

Why Are People Not Obeying the Gospel?

2 Thess. 1:7-9

Introduction:

- A. All need to obey.
 - 1. Aliens to receive salvation.
 - 2. Backsliders restore salvation.
 - 3. Faithful to maintain salvation (cf. Phil. 2:12)
- B. Sad but true, not all obey. (Rom. 10:16; Gal. 3:1; 5:17).
 - 1. Hard to understand, given our text.
 - 2. Notice five major reasons:

Discussion:

I. Ignorance.

- A. Of true condition.
 - 1. Alien sinner (Eph. 2:12).
 - 2. Backslider (2 Pet. 2:20-22)
 - 3. Lukewarm (Rev. 3:15-18).
- B. Of greatest need.
 - 1. Think in material, temporal and social terms.
 - 2. Think of health, wealth and happiness.
 - 3. Think little of being saved and going to heaven.
- C. Of God's will.
 - 1. May not be taught. (Eunuch - Acts 8; Apollos - Acts 18).
 - 2. May not listen/read. (Acts 17:11)
 - 3. May be deceived (Gal. 3:1).

II. Indifference.

- A. Know condition, but could care less.
- B. Know need, but could care less.
- C. Know God's will, but could care less.

III. Ingratitude.

- A. For the riches of the goodness of God (Rom. 2:4,5).
- B. For the unsearchable riches of Christ (Eph. 3:8-11)

IV. Indecisiveness.

- A. Easier to study than to stand. (Cf. 2 Tim. 3:7).
- B. Easier to holdup a decision than to uphold a decision . (Cf. 1 Kings 18:21; Josh 24:15; Acts 24:25).

V. Involvements.

- A. Sinful habits — hard to break. (Lying, cursing, drinking, drugs, etc.)
- B. Sinful pleasures — hard to forsake. (Heb. 11:25)
- C. Sinful attachments — hard to abandon. (Cf. Matt. 19:22)
- D. Sinful relationships — hard to sever.
 - 1. Sinful Occupations (cf. Phil. 3:7,9).
 - 2. Sinful Marriages (cf. Matt. 19:9).

Conclusion:

- A. Must not allow anything to keep us from obeying.
- B. Nothing or nobody worth losing our soul over (Mark 8:36-37; 9:43-47).