

# **Perfect Obedience**

**Romans 5:18-19 (text—5:19b)**

*Theme: Through the obedience of Jesus Christ, sinners may be made righteous before God the Father.*

## *Cur Deus Homo?*

(Why did God become Man?)

A man (Adam) got human beings into trouble with God.

Only a man could get human beings out of trouble with God.

Only a God-man would have the ability (as God) and the obligation (as man) to pay satisfaction to God.

That God-man is Jesus Christ.

How did Jesus 'qualify' to do this?

His obedience! (Rom. 5:19b)

# **The Importance of Jesus' Obedience (5:19b)**

To make salvation possible  
Jesus' work had two main  
aspects, both expressed in  
terms of obedience.

# 1. A Passive Obedience.

- Jesus allowed the Father to punish Him for the sins of His people.
- Jesus drank the cup of God's wrath to its dregs.
- Jesus died the death His people should have died.  
*Cf.* Is. 53:6; 1 Peter 2:24.

Who would you rather took the  
punishment you deserve?  
Someone else or yourself?

*Christian, Jesus has taken the  
punishment for all your sins: God  
will never be wrathfully angry with  
you again.*

...but forgiveness only makes a person *morally neutral* before God.

Only one who is *forgiven and positively righteous* can enter Heaven, *cf.* Rev. 21:27.

In addition to His cross work Jesus had to do something more.

## 2. An Active Obedience

- Jesus had to live a perfect life to earn righteousness for His people.
- He perfectly obeyed the Law:  
*cf.* 1 Cor. 1:30; Heb. 4:15.

*Justification by faith is an act of God's free grace, wherein He pardons all our sins [as a result of Jesus' passive obedience], and accepts us as righteous in His sight, only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us [coming from Jesus' active obedience], and received by faith alone.*

Whose righteousness would you  
rather rely on for your eternal  
destiny?

Jesus' righteousness or your own?

*Christian, when God looks at you  
He sees the perfect righteousness  
of Jesus covering you.*

*Cf. 2 Cor. 5:21.*

Jesus died the death His people  
deserved to die

*(passive obedience)*

and lived the life His people  
needed to live

*(active obedience).*

All this was done as His people's  
substitute.

# **Conclusion—Who is Your Representative?**

Everyone comes into this world with Adam as their representative.

We are all guilty, polluted, rotten-at-the-core sinners.

Through Jesus' obedience, sinners may come to have Him as their new representative, to have their sins forgiven and to have His righteousness put to their account.

*Who is your representative?*

*Adam? Or Jesus?*

The Gospel is good news about  
Jesus Christ:

through His obedience sinners  
may be made righteous before  
God the Father.