



Shofar Christian Church

THE DELIGHT OF OBEDIENCE

1 Sam 15

Karl Olivier

1 And Samuel said to Saul, “The Lord sent me to anoint you king over his people Israel; now therefore listen to the words of the Lord.

2 Thus says the Lord of hosts, ‘I have noted what Amalek did to Israel in opposing them on the way when they came up out of Egypt.

3 Now go and strike Amalek and devote to destruction all that they have. Do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.’”

4 So Saul summoned the people and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand men on foot, and ten thousand men of Judah.

5 And Saul came to the city of Amalek and lay in wait in the valley.

6 Then Saul said to the Kenites, “Go, depart; go down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them. For you showed kindness to all the people of Israel when they came up out of Egypt.” So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

7 And Saul defeated the Amalekites from Havilah as far as Shur, which is east of Egypt.

8 And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive and devoted to destruction all the people with the edge of the sword.

9 But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep and of the oxen and of the fattened calves and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them. All that was despised and worthless they devoted to destruction.

10 The word of the Lord came to Samuel:

11 “I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me and has not performed my commandments.” And Samuel was angry, and he cried to the Lord all night.

12 And Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning. And it was told Samuel, “Saul came to Carmel, and behold, he set up a monument for himself and turned and passed on and went down to Gilgal.”

13 And Samuel came to Saul, and Saul said to him, “Blessed be you to the Lord. I have performed the commandment of the Lord.”

14 And Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of the sheep in my ears and the lowing of the oxen that I hear?”

15 Saul said, “They have brought them from the Amalekites, for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen to sacrifice to the Lord your God, and the rest we have devoted to destruction.”

16 Then Samuel said to Saul, “Stop! I will tell you what the Lord said to me this night.” And he said to him, “Speak.”

17 And Samuel said, “Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel.

18 And the Lord sent you on a mission and said, ‘Go, devote to destruction the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.’

19 Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you pounce on the spoil and do what was evil in the sight of the Lord?”

20 And Saul said to Samuel, “I have obeyed the voice of the Lord. I have gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me. I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have devoted the Amalekites to destruction.

21 But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the best of the things devoted to destruction, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal.”

22 And Samuel said, “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.

23 For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king.”

24 Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.

25 Now therefore, please pardon my sin and return with me that I may bow before the Lord.”

26 And Samuel said to Saul, “I will not return with you. For you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you from being king over Israel.”

27 As Samuel turned to go away, Saul seized the skirt of his robe, and it tore.

28 And Samuel said to him, “The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you this day and has given it to a neighbour of yours, who is better than you.

29 And also the Glory of Israel will not lie or have regret, for he is not a man, that he should have regret.”

30 Then he said, “I have sinned; yet honour me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may bow before the Lord your God.”

31 So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul bowed before the Lord.

32 Then Samuel said, “Bring here to me Agag the king of the Amalekites.” And Agag came to him cheerfully. Agag said, “Surely the bitterness of death is past.”

33 And Samuel said, “As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women.” And Samuel hacked Agag to pieces before the Lord in Gilgal.

