

# Who is My Neighbor?

We have looked at a few things with respect to good works in the past two messages, certainly not the whole gambit, but a few things. We must remember that when the whole picture of works began, the command was to be fruitful and multiply. When you think about it, in the physical realm, Adam, then Noah and his sons, then Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were to bring forth descendants who would rule! The OT is replete with the history of the events that brings us to the point in time wherein God chose to offer the heavenly realm to the son of man.

God dealt with the physical realm first, in being fruitful and multiplying, with the ultimate goal to replace heavenly rulers in the heavenly realm. And if God was going to use man to replace the heavenly rulers then there had to be a plan in place. And so there was! All of it had to do with the Seed of Abraham, his descendants within the realm of the stars in the heavens.

My mind swims for all the things that I have wanted to say to you in these messages. What can a person say about good works? There are so very many things to say, so many aspects of it. And really in the end, the answer to the question: What are the good works that I am supposed to do? might seem rather nebulous, at best. Can I just say that God has fitted you (prepared you) to do good works exactly where you are in life? Unless you are a modern day Peter or Paul, in the sense of being *physically sent to go* out into all the world (and you may be), then you can know that you are walking around in the area of the world that God has placed you. So... where do you walk?

Is it into the office day after day? Who do you come into contact with? Christians, non-Christians? How do you present Christ to them? In word? In deed?

Do you take care of aging parents? Raise up small children? Take care of people who are sick? Have opportunity to speak to truth to teen-agers? Help people rebuild their lives after disaster strikes their house? Are you an importer of goods, meeting people cross-culturally? Do you represent people legally, so that the law of the land can be upheld? Are you an employer, with employees? Or are you an employee of an employer? Do you minister to your grandchildren? Do you offer counsel to people who are hurting? Do you publish books, or re-publish books so that people can have access to the truth readily? Do you give God glory in your artistic abilities, allowing people to see God through your gift?

Where are you in life? What is your world? Where do your feet take you every day? That is the location of where you are supposed to be doing the good works that you have been fitted to do!

We need to purpose to have it in our mind constantly that we are supposed to be about the business of bearing fruit! Of being fruitful, of multiplying, because we have been created for the purpose of ruling! And there is a host of heavenly positions that still need to be filled! And please know that multiplying can be brought about in the smallest ways.

- **The preparation of preparing fallow ground to receive the seed.**

A kind word that would help someone to have ears to hear the word of Christ at future time. A kind act that might help someone to see Christ in you. These things may be the first step in someone's life, making them ready to receive the Gospel of Grace. Then there are more steps in the process of bearing fruit!

- **The planting of the seed**

Telling an unsaved person whom God brings your way, that Jesus has died according to the Scriptures! And then

- **The watering of the seed, so that it will grow up to maturity.**

Telling someone who is a Christian that they have been saved for a purpose! Offer to do a Bible study with them, we have plenty of TOOLS to help in this way. And further

- **Offer a means by which they can be established!**

We are blessed with many tools to do that, both in printed materials as well as our on-line webswite. Do what you can to get the plant established so as to produce fruit. In that both of you will be producing fruit.

Because at some time in the not-to-distant future, the harvest will come in, when at the end of this age, the angels will gather the wheat and the tares and will bring all to the threshing floor for the separating process. But before that time, there is WORK TO DO!

And whether you minister by word or by deeds, MINISTER! Whether it is in the execution of your daily work, MINISTER! Clean the house in an attitude of thanksgiving. Discipline and love your children, being as Christ to them training them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Do right to and for your boss, in his/her sight, or out of sight, knowing that ultimately it is the Lord Jesus Whom you serve.

I think Paul says it best under inspiration of the Holy Spirit:

### **Colossians 3**

**1 If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.**

Here is the inward work that we must continue to be about DAILY:

**5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.**

**6 For it is on account of these things that the wrath of God will come, 7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth.**

**9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, 10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him 11 --a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.**

**12 And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.**

These are good works that we can be doing daily.

**14 And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.**

**16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.**

**17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.**

Now we get specific:

**18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.**

That is pretty specific on what we wives should be doing. Excuses will not be accepted.

**19 Husbands, love your wives, and do not be embittered against them.**

That is pretty specific on what you husbands should be doing. Yours is the greater work because you are to emulate Christ.

**20 Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.**

**21 Fathers, do not exasperate your children, that they may not lose heart.**

**22 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.**

Slaves, (or could it be addressed to employees in today's vernacular?)

Then to all of us... Whatever you do... whatever you do... whatever work you do...

**23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men; 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.**

**25 For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.**

And now we see both the positive (v. 24) and negative of the issue (v. 25).

