



The Prescribed Life

Devotional by Malcolm Henderson, MD

“Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?” (Luke 6:46)

This question from Jesus is a timeless inquiry made to every Christian within every generation blessed enough to live in post-redemptive history. Now that the question has been asked by our Savior, how do you answer?

This verse is interesting as it interrogatively, yet definitively, demands obedience to God’s Word. The first question to ask is an intuitive one. **Do you know God’s Word enough to even possess the ability to obey it?** You can’t obey if you don’t know the commands. This should encourage us to read and study Scripture more. There are no acceptable excuses for not following commands that God has freely provided us with through His Word.

“If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.” (John 15:22)



The second question: **If you know God’s commands contained in Scripture, do you obey them?** The reflex answer for many Christians is, “Yes, of course I obey God’s commands.” I’ll ask again. Do you REALLY obey His commands?

Why would I ask again if I didn’t believe the answer given? Simply put, I don’t see Christians’ actions matching New Testament commands. This may be difficult to hear, but let’s investigate this together. The goal is truth, not opinionated criticism. James says, *“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”* (James 1:22).

Let’s look at just one of these commands and see if we truly are living in obedience to Scripture and doing “what it says.”

In Luke 6:27-28, Jesus says, *“But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”* Do you obey this?

I will answer this through the consideration of my direct observation of Christians and the observation of Christians’ comments on social media and mass media in general. Considering all of those, I would say we are not living in obedience to this command of Christ who we claim to follow and obey. Do you love the radicalized Muslim terrorist that would generally be considered an enemy? When ISIS or Boko Haram kill Christians and spew hate speech against Christianity, do you do good to them, bless them, or pray for them? Or, are we using every opportunity we have to slander these men and talk hatefully about them?

I see the latter much too often and it is damaging the image and glory of Christ that we are to represent on this Earth. Did Paul write one vile word in Scripture about Emperor Nero who was arguably the biggest Christian killer in history and was ruling as Paul was writing his epistles? Whether you like it or not, these men are created in the image of God, and God’s grace of salvation is bestowed upon whomever He desires. So if you aren’t praying for these people and loving them as much as Christ loved you when He was dying on the cross for your sins, then you are living in disobedience. After all, your sins are just as deserving of hell as any terrorist’s actions.

“For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.” (Romans 5:19)

This verse is referencing Adam and Christ, but the truth in the verse can be extrapolated to us. Is your disobedience resulting in many being made sinners? Think about what your slandering and hateful speech is doing to observers around you. Is what you are saying drawing people toward Christ or toward associative sin and demonically-laden passion? Your children are listening to you. Your unbelieving friends are listening to you. Christians, who may be weaker in their current faith, are listening to you. Is Christ pleased with how you are leading them? Are your words glorifying God?



We are commanded to be set apart, not of this world, ambassadors for the Kingdom of God, and sojourners on this earth. Yet, we love being a part of the world’s political and social rhetoric. We love being a card-carrying member of the world rather than ambassadors of heaven and sojourners. Instead, we appear as citizens of the world and its Satanic system. What is happening to us? Are we that deceived?

Please, read the Word of God and pray that He does a mighty work in the heart of American Christianity. It pains me to say that, right now, we look nothing like New Testament Christians. We need to get our heads out of the mire of the world’s deception and into the skies of God’s truth. I know the tone of this devotional is harsh, but I have to write what the Holy Spirit moves me to write. So please, as Paul writes in Galatians 4:16, *“Don’t hate me now that I tell you the truth”*.

At a glance

With your help, we've accomplished so much this quarter.



Hosted 3 more mission teams in Haiti this past quarter, which made it possible for 18 people, involved in our "family prayer sponsorship" program, to meet the "adopted" Haitian families that they had already been praying for, face-to-face.



Held a meeting that was a first of its kind, on July 15th at 10 am in an abandoned hospital on the mountain named Grand Rivier. For this meeting, a special invitation was only given to vodou priests, mambos and malefactors who live on the mountain. We invited 100 and 58 showed up. We fed them spiritually and physically as we preached the gospel and provided them with a meal, respectively. All 58 of them said they had never, before this meeting, read the Bible or heard the gospel of Jesus Christ!



Distributed 25K pounds of beans and 31K pounds of rice meals to 106 widows, 3 schools, 2 orphanages, 26 church leaders/pastors and 2 unreached villages. Thanks to Ken Lautenbach for this generous donation!



