



F. Y. C.

For Your Consideration

❖ FEBRUARY 2015 ❖

A Mother's Unconditional Love

A mother was looking at her grown son, recalling his birth and how proud she was to have a son. But now she had tears in her eyes. Why? Her son is standing before the judge who just sentenced him to life prison for the rest of his life for the crimes he committed.

Outside the courthouse, someone asked the mother, "Do you still love your son?" "Yes," she replied. "My love is unconditional and I'll love him until I die, but I hate what he did."

The mother could do nothing to change her son's condition. The only hope she had for her son was for him to be pardoned.*

GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

God loves you and me no matter what we have done. His love is unconditional. God sent his Son, so that our condition could be changed and we could be pardoned.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

WAGES OF SIN AND THE GIFT OF GOD

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us.

Ephesians 1:7-8

SHALL NOT PERISH!

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

John 3:16

BELIEVE AND OBEY

"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

John 3:36

Unconditional love and unconditional acceptance (approval) are two separate things.

*pardon: To release from punishment; exempt from penalty.

UNDER NO OBLIGATION

“Which of you, having a slave plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, ‘Come immediately and sit down to eat’? But will he not say to him, ‘Prepare something for me to eat, and properly clothe yourself and serve me while I eat and drink; and afterward you may eat and drink’? He does not thank the slave because he did the things which were commanded, does he? So you too, when you do all the things which are commanded you, say, ‘We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done.’”

Luke 17:7-10

NO OBLIGATION

SERVANTS ARE TO OBEY THEIR MASTERS

Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who merely please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

Colossians 3:22

Doing so does not further obligate their master.

DISCIPLES ARE TO OBEY JESUS THEIR MASTER

“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.”

John 15:10

Doing so does not further obligate our Lord.

CHILDREN ARE TO OBEY THEIR PARENTS

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Ephesians 6:1

Doing so does not further obligate the parents.

LESSON

No one has “earned” anything by obeying.

By our obedience we have “merited” nothing.

All that we have done is our “duty.”

What we receive from God for faithful service is a gift!

The Lord owes us nothing. We owe Him everything,

May we ever thank Him for the favor He has freely bestowed.

He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

Titus 3:5

Reputation: The general estimation in which a person is held by the public.

Character: A description of a person’s attributes, traits, or abilities.

Others can ruin your reputation, but only you can ruin your character.



WORD STUDY

enhance your
Bible knowledge

2 Timothy 2:15

CONTEXT: 2 TIMOTHY 2:14-18

Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers. Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some.

THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR TIMOTHY

I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.

2 Timothy 4:1-2

The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

2 Timothy 2:2

Timothy knew the Old testament Scriptures (there were no New Testament scriptures). He had been taught them from childhood. Now, without Paul by his side, he was to give due diligence to teach the Word that he had been taught. He was to avoid wrangling and “worldly and empty chatter.” He was to be diligent in defending the Word. And he was to be diligent in his daily conduct so as to be approved by God.

THE MESSAGE FOR US: BE DILIGENT

Know the Word – Live by the Word – Share the Good News

Knowing the Word is no substitute for living by the Word. The message to all Christians today is to give due diligence to be a disciple of the Lord. As faith without works is dead, Bible knowledge without application is worthless. Being able to quote Scripture is good, but applying it to your life is the goal of such knowledge.

The important lesson taught in 2 Timothy 2:15 is not to study your Bible, it's:

Be diligent to show yourself approved!

* study (diligent): **spoudazo**: persevering, painstaking effort; to hasten to do a thing, to exert oneself.

STUDY*

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (KJV)

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. (NASB)



Ponder This

Four Character Tests

How One Handles Wealth

To live in wanton luxury or rich in good works?

Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.

1 Timothy 6:17
~~~~~

### How One Handles Poverty

Learn contentment or flay out at others?

*A poor man who oppresses the lowly is like a driving rain which leaves no food.*

Proverbs 28:3  
~~~~~

How One Deals With Success

Give God the glory or be boastful and proud?

The king [Nebuchadnezzar] reflected and said, "Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?"

Daniel 4:30
~~~~~

### How One Deals with Failure

Accept responsibility or blame others?

*King Saul said, "I did obey the voice of the Lord ... But the people took some of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the choicest of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the Lord."*

1 Samuel 15:20-21  
~~~~~

There are always two people who know your true character: you and God.



To submit to the decision of another through respect of authority or judgment.

Yield to Civil Authority

Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

Romans 13:7

Yield to Spiritual Leaders

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.

Hebrews 13:17

Yield Unto God

Neither yield ye your members [as] instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members [as] instruments of righteousness unto God.

Romans 6:13 KJV

Yield Not to False Teachers

But we did not yield in subjection to them [false brethren] for even an hour, so that the truth of the gospel would remain with you.

Galatians 2:5

F.Y.C. is a monthly publication by Ron Adams.

Bible references are from the NASB except where another translation is referenced.

Past Issues are archived at <http://ra10ar.com>

All rights reserved. © 2015