 5.9-14)
 4. **ECCLESIASTES 9.10:** "*Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might*"

II. HOW DID ABRAHAM OBEY?

- A. Abraham never obeyed God part way. His obedience was complete.
 1. **GENESIS 17.23:** "*all who were born in his house and all who were bought with his money, every male...*" Abraham did not believe in "good enough." (cf. Gen. 14.14)
 2. **GENESIS 17.24:** "*Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised.*"
- B. Obedience to the commands of God is necessary to enjoy eternal life.
 1. Obedience is how to avoid eternal torment. (Luke 16.27-31)
 2. After preaching the sermon on the mount, Jesus emphasized obedience.
 - a) **MATTHEW 7.21-23:** Heaven is for those who do "*the will of My Father*"
 - b) **MATTHEW 7.24-27:** Who is the wise and foolish builder?
- C. Only partially obeying the commands of God is not "good enough." (Matt. 23.23)
 1. The rich, young ruler did not keep the commands of God completely.
 - a) **MATTHEW 19.16:** "*What good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?*"
 - b) **MATTHEW 19.17:** "*If you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.*"
 - c) **MATTHEW 19.20:** "*What do I still lack?*"
 2. What kind of mindset do you have toward the commands of God? (James 1.8-13)