

THE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH

PSALM 110:1-3 • TV193B

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By

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Psalm 110:1-3

*“The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.
The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies.
Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of
the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth.”*

My subject this morning is: **“THE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH.”**

You cannot separate faith and conduct. You cannot separate belief and obedience. *“Faith worketh by love.”*

I want you to listen carefully; I am going to do more teaching than preaching today. I want to get across this point: I do pray that the Spirit of God will give me some liberty in preaching this subject today for our good and His glory, **“THE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH.”**

In **Psalm 110, verse 1 through 3**; *“The Lord said unto my Lord; sit thou at my right hand until I make thine enemies thy footstool.”*

“The Lord shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion to rule in the midst of his enemies and thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauty of holiness from the womb of the morning thou hast the dew of youth.”

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My friends, none of you can deny, (not anyone); I am certain not a soul listening to my voice can deny that the birth of Christ, the life of Christ, the death of Christ, the resurrection of Christ, and the eternal glory of Jesus Christ, were all purposed, planned, and foreordained of the Father, from the foundation of the world.

You cannot deny that the Scripture declares that every detail, every detail of Jesus Christ's redemptive work was purposed, planned, ordained, and prophesied in the Holy Scriptures. Every detail, every detail, before it ever took place, hundreds, and hundreds, and hundreds of years, before Christ was ever born of Mary, the Scripture said, *"behold; the Lord Himself shall give you a sign, a virgin shall conceive and bring forth a Son."*

That was hundreds of years before He was ever born, thousands of years before He was ever born, the Scripture said, *"He will be born of the seed of woman. He will be born of the seed of Abraham. He will be born from the tribe of Judah, the family of Jesse, and the household of David."*

You know that is so. Long ago, back in the Old Testament, Moses wrote that. Isaiah wrote that and Micah said that He would be born in Bethlehem. Hundreds of years before He was born in Bethlehem the Scripture said that He would be born in Bethlehem, born of the virgin in Bethlehem and that He would flee to Egypt.

He was to be denied by His own disciples. He would be crucified on a cross and they would pluck out His beard. They would pierce His hands and feet and that He would be crucified and rise from the tomb and ascend to glory.

If you will read the **22nd Psalm**, it will give you the very words He said from the cross, in the very words that the people said standing at the foot of the cross. *"They cast lots for my garment."* That's just so, you know that's so!

Hundreds of years before Christ came, the Word of God said; *"He would be despised, rejected of men, a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief."* Is that not what it says?

Then, when Peter was preaching at Pentecost, he declared to those people, the murderers of Christ, the crucifiers of Christ, those who helped nail Christ to the cross, he said; *"You with wicked hands have crucified the Lord of glory. This same Jesus whom you crucified, God hath exalted and made both Lord and Christ."*

But, *"He was delivered; (watch it now); by the determinate council of God. You have taken and with wicked hands have crucified and slain."* The Jews did it, but God determined before the world began that they would do this.

This is what the Scripture says. In **Acts 4:27** it says, *"For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus both Herod and Pontius Pilate, the Gentiles and the people of Israel were gathered together to do."*

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To do what; to do what they wanted to do, to do what they willed to do, to do what their wicked hearts told them to do. That's true too but "*to do whatsoever thy hand and thy council determined before to be done.*"

No one with any knowledge of the Bible, any understanding of the character of God, the eternity of God, the immutability of God, that is His unchangeableness, can deny that everything, every detail, every smallest, minutest detail, of the redemptive work of Christ was ordained, purposed, promised, and prophesied, before the world began.

But, now listen to me; here I come, something mighty important; you cannot deny that although all these things were determined by the Father, ordained by the Father, and appointed to the Father and purposed by the Father, they must all be done.

They must all be fulfilled by the Son, though they are purposed, ordained, and planned from the beginning of the world. Though Almighty God says, "This shall be the way it is; it will be as I say, but it still must be done."