34 Then Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul.

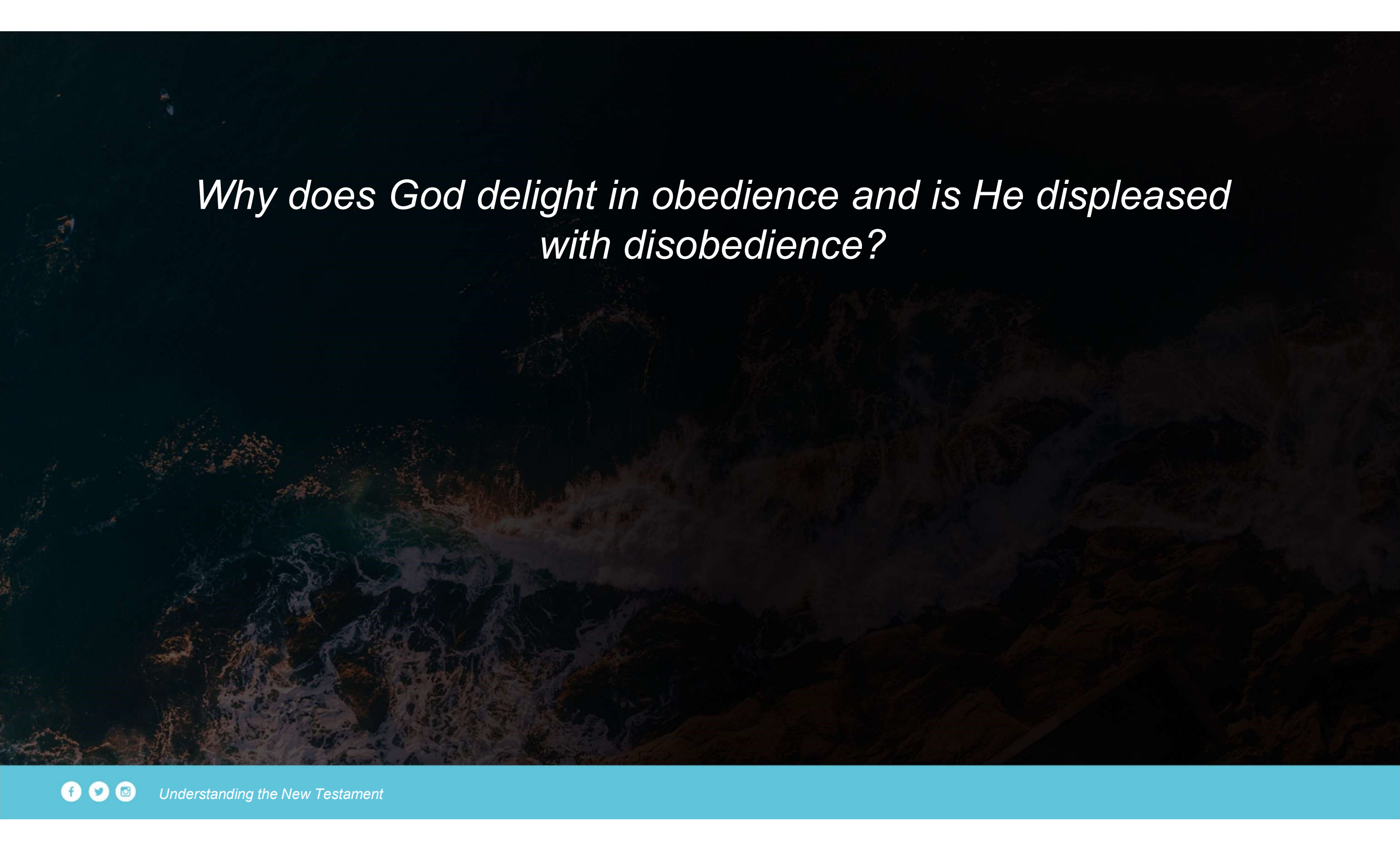
35 And Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord regretted that he had made Saul king over Israel.

Sam 16: The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.”

Conclusion: God delights in obedience and is displeased with disobedience

First discussion point: Why?

Second discussion point: Is this good news?



Why does God delight in obedience and is He displeased with disobedience?

Why does God delight in obedience and is He displeased with disobedience?

*1. It is a misplacement of fear
Lets read verse 24*

24 Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.

*Saul obeyed the people and not God because he feared
the people and not God!*

*Is this not a definition of insanity?
(To fear the natural consequences of obeying God over
the divine consequences of obeying man.)*

Why does God delight in obedience and is He displeased with disobedience?

2. It is a misplacement of pleasure

Saul did his best to convince Samuel that it was a good intent to spare the best of the livestock.