Held 2nd meeting in Grand Rivier on August 7th at 10 am. We invited 250 vodou priests, mambos and malefactors and 200 showed up! We preached the gospel again, answered many questions that they posed about the Bible, God and Jesus.



Taught 132 "front porch" Bible studies in various villages over the last quarter.



Formed 2 more communities of widows: a group of 33 in the village of Berry that meets on Wednesdays and a group of 31 widows in the village of Macary that meets on Fridays. This is in addition to our initial group of 42 widows that gather in Marigot every Saturday. That's 106 widows we have identified and are now able to bless, love, and minister to every week as God commands us in His word to do!



Led a preaching circuit in which Ian Asher, a young man of God who has been working with us over the last quarter, preached every Sunday for 6 consecutive weeks at 6 different churches in Haiti. Seguin, Berry, Macary, Lamott, Barack and Marigot – all churches under the CHARIS umbrella. Malcolm also preached for the village of Berry's 10th anniversary and for 2 of Pastor Maxi's churches in Port au Prince, (Delmas and Coreye). Pastor Maxi is the national head of the Church of the Lamb of Jesus Christ—a non-denominational Protestant organization focused on planting churches through initial evangelism and missions.



God gifted us with a very talented camera crew that came to Haiti to film and photograph our on-the-ground, day-to-day ministries as well as interview former and active vodou priests. Our hope and prayer is that as the videos and photos begin to be distributed through CHARIS website, more people can get their arms around the special work the Lord is doing in Haiti.



In July we hosted 4 days of dental/medical clinics with the help of 2 dentists, 1 pediatrician, 1 microbiologist and a paramedic. We served in 2 unreached villages, where help like this has never before been provided, and also performed clinics in 2 of our villages in which we regularly serve.



Initiated a new "program" called "Jesus ate with tax collectors". We hosted 2 vodou priests (Chris Nova on July 24th and Sila and his family on August 14th) for dinner in our home. Our thought was "why not get the priests out of their temples, where they are under the demon's stronghold, and receive them into our home as we desire to show them that the love of God, through His Son Jesus Christ, is available for all men who will receive it." This is unprecedented in Haiti. People are shocked that we are doing this. Even the priests are shocked we are doing this! To God be the glory!



Distributed 300 boxes of beans and 300 boxes of rice meals to 4 schools, 2 orphanages, 26 church leaders/pastors, 75 widows and 4 villages. (Beans and rice meals donated by Ken Lautenbach.)



Hosted 14 Intensive Discipleship Training classes with our ever-growing young potential leaders group which represent young people from 9 different villages.



Evangelism

We have been led by the Holy Spirit to direct a strategic attack against the powers of darkness in SudEst – the state in which we reside. After teaching and doing an in-depth study on the power of prayer with our Tuesday night Intensive Discipleship Training class, Malcolm was led by

the Holy Spirit to have all 20+ students pray together, on their knees, that the power of each of the priest/priestesses in their neighborhood/village would be pulled down to the glory of God! We then made a list the following week of all the names of the vodou priests, vodou priestesses (mambos), and malfactors (evildoers) that we have visited over the past few years and distributed it to the 26 leaders in all of our churches in Haiti. The leaders all agreed to join forces with us to fast and pray every Thursday morning in an effort to break down the strongholds of Satan's kingdom that hold SudEst in spiritual bondage. (We also distributed the list to our board members and pastors of the churches that support us in the U.S. and they are praying as well.) We hosted 2 meetings on the mountain of Grand Rivier (see above) to bring all vodou priests and priestesses together to hear the gospel and we started another program (also discussed above), in which we are giving special invitations to vodou priests/priestesses and their families to come to dinner at our house. Many are turning their lives over to the Lord!



Communities

We have just entered a new, “unreached” community named Nan Zimye. It takes a little under 2 hours to hike to the top of the mountain where this community resides. You have to walk through 3 rivers before beginning an ascent straight up the side of the mountain. This

community has no school, clinic, church, police department, clean water or electricity. Most of the people that live there have never heard about Jesus. 80% of the people who are sitting in the crowd are either active vodou priests, mambos or serve the “lwa” (ancestral spirits). We have been hosting a Bible study in this community every Saturday at 8 am since June. The group that gathers initially numbered 70, but has now reached 140 (plus an additional 30 kids)! Many have come to the Lord! We are excited watching the transformation in people's lives who have been attending the weekly studies. We hope to plant a church there very soon.