His birth was foretold; He had to be born. His life was real. His subjection to His parents; He actually was born from a virgin's womb. He actually lay in that manger. He actually fled to Egypt from the wrath of Herod. He actually grew up in a carpenter's shop and worked and had calluses on His hands, sawing wood and driving nails.

Our Lord Jesus Christ's life was real. His temptations were real. "*In all points he was tempted as we are, yet without sin.*"

The weariness, the pain, the hunger, the thirst, the daily trials, was real. It had to be done, it had to be done or we wouldn't have had a Redeemer. It had to be done or we would never have been saved.

You can't save people by what you write on paper. You can't save people by a covenant. You can't save people by a contract drawn up even in eternity and the councils of God. There has to be a Redeemer.

The law has got to be satisfied, realistically, by a man. The justice of God has got to be met by a man. "*The soul that sinneth, it shall die*" and somebody has got to die. Blood has got to be shed. God's judgment has got to be satisfied.

That's what I am saying. His sufferings and death were real. You look at Him yonder in Gethsemane's Garden; that is real sweat on His brow. Those are real drops of blood pouring from His pores. That is real agony through which He is going. Those are real tears upon His cheeks; they are real; they are real. All of that agony, that suffering in Gethsemane's Garden is real.

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When He goes into the soldier's hall and they pluck His beard out and the blood spurts from the veins; that is real blood; when they press that crown of thorns down into His precious brow that is real pain.

When He jumps from the pain; that is real pain. When they lash His back with that cat of nine tails and the flesh is pulled out from the skin and thrown against the wall; that is real flesh.

When He goes to Calvary's cross and they drive those nails into His hands and into His feet; those are real nails, piercing real flesh. That is real agony and real pain that He is feeling.

When He dies that is a real death. He actually died on that cross. He actually was buried in that tomb. He actually rose again; He actually rose again and appeared before many witnesses.

What I am saying is that every bit of this is written and must be accomplished. I read every word of this in the Old Testament. They spit in His face; they pierced His hands and feet. I read of it, written hundreds of years before it ever took place.

It was ordained, it was purposed, it was planned, and it was in God Almighty's will. That doesn't get the job done. He had to come into this world. He had to meet the law and fulfill what God said that He would do.

He had to go to the cross and bear our sins and bear our guilt or we would be bearing it right now. There had to be a real transaction, a real transaction must take place in order to restore us to the favor of God.

Now; let me take this on through the Word. I am saying that what God ordained will take place. It has to take place. I am saying that what God purposed is going to take place but it has to take place.

It applies to the life of Noah. You read it; you cannot deny this. God Almighty says that He is going to send a flood. God Almighty said that He was going to destroy the world. This was 120 years before it took place.

He said, *"Eight souls would be saved, eight people would be saved, so as by water."* God Almighty would deliver eight people. In other words, do you doubt God's promise? No you don't. Do you doubt God's Word? No! God says that there is going to be a flood.

"God looked down from heaven and saw that every imagination of man's heart was evil continually." The whole world was just rotten to the core. God would wipe it out. God would destroy it but God would save Noah and his family, right? Exactly!

But Noah still has to believe God. Noah has to build an Ark. Noah has to believe God's Word. Noah's got to enter the Ark. When Noah completed that Ark and the door stood open, God said; *"Noah, come into the ark."*

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He has to enter. If he doesn't enter he will drown. If he doesn't believe God he will drown. If he doesn't build an ark he will drown. God ordained it, God purposed it, God said it would be and it was. That transaction took place.

Do you see where I am headed? Yes, God has a people, yes, God has an everlasting covenant. Yes, God gave to His Son a people. Yes, Christ died for them and through His blood they are justified. They are going to believe; *"Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power."*

Those who are not willing will perish. Those who are willing will be saved. Those who do not come to Christ will perish. Those who come to Christ will be saved.

No man is saved because he is elected. No man is saved because he is chosen of God. Men are saved because Christ died for them. No man is saved who does not believe on Christ and lay hold on Christ and embraces Christ and looks to Christ with his own eyes and believes in Christ with his own heart, and bows to Christ through his own broken will.