Certainly there are good works that must be done internally, as we allow the transforming work of the Holy Spirit within us. The importance of this cannot be minimized.

But in the doing of this type of work, we must not forget that there are outward works that we must also be mindful of. The Greek word for works 'ergon' implies the 'outwardness' of these actions. And the range of these works, I am guessing, would be unfathomable. And while this is true, there would be some common characteristics of these works that must be present, characteristics such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Of course these make the list called the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians chapter five.

Even these outward works would fall into two broad categories. They would fall into the realm of the brethren, ie. The Church, which would be first and foremost, but not at the exclusion of the realm of our neighbor, someone not within our local body, perhaps not even a saved person, as we will see demonstrated with the story of the Good Samaritan. And ALL would be done with being fruitful in mind, fruitful toward the goal that is before us, for both ourselves and the other person!

Let's look at what one of the places in the Scriptures says about the love that we should have toward one another. (Scott covered this beautifully in his message yesterday!)

#### **I John 4**

**14 And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.**

**17 By this, love is perfected with us, that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. 19 We love, because He first loved us.**

**20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.**

May I just ask you to look around this room? These are the ones you are to love! Unconditionally, in the same kind of love with which He loved us...laying his life down for us!

This passage reveals the LOVE that we should have one toward another. And LOVE should be the both the *underlying characteristic* we are to have in the good works we do within the Body, as well as the *covering* under which we work — the foundation upon which we walk in the doing, and the protection which we are afforded during the doing.

It is easy to know who falls into the category of the brethren, we just looked around into the faces of those we should be loving unconditionally. But perhaps it is a little more difficult to discern who our neighbor is. Look at what Paul says about this:

### **Roman 13**

**8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. 9 For this,**

- **YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY,**
- **YOU SHALL NOT MURDER,**
- **YOU SHALL NOT STEAL,**
- **YOU SHALL NOT COVET,"**

**and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; love therefore is the fulfillment of the law.**

Is a neighbor one in the same as a brother? Hold on to that question for a moment.

We must understand that in the economy of the OT, if a person kept the whole law, yet stumbled on one small part of it, they broke the whole law. Really if you think about what that means for us, you might come to realize that we can decide to do every thing that we think we need to do in order to receive our inheritance, but if we refuse to LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR, if we refuse to love the Brethren, we will miss the mark! Because the whole law is summed up in YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF! And if we refuse to do THIS, then we have broken the whole law. Isn't that what it says?

So again the question: Is a neighbor and a brother one in the same. I might be given to say unequivocally, "yes", but I would have to wonder why there are two distinct Greek words used, one for brother and a different one for neighbor.

Well let's just play the role of a certain lawyer, and ask Jesus the question, "Who is my Neighbor?"

The story of the Good Samaritan

**Lu 10:25** And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and put Him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

**26** And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?" **27** And he answered and said, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

**28** And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; DO THIS, AND YOU WILL LIVE." **29** But wishing to justify himself, he said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

**30** Jesus replied and said, "A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho; and he fell among robbers, and they stripped him and beat him, and went off leaving him half dead. **31** And by chance a certain priest was going down on that road, and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. **32** And likewise a Levite also, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. **33** But a certain Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion, **34** and came to him, and bandaged up his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them; and he put him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. **35** And on the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper and said, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I return, I will repay you.'

**36** "Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?" **37** And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him." And Jesus said to him, "Go and do the same."

Remember this is similar to what the rich young ruler asked:

**Mr 10:17** And as He was setting out on a journey, a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and began asking Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus answers one man one way, and another man another way. Why? Because He knows the heart of each man, and knows what good work each man must do. The work of one man will be different than the work of another. And it all has to do with LOVE!

In Mark chapter ten, Jesus saw the problem in the heart of the rich young ruler. His problem was that he *loved the riches of this world*, and so Jesus' answer was to "Go, sell

all your possessions, give the money to the poor, and come and follow Me.” We know that the man went away saddened. He was unwilling to do this because he loved his wealth. But the focus with the lawyer was a bit different. The lawyer would have a different fleshly “love” interest that Jesus would address.

The lawyer knew the answer to the question he was asking concerning what he must do. Jesus asked him to answer his own question, and he did!

**26 And He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?"**

**27 And he answered and said, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."**

**28 And He said to him, "You have answered correctly; DO THIS, AND YOU WILL LIVE."**

Jesus Himself relates inheriting age-lasting life with LIVING! Living LIFE in the age to come. Do this and YOU WILL LIVE! Do what?