Education

With summer break ending for the students of Haiti, another school year is upon us. We are always in continual need for funding focused on education, and this is especially true with our bigger schools. I encourage you, if you have a heart for education, to donate online and

specify that your donation is for education in the comments box—you will be greatly aiding the future of Haiti as you well know. We are also excited to roll out 2 new educational programs. The first involves one of our Haitian neighbors, Christian Gabriel, who is raising his children up in the Lord, which is a very rare thing in Haiti. He is a struggling carpenter who the Lord placed on our hearts to begin supporting monthly as he helps us start a ‘carpentry apprenticeship’ program. With top notch tools, such as a table saw and hand saws, donated by Senior Pastor Rich Valkanet of Living Waters AG Church in Grayslake, Illinois, Christian takes young men into his shop who have no current skills or work and teaches them carpentry with the goal of eventually functioning on their own as carpenters. The cost of this is \$150/month which we are currently funding ourselves. If God places Mr. Gabriel on your heart please support this effort. Lastly, we would like to especially highlight and thank Ms. Maria Black, who has donated a substantial amount of money to start a scholarship fund that focuses on supporting young women's vocational training that can vary between nursing school, cosmetic school, cooking school, etc. This is an exciting program that will provide much needed hope within the lives of the many young women we know who have great potential and an exceptional work ethic but lack the funds to educate themselves within a vocation. This scholarship is named after Maria's brother who was a very successful cosmetologist prior to his unfortunate premature death. Thus, the scholarship is named ‘The Armando Vazquez Fund’, after Maria's much loved and missed brother.



Medical

After we strategically initiated an all-out prayer attack against the powers of darkness, we started seeing, and treating, an unprecedented number of abscesses! Everywhere we went someone would approach us with the same story: “I've got this painful abscess on my leg that showed up out of

nowhere—can you help me!” We successfully treated a man in Marigot with a grapefruit size abscess above his knee that could have killed him. Another woman, in the village of Nan Zimye, had a tooth abscess gone terribly wrong. Her whole face and neck were extremely swollen, and she had two holes, one on each side of her neck, spewing pus every time she turned to the left or right. She was very near death, but God allowed us to get to her in time and to treat her with antibiotics, vitamins and fervent prayer. Our dentists came a few weeks later and were able to pull the 2 teeth that had been infected which subsequently completed her healing! Abscesses on hands, armpits, legs, and necks—it was truly strange to see the demonic counter attack manifest in this way. Also, people were falling sick with curses and possessions. A 34 year old woman named Josette, who lives behind us, had a demonic curse put on her which manifested through making her upper body waste away and her lower body swell beyond natural limitations. We prayed over her for weeks but she continued to waste away with no improvement and no desire to know Jesus even though we were avidly preaching to her. However, a breakthrough came on August 15th when she called for us to come to her saying that she knows she needs to be saved from the evil one and only Jesus can do that. She prayed that day on her bed as her Aunt Lilliyah and neighbors cheered and rejoiced! Additionally, we were able to experience two miraculous operations, both on former vodou priests who had been “marked” with huge tumors (leg and back of the neck). The miracle was that they felt NO PAIN from start to finish as they just sat smiling through the procedures thanking the Lord for his salvation and for emancipation from their past lives!

How to continue helping

As we continue to share the gospel in Haiti, the following list will provide some very practical needs. Please prayerfully consider how you can help us win over Haiti for Christ this year.

Laptop for showing the Jesus Film on the mission field.

\$1,500

One time need

Purchase land to build a missionary house for the Henderson Family.

\$4,000

One time need

Regular monthly giving dedicated to **support more indigenous Haitian Christian workers** (pastors, nurses, translators, etc.)

Ongoing need

Haitian Creole Bibles

\$264 will cover the cost of purchasing and shipping a case of 90 Haitian Creole New Testaments with Psalms to Haiti.

A big "thank you" to those of you who are actively providing money for Bibles. The need is always present.

Ongoing need

Instruments for our 9 churches*:

(guitars, cymbals, trumpets, bongos, violins, tambourines, banjos, flutes, xylophones, shakers, etc.)

Material donation

Ongoing need

Regular monthly giving dedicated to **schools/education.**

Ongoing need

School supplies, medical supplies, backpacks, uniforms (school and soccer)*

Material donation

Ongoing need

15-passenger van

\$12,000 – \$15,000

One time need

Hand-held, solar, audio Bibles in Haitian Creole

\$75 purchases a single audio Bible from World Missions, with a price drop to \$55 at five Bibles. This would be a blessing for the many vodou priests who are illiterate and for the many