

## LAMPLIGHTER

### JULY 2008

**THEME: JESUS SAID... “Hear and Obey”**

**JOHN 20:30, 31**

*Jesus replied, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.”*

Luke 11:28

Dear Friends in Jesus,

During the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Denmark and Sweden had a series of bitter wars. Most of the time, the Danes in bold defiance taunted Swedes into aggressive conflict. Relying on the waterways separating the two kingdoms, the Danes were utterly shocked to discover one winter morning of 1658 that the baelth (Danish term for the narrow straight between the two nations) was frozen solid and the Swedes were conquerors of Danish soil.

The Bible abounds in examples of persons with misplaced trust. Jesus says in the verse above that those who both hear and obey the word are blessed. However, many are not listening – at least not to the Lord. Many listen to the wisdom of man while Proverbs 3:5-6 says, “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; {6} in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 12:15 goes on to say, “The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.” Others listen to a different voice. With the eclectic nature of our culture, many adapt numerous notions and thoughts into their “theology.” Some people consider themselves to be spiritual and religious individuals while never attending worship in the house of our Lord. Their religiosity includes psychics, crystals, astrology, biorhythms, and other philosophies or myths. Paul might say this in response, (2 Cor. 4:4 NIV) “The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” Some will look only to themselves. Paul writes to Timothy, (2 Tim. 4:3-4 NIV) “For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. {4} They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.” They look in every place but the obvious – the Word of God.

The exhortation in our text is that we hear the Word of God and obey it. Only reliance on God can save. Acts 4:12 says, “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.” Jesus himself says in John 14:6, “Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” Paul says in Romans 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (John 12:32 NIV) “But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.”

As man becomes more self-centered and focuses on himself instead of God, he misplaces his trust. He places that trust in the world, Satan, or even his own fleshly desires, when in truthfulness the story is not about himself, nor about what he must do to appease an angry God. The story is about what God in Jesus has done for us already when God acted in our behalf by sending Jesus to be the ransom from our sin. Let us not be like the Danes who trusted in the narrow straight for safety and protection, but let us hear the Word of God and obey it by knowing the salvation which is given by grace through faith in Jesus.

**Close with prayer, the Lord’s Prayer, Benediction, and Song – #53 “I am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus”**