But Samuel is a prophet and sees straight through this argument.

Lets read verse 19

19 Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you pounce on the spoil and do what was evil in the sight of the Lord?”

1 Sam 14:32

32 The people pounced on the spoil and took sheep and oxen and calves and slaughtered them on the ground. And the people ate them with the blood.

The word “pounce” describes the heart with which this was done.



*They desired the meat! They wanted to eat the meat
instead of leaving it to waste as God had commanded!*

*They desired the pleasure of eating the meat,
and not the pleasure of the smile of God.*

Why does God delight in obedience and is He displeased with disobedience?

3. It is a misplacement of praise

What is the first thing Saul does after the victory over the Amalekites?

Lets read verse 12

*12 And Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning.
And it was told Samuel, “Saul came to Carmel, and
behold, he set up a monument for himself and turned and
passed on and went down to Gilgal.”*

Samuel is greatly grieved by this.

*Lets read the encounter between Samuel and Saul,
verse 17 & 18*

17 And Samuel said, “Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel.

18 And the Lord sent you on a mission and said, ‘Go, devote to destruction the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.’

Why does God delight in obedience and is He displeased with disobedience?

4. Disobedience is divination

Lets read verse 23

23 For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king.”

What is divination? Lets read Deut 18:10-12

10 There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer

11 or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead,

12 for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord. And because of these abominations the Lord your God is driving them out before you.

What is divination?

Turning away from the council of God to consult another source for how you should live, what you should do etc.

Consulting a sorcerer, a palm reader or a witch doctor

What about your own mind, your own wisdom?

Why does God delight in obedience and is He displeased with disobedience?

5. Disobedience is idolatry

In disobedience, you bow before the idol of self (yourself)

*Disobedience de-thrones God and enthrones the self!
We attack the Almighty when we disobey.*

So God is displeased with disobedience because it,

- 1. Puts the fear of man in the place of fear of God*
- 2. Elevates the pleasure in things above pleasure in God*
- 3. Seeks a name for itself instead of a name for God*
- 4. Consults the wisdom of self dissatisfied with the wisdom of God*
- 5. Sets more value on the desires of self than on the will of God*

So why is this good news that God delights in our obedience to Himself?

Six reasons why this is good news that God delights in obedience and is displeased with disobedience.



This is good news!

1. It means that He is praiseworthy and reliable



This is good news!

2. It guarantees that one day the glory of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.



This is good news!

3. It shows that grace is a power and not merely a tolerance of evil



This is good news!

4. None of His commands is too hard for me.

Deut 30:11-14

11 “For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off.

12 It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’

13 Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’

14 But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

1 John 5:3

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

Mat 11:28-30

28 Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”



This is good news!

5. Everything He commands me to do is for my good

Deut 10:12-13

12 “And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul,

13 and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good?



This is good news!

6. Because the obedience in which He delights is the obedience of faith.

*Faith is the placing of our hope on the mercy of God.
Mercy means that your obedience doesn't have to be perfect, it needs only to be penitent (repentant).*

