



Trust and Obey



**"When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
what a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will He abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.**

**"Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,
but His smile quickly drives it away;
not a doubt nor a fear, not a sigh nor a tear,
can abide while we trust and obey.**

**"Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."**

"Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness. Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him and He will bring it to pass." - Psalm 37:3-5

Right from the Garden of Eden, God has told mankind what they are not to do. But throughout the Bible, we also find countless lists of what we are to do, as we see in Psalm 37. Notice all the verbs in the opening verses: trust, do good, dwell, cultivate, delight, commit. David continues the list in verse 7 saying,

"Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him." Then in verse 8 he warns about two things we ought not to do: "Cease from anger and forsake wrath; do not fret; it leads only to evildoing." And in verse 27, David says simply, "Depart from evil and do good."

We have been looking at several verses in Isaiah where God states firmly that there are no other gods besides Him, using negative terms like "no," "not" and "none." Reading the first chapter of Isaiah, you can sense God's frustration with His chosen people, because they constantly followed after the gods of the pagan nations around them, despite the manifold blessings of the God who delivered them from Egypt. Take a few moments to read Isaiah 1, and you will come to a deeper appreciation for the heart of "the Holy One of Israel" (v.4).

But I want to bring your attention to verses 16-17, where Isaiah sounds a lot like David in his prescription for godly living: "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, reprove the ruthless, defend the orphan, plead for the widow." This helpful list is followed by God's invitation of grace to His rebellious children:

"Come now, and let us reason together ... Though your sins be as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool." And then the Lord God puts a very clear choice before them, saying,

"If you consent and obey, you will eat the best of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you will be devoured by the sword. Truly the mouth of the Lord has spoken" (verses 18-20).

Now, more than ever, we need boldness to say "no" to the philosophies of the godless culture in which we live. What used to be recognized by most people as wrong behavior is now encouraged, affirmed, and even recommended by those whose minds have been darkened by the deceitfulness of their sin.

James gives us plenty of good advice for living godly lives, often using the warning, "Do not be deceived." One of the key verses is James 1:22, where he says, "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." And in 4:7-8, James gives his own list for how to avoid such deception: "Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

"Trust and Obey" was one of the many favorite Baptist hymns that we enjoyed in years past, but don't sing much anymore. It has a happy tone to it, but the lyrics are full of meaningful insights on the importance of trusting God and obeying His commands. I have given you the first 2 verses today, but we will look at the other 3 in Friday's message.

The text was written in 1886 by Rev. John Sammis, in response to a testimony given by a young man at an evangelistic meeting with D.L Moody, where he said: "I am not quite sure - but I am going to trust, and I am going to obey." Our willingness to trust and obey is always the first step toward God's blessing in our lives, as this new convert came to realize.

Let the words and melody of this beloved hymn fill your mind today. So much of the Bible may seem hard to understand, but we focus on the many parts that are as simple as those passages we looked at today. May we be encouraged by the words of David, Isaiah and James to confess and turn from our sins, as we resist the devil and submit to God and His ways. The result will always be joy in Jesus, as we learn to "trust and obey!"