Love the Lord your God with

- *all your heart*
- *all your soul*
- *all your strength*
- *all your mind, and*
- ***Love your neighbor as yourself.***

Do this, and you will live! Simple enough! But not good enough for the lawyer. Evidently, he had a problem in the area of loving his neighbor, and he sought to “justify himself”. And so he asks a further question, one to which we may want to pay attention! He asks:

**29 ... "And who is my neighbor?"**

You know, honestly we would have to consider that if we are tempted to ask the same question, it may be to justify ourselves as well. “Well, just who is my neighbor that I am supposed to love as much as I love myself? Am I supposed to love someone who is not like me, who doesn’t believe what I believe, or maybe someone who is not even a Christian?” I think this is what Jesus saw in the heart of the lawyer, and He corrected his thinking through the means of this story. And at the end of the story, Jesus has the lawyer answer the question he asked by saying:

"Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the robbers' hands?"

It's actually quite an unlikely scenario from a social perspective. Jews hated Samaritans. There was a real bigotry from Jews to Samaritans. And the certain lawyer knew that. This scenario presented in Jesus' word picture was not the answer that he expected! And then when put to the test, he had to answer his own question "Who is my neighbor?" he had to admit that it was the Samaritan who proved to be a better neighbor, though evidently he couldn't bring himself to say those words. Instead he gave more clear answer:

And he said, "The one who showed mercy toward him."

Is that it? Is that the criteria, which Jesus uses to determine one who loves another as himself? We are not even sure that this Samaritan was a saved individual who would be acting in this way so as to get his inheritance. Actually it seems unlikely that he was saved. THAT is not the point of the story. The point is that we, as saved people, need to work out our salvation in fear and trembling, emulating this type of action.

This unlikely man, who would have never been expected to do what he did, did what the other two men did not do. And he did it completely! Not half-heartedly!

- He stopped,
- took care of the man's injuries,
- put him up on his own beast, and
- walked him to the nearest place of comfort.

Then he went *three steps further*, he

- Stayed with the wounded man for a day,
- Paid two days' wages for his continual care, and then
- Followed up on the man, saying that he would be back to check on him and pay for any further expenses.

He couldn't have done more, could he? And shame on the two who should have done the work, and didn't do it!

So is our neighbor and our brother one in the same? It seems evident in Scripture that in some texts it could be/would be one in the same. But in this text it doesn't seem to be. Jesus surely could have made the person who did the right thing to be a Jewish man, couldn't he? But He didn't. He chose to reveal that a "good neighbor" was a person who had compassion of someone "unrelated" to him, and he acted to the fullest degree in that compassion.

This is the picture of whom we should emulate in loving others and acting upon that love. And according to Jesus' words, if we GO and do the same, we will LIVE.

Please listen to these next few statements. I am not saying that the only way we can LIVE in the coming age is if we go out and minister to those unlikely people. I am not saying that you have to become a full-time evangelist. Or go to work for "Samaritans Purse" in the bush of ...anyplace. (You might be fitted to do this type of thing, but

maybe not!) I am not saying that we have to become full-time Christian workers in an un-Christian environment. But look around you! You may be already a “full-time Christian worker in an un-Christian environment! How many here have an occupation outside of the Church? And so you ARE a full-time “minister” of God’s love exactly where you are right now! Perhaps the only thing you would have to change is to set our minds on things above and...act accordingly in the places that your feet carry you!

Doing good works does not mean that you have to go out and FIND WORKS TO DO! Please don’t let this be frustrating to you. Stop striving and know that God is God, and all you have to do is to be a willing, available vessel for Him to fill! He will lead you to Boaz’s field, as you seek Him and are obedient to Him. He will provide the fruit for your gleaning.

And so comparing Scripture with Scripture, our gleaning in Boaz’s field will look different from one to another. And sometimes may look different from day to day in our own lives.

Think about it. Weren’t we all at one point in time outside of the family of God? How many here were saved as an adult? Think about the circumstances that God used in your life to bring you to salvation by grace through faith. Was it through the ministry of a specific person that God used? Do you know that the work that that person did in your life was a work that God had prepared that person to perform from beforehand, and they were walking in that work! For me, it was my twin cousins, Gerry and Sherry Abel and Gerry’s wife, Kathy. They planted the seed in me! I am eternally grateful to the Father for Gerry and Sherry and Kathy.

Then think about this, weren’t we all at some point in time saved, but without a knowledge of why we have been saved? Didn’t the Lord used others to water the seed that had been implanted in you. I tell you, I can look around this room and see people to whom I owe my life! Literally! And I HOPE that some of you in this room will be able to rejoice together with Gerry and Sherry and Kathy, for the fruit you have born in me. That is my hope, to be your joy and crown!

