

## The Master's Use

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Military members stay ready so they can be used at a moments notice. Rescue personnel stay ready so they can be used at a moments notice. Faithful Christians also need to stay ready so they can be used by Jesus at all times throughout the day.

The apostle Paul wrote about Christians being "ready" and "prepared" for the Master's use in 2 Timothy 2:21. The word translated "ready" is from the Greek word, *euchreestos*, meaning "easily used; useful". Why is the unrepentant sinner delivered to Satan (1 Timothy 1:19-20)? He is not useful to the Lord in his current spiritual state! Why will the unrepentant congregation have their candlestick removed (Revelation 2:5)? They are not useful to the Lord in their current spiritual state! You see, that which is not useful to the Lord is discarded as not useful; unprofitable!

What can Christians do to always be always ready and prepared for the Master? First, their master can be Jesus, not the devil (Colossians 1:13; 2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 11). Second, their character can be pure, not defiled (2 Corinthians 6:17 - 7:1). Third, their attitude can be receptive, not closed-minded (1 Samuel 3:10). Fourth, their understanding can be informed, not ignorant (2 Timothy 2:15; 2 Peter 3:16-18). Fifth, their schedule can be at the Lord's disposal, not busy (Isaiah 6:8). Sixth, their approach to possessions can be selfless, not selfish (Matthew 21:1-3). Seventh, their talents can be used, not buried (Matthew 25:24-26). Finally, their status can be always ready, not unready (Titus 3:1,8,14).

Are you ready for the Master today? If not, get ready while you can. One day it will be too late to ready yourself. - Chris Reeves

## Sentence Sermons

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- What we weave in time, we wear in eternity.
- Daily prayers help with daily cares.
- You might make a mistake working for the Lord, but you will make a bigger mistake not working for him.
- Some Christians are like blisters; they show up after the work is done.
- It's not enough to escape the evil; you must also pursue the good.

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## THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

# Obeying God On Our Terms

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Many people today want to obey God's word in the Bible, but they want to obey it on their terms. They read the Bible and then decide if they want to follow it precisely as it is written, or modify it in some way. If they modify it, it is usually to add something they want, take away something they don't want, or change something to suit their liking. In other words, many people today obey God on their own terms.

In the Old Testament, we have an example of this behavior and it would be good for us to study it so that we can learn how to avoid obeying God on our own terms. In 1 Samuel 15, God told Saul to utterly destroy the Amalekites (15:1-3; for the background to this story, see Exodus 17:1-16). Saul believed he had obeyed God (15:13,20), but God said that Saul had not obeyed him properly (15:10,19,23). What can we learn from Saul about obeying God on our own terms? Consider seven lessons.

First, Saul obeyed God, but he obeyed only part of God's command (15:4-9). We need to learn that all of God's commands are important and all parts of each command are important. God gives a command and the terms of the command. All of God's commands for us today can be understood and all can be obeyed (Matthew 23:23; 28:19; Ephesians 3:4; 5:17). Today, many pick and choose which of God's commandments they will obey or which part of a command they will obey. They do this with commands like baptism, acts of worship, giving, etc.

Second, Saul believed that he had obeyed God fully when in fact he had not (15:10-13). We need to learn that obedience is accomplished when we hear and do all of God's word; not when we simply claim to obey all of God's commands (Numbers 20:8,11; Matthew 7:21-24). Today, many claim to be obedient when in fact they are not.

Third, Saul tried to place the blame for his disobedience (lack of complete obedience) on the people (15:14-16). We need to learn that passing off our responsibility to others does not absolve us of our disobedience (Ex. 32:22-23). Today, many disobey God and appeal to others for their justification. They say church tradition says, church surveys say, family and friends believe it this way, my pastor says, that's what I was told, etc.

Fourth, Saul tried to justify his disobedience by saying that it was for worship (15:15). This is the old "end justifies the means" approach to life. We need to learn that we disobey even when our disobedience is done in the name of God or for some alleged good reason (Hosea 6:6; Matthew 15:1-9; Mark 12:33). True worship obeys God in all things (John 4:24; 14:15,23-24). Today, many disobey God, but they do it in the name of their religion. They say, look at the good it is doing, God would be happy, we offer contemporary worship, etc.

Fifth, Saul was more concerned for the cause of disobedience - the whys - than the fact of his disobedience - the what (15:17-23). We need to learn that all the "whys" (excuses) in the world we can offer up for our disobedience

do not change the fact of our disobedience. Disobedience is rebellion and stubbornness and it is just as bad as witchcraft and idolatry, God says. Today, many continue to offer their "whys" even after their disobedience has been pointed out to them. They say, well, I still think, or, that's just your opinion, or, you don't understand, etc.

Sixth, Saul feared the people and was more interested in pleasing men than pleasing God (15:24-25). We need to learn that we must not fear men but God. We must obey God not men (Matthew 10:23,34-39; John 12:42-43; Acts 5:28; Gal. 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:6; Jas. 4:4). Today, many disobey God because they fear someone or something. They disobey because they fear rejection, commitment, sacrifice, persecution, etc.

Seventh, Saul was rejected as king for his disobedience (15:26-31). We need to learn that when God says that we have disobeyed there is no changing it. When God makes his final decision about us in the judgment day, there will be no changing it (Matthew 7:21-23; 25:46). Today, many do not take seriously the judgment of God upon them. They say, my God would never..., etc.

Friends, God demands complete and total obedience to his word. Let us not obey God on our terms. Rather, let us wholly obey the Lord in all things and on his terms alone. - *Chris Reeves*