"Thy people;" yea, they are Lord's people, made His people by His grace. The Lord chose them by His grace and love. *"Thy people shall be willing."*

Our Lord has no unwilling bride. Our Lord has no unwilling children. Our Lord has no unwilling sheep. *"They are willing, (when), in the day of His power,"* in the day of His revelation.

Let's look at Moses. Beyond question; you can't question this; God determined to deliver Israel from Egypt. You know that, by the hand of Moses. God determined and He says that it is going to be done.

Now, Pharaoh would not let them go, but they must be delivered. They must be delivered by blood because you see, this deliverance is the Passover. This deliverance is a picture of our deliverance, our deliverance from the evils of sin to the Canaan of Paradise.

It has to be done by blood. Pharaoh is not going to let them go. Moses doesn't have the strength to take them out by himself. So, the blood of the Passover must be shed. Pharaoh must refuse to let them go and he will refuse.

He will harden his heart and the Scripture says, *"God hardened his heart."* God is the first cause of all things.

The judgment of the first-born must be accomplished. God said through Moses for Israel *"to take the blood; kill the lamb; eat its flesh, (all of it, all of it), and put the blood on the upper door post, and the two side posts. When I see the blood I will pass over you."*

Now you listen to me; Israel is coming out of Egypt; not a hoof nor is a hair going to be left behind, not a child, not a possession. God's taking all, just like He is going to redeem us, body and soul. He is going to redeem us completely.

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Not a single one of His sheep will be left. Not a one of his jewels will be missing from His crown. All will be redeemed, every one of them. Every one of the Israelites will be coming out of Egypt, every blessed one of them. God has decreed it.

They are going to have to put that blood on the door. God says, *“If there’s not blood on the door, the first born in that home dies, not only from Pharaoh’s palace, but the cattle on the hillside.”*

Israel put the blood on the doors. You might say, “What if Israel hadn’t done it?” They would have died and they would have perished.

I’m telling you this, if you aren’t under the blood, if you don’t believe on Christ, if you don’t receive the Gospel you will perish too.

You might say, “But God’s decree.” I know that; God decreed the death of Christ but He had to die. “But God decreed,” I know that. God decreed Noah to be saved by an ark but he had to build it. He had to believe God; he had to enter it.

“But God decreed.” God decreed Israel to be released, delivered out of Egypt but then Moses had to bring them out and they had to have the blood on the door. That pictures Christ our Redeemer.

I’m telling you this; *“without faith it is impossible to please God. He that cometh to God must believe that He is,”* must!

All right; let’s look at Abraham. Abraham is an example of what I have been saying. There is no question in our minds, yours or mine, but what God purposed and planned that Abraham should be the father of faith, the father of the faithful, and the father of many nations.

Let me read it to you; this is before it ever took place: The Lord said to Abraham, who was Abraham? If you will read the Scriptures you will find out that Abraham was an idol worshipper in an idol worshipper’s home. He didn’t know God and he didn’t worship God; that is exactly right!

Somebody said, “Well, Abraham chose God.” God chose him first. Yea; God chooses us and we choose God. God loves us and we love God. *“We love him because he first loved us.”*

God said, *“Abraham; get thee out of thy country; (you get out of your country, your country of idol worshippers, heathens, and pagans), and you go to a land that I will show you and I will make of you a great nation. In thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed.”*

That’s what God said. *“In your seed shall come the Messiah; through your seed.”* Abraham was 75 years old, then, I believe. Before he received that seed, he was 100 years old. But God purposed it and it will come to pass.

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He said, “Abraham; leave your father’s house and go to a land that I will show you. I am going to make of you a great nation. You are going to have a seed, an heir, Isaac, and through Isaac shall the Redeemer, the Messiah, come through Isaac.”

Abraham at that time was a pagan without a son. God purposed it. Listen to me; Abraham is not a stone. Abraham is not a block of wood; Abraham is a man. Abraham has to walk in the Word of God.