This is the way it is done...the spreading of the good news of Jesus, isn’t it?

And the spreading of the good news of Jesus is one of the facets of the work that we have been fitted to do. There are many facets of good works, though. Beyond our initial salvation we really must be about the work of growing to maturity ourselves, AND helping others to grow to maturity, as well. Again, it all has to do with finally arriving in Boaz’s field and continuing to work in that field, because it is in that field that our Kinsman Redeemer can give us the fruit to bring forth. We don’t have to STRIVE to find the fruit, He will make sure that He provided the fruit for you to bear, you just need to bear the fruit that He gives you to bear! ASK HIM. He will SHOW you.

I would like to end with something out Paul’s first letter to the Church at Corinth. We find in I Corinthians chapter twelve a whole chapter devoted to the gifts of the Spirit.

Within this list were gifts such as apostleship, prophets, teachers, gifts of healing, speaking in tongues, and interpretation of tongues. These are gifts of the Holy Spirit, that were to be used within the Church during the time when the kingdom was being re-offered to the Jews, when the people in the early church could operate with the realm of miraculous signs, so as to hopefully provoke the Jews to a jealousy that would cause them to repent from their disobedience. And Paul lists these gifts and tells them how they are to operate in an orderly fashion within the church signifying that some of the gifts are greater than others. At the end of this chapter he makes a great statement:

## **I Corinthians 12**

**31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.**

And what follows next is a most unfortunate chapter break. Paul is getting ready to show “a still more excellent way”...A still more excellent way than earnestly desiring the greater gifts. But then we have a ...Stop. Chapter break. I think I’ll wait ‘til tomorrow to read this next chapter in my quiet time. Close the Book. Go one about the day.

Tomorrow, open the Book and begin reading, forgetting that what I had read the day before. Forgetting that Paul was getting ready to show “is a more excellent way”. More excellent than desiring the greater gifts...even the miraculous gifts in the early church! So in order to keep the “more excellent way” in context please allow me to read all of chapter twelve before we come to the more excellent way. Then I think we will be able to grasp the importance of what the more excellent way is! OK?

Chapter Twelve reveals how a church body should be functioning within itself. We are talking about brothers here. Again, please understand that this was written during the time when the re-offer of the kingdom was still being made to the Jews, and the reason God allowed miraculous signs within the church at that point was to provoke the Jews to jealousy. But once the re-offer came to a close, which it did during Paul’s ministry, then there was no reason for miraculous signs, because the Jews had been set aside for a time. So please understand that we are reading this in order to see how we should be viewing each other within the Church, rather than for the purpose of trying to fit miraculous gifts within the church here and now.

## **I Corinthians 12**

**1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware. 2 You know that when you were pagans, you were led astray to the dumb idols, however you were led. 3 Therefore I make known to you, that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.**

**4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.**

**8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,**

**10 and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.**

**12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many.**

**15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?**

**18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. 19 And if they were all one member, where would the body be? 20 But now there are many members, but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."**

**22 On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; 23 and those members of the body, which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our unseemly members come to have more abundant seemliness,**

**24 whereas our seemly members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, 25 that there should be no division in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.**

**27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues. 29 All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they? 30 All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they?**

**31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.**

**I Corinthians 13**

**1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love,**

**I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.**

**2 And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love,**

**I am nothing.**

**3 And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but do not have love,**

**it profits me nothing.**

**4 Love is patient,**

**love is kind, and is not jealous;**

**love does not brag and is not arrogant,**

**5 does not act unbecomingly;**

**it does not seek its own,**

**is not provoked,**

**does not take into account a wrong suffered,**

**6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;**

**7 bears all things,**

**believes all things,**

**hopes all things,**

**endures all things.**

**8 Love never fails;**

**but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.**

**11 When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known.**

**13 But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.**

In closing, we have covered the foundational facet of good works being founded on OBEDIENCE as we have seen to be laid out even as early as the Garden of Eden. Adam was told to be fruitful, multiply and fill the earth. This has to do with the fact that God created man for the purpose of replacing the present system of rulers, innumerable rulers in the heavens.

We have come to see that we must OBEY in the doing of this work. For only through obedience can we LIVE, and we know that disobedience brings forth DEATH. We have before us now, the choice of LIFE and DEATH. It is our choice to make. As saved-for-all-eternity-people (as Christians) this is our choice here and now. It is really quite simple to see and understand.

### **Romans 8**

**12 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- 13 for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.**

So what will we choose to believe about this? LIFE or DEATH? That coming day is fast approaching. May we be encouraging each other to love and good deeds, especially as we see that day approaching.