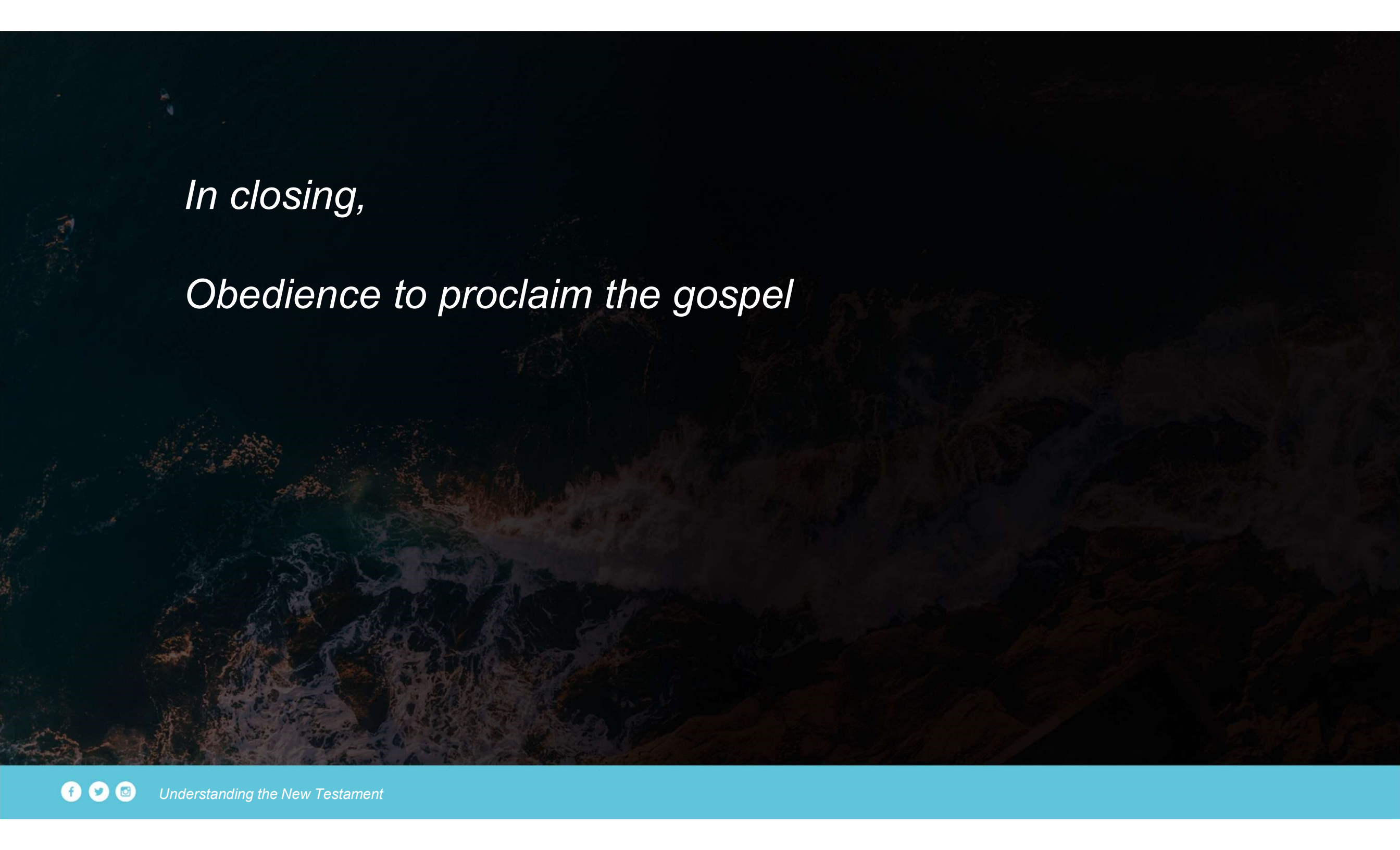
1 John 1:9

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

In closing,

In the same way that one delights in a mountain spring by drinking deeply of the crystal clear refreshing water, in the same way we delight in God by tasting and seeing that He is good.

The only way to taste and see that God is good however, is through obedience. Thus obedience is not following a set of rules, it is a response to having tasted that He is good and coming to the conclusion that there is nothing better.



In closing,

Obedience to proclaim the gospel



In closing,

Obedience to proclaim the gospel

Obedience to His word, all that Jesus has spoken to us

In closing,

Obedience to proclaim the gospel

Obedience to His word, all that Jesus spoke to us

*Obedience to engage your own sanctification and
disengage the self (To choose His way, not our own)*

In closing,

Obedience to proclaim the gospel

Obedience to His word, all that Jesus spoke to us

*Obedience to engage your own sanctification and
disengage the self*

Obedience to the call (God's call) on your life