Abraham has to obey the voice of God. Abraham has got to believe God; now that is so. That’s what I am saying. If you will walk along side of Abraham throughout his life, you will see the purposes and promises of God unfold through faith, through Abraham’s faith.

By faith Abraham left his father’s house. By faith Abraham journeyed as God Almighty directed him. Abraham was willing and obedient in the day of God’s power. He was willing and obedient to the voice of God.

He believed God when he didn’t know where he was going. He knew that God would take him there. God just said, “*Get out.*” Abraham left not knowing where he was going. That is faith.

Abraham believed God and obeyed God when there was friction between his servants and Lot’s servants. Do you remember that? They got together and Abraham said, “*now Lot; let’s not have tension between us. You choose the land you want and I will take what’s left.*”

Lot chose those beautiful, well-watered, fertile, plains, down there around Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham said “that is fine, that’s fine.” He believed God and he went to the mountains.

Lot lost everything he had and Abraham continued to prosper. You see, he believed God. God ordained that but Abraham acted in faith.

Then, he believed God when the kings of this world tried to make him rich. Do you remember when he rescued Lot from the kings and the kings of Sodom, from those heathen kings? They said, “*Just give us the people.*”

They said, “Abraham you take all of this gold, silver, and precious stones, diamonds, and emeralds, and all of this money; you just take it.” Abraham said, “I don’t want it. I have looked to the Lord and God has promised to provide my need and I believe God.”

You see; Abraham was at a cross-road here but God ordained that Abraham be a man of faith. God ordained that Abraham would walk in his way and in his will. But, Abraham had a choice to make; do you see what I am saying?

He was at a cross-road but he acted in faith, he acted by faith. He said, “God will prosper me, God will protect me.”

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Then, also, he believed God when God promised him a son. He believed God when God told him to send Ishmael away. He sent him out. That was his only son at that time. He was 14 years old. The other boy, Isaac had just been born. That was his only son for 14 years; it was Ishmael.

God said, “Abraham; the son of that bond-woman which is the law and the son of promise which is Christ can’t live together, it can’t be by grace and works. It has to be grace alone so get rid of him, Ishmael.”

Abraham believed God. That is one of the hardest tasks he ever had to perform but he got rid of that boy. He sent him away with his mother.

Here is the hardest one; he was an old man by now, over 100 years old. God told him, “Take that son whom you love, your only son Isaac, upon the mountain and offer him as a sacrifice. Cut his throat, shed his blood, plunge a knife in him, and offer him as a sacrifice for sin.”

That old man turned his eyes straight toward that mountain. He was three days and three night’s journey. He walked to that mountain with his son, fully intending to put him on that altar and make him a sacrifice.

You might say, “How could he do it?” He believed God. I know that this was ordained and I know Almighty God purposed it. I know it will come to pass but I will tell you; his tears were real. His heart beat was real.

That old man’s agony was real and that old man’s faith was real and he believed God and God blessed his faith. God called him, “*the father of the faithful.*”

I am saying that there are no accidents with God. I’m declaring that as plainly as I can. Nothing takes the living God by surprise.

The heathen said, “*Where is your God David?* We know where our god’s are; they are just little old peanuts that we have on pedestals here and there you know. We have our little shrines and they do what we let them do.

“*David where is your God?*” He said, “*Our God is in the heavens; He hath done whatsoever He hath pleased. Whatsoever the Lord pleased, that did He in heaven, in earth, and the seas, and all deep places, all deep places.*”

“*I am the Lord, (He said). I change not. My council shall stand. I will do all my good pleasure. I declare the end from the beginning from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying; my council shall stand.*”

I am saying to you; God decreed Noah to be delivered and Noah built an ark by the Word of God. I am saying, God decreed for Israel to come out of Egypt but the blood is going to be put on that door.

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I am saying, almighty God decreed for Abraham to be the father of many nations but Abraham is going to walk by faith with God and fulfill all that God Almighty decreed and all that God almighty purposed.

I want you to listen to this; though all things are ordained of God and though “*God worketh all things after the council of His own will,*” you and I are accountable, responsible, creatures who do what we will, that’s right; you are doing what you will.

If you will to receive Christ you will receive Him. If you will not receive Him, you will not; you are doing your will. At the same time, you are doing God’s will.

Now listen to me; His enemies do His will, that’s right, every enemy. That fellow that drove that nail in the hands of my Lord is doing God’s will. He is doing what his wicked heart wanted to do; that all came from His venom-filled nature.

He hated holiness and he hated God. He took great pleasure in seeing this man suffer; he drove those nails. God said, “*You did what my hand and my council determined before to be done.*”

Yes sir; every enemy of God does what He wills. Every enemy of God does what he does as it pleases God, that’s so. Listen to this; “*Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power.*” They people do their will but they do God’s will.

They are made willing in the day of operation of His grace. He loves us but we love Him too. “*We love Him because He first loved us.*” He chose us but we chose Him. He seeks us but we seek Him. “*Seek ye the Lord while he may be found. Call upon him while he is near.*”

All who seek Him will be found of Him. “*You will seek me and find me,* (He said), *when you search for me with all of your heart.*” He calls us and we call on Him. He will not let us go and we will not let Him go.

Let me show you that from the New Testament. Let’s skip over into the New Testament. In **John 6:37**; listen to this: Our Lord Jesus is speaking in **John 6:37**; He says, “*All that the Father giveth me shall come to me and him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out.*”

What is He saying? Look at it carefully:

First of all: He is saying that the Father gave Him a people; “*all that the Father giveth me.*” The Father gave the Son a people. Isn’t that what He is saying?

Secondly: He is saying I will not fail as their Substitute, Surety, and Saviour.”

“*They will come and I will not fail. All that He giveth me I will lose nothing but raise it up at the last day.*”

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Thirdly: They shall willingly come. *“All that the Father giveth me,”* they shall willingly come. When they come to Christ, He will never disown them, He will never cast them out and they will never perish.

Listen to this in **John 6:44**; listen to this, just a few verses over; *“no man can come to me except my Father draw him and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets; they shall all be taught of God and every man that hath heard and learned of the Father cometh to me.”*

What is He saying there?

First of all: He is telling us of the inability of the sinner. He said, *“No man can,”* (is able, has the power, now man, whatever his natural temperament), *no man can come to me.”* He doesn't have the desire or the will to come to Christ. He doesn't have the ability to come to Christ, no man can.

Wait a minute! The Father must make him willing; *“except my Father draw him.”* You can either draw someone physically or you draw them spiritually. This is not a physical drawing, it is a spiritual drawing.

How does the Father draw them? He teaches them, He teaches them. And it says, *“They shall all be taught of God,”* taught of the Spirit and taught of the Word.

What does God teach people? He teaches them that they are sinners. He teaches them that Christ is the Substitute. He teaches them that Christ is the Mediator. He teaches them that Christ is the Redeemer. He teaches them that Christ is the Lamb that puts away sin. He teaches them that salvation is in Christ. He teaches them that God will be merciful in Christ.

They hear Him and everyone, listen; *“everyone who is so taught and learned of the Father cometh to me.”* They will come. They will come willingly, they will come lovingly, they will come truthfully, they will come loyally, and they will come for good.

“Thy people shall be willing.” Who made them thy people? He did; thy people. Whose people are they? They are God's people. *“Thy people, they shall be willing, they shall be made willing in the day of God's power.”*

That's what we need today, an operation of grace. It's not the power of the church and the power of the preacher and the power of the doctrine; it is the power of the Holy Spirit.

**“It's not by might
Not by power
But by My spirit
Saith the Lord.”**

Have you been made willing? What God decreed shall be done, but my friends, if you have been made willing to come to Christ, mercy is waiting for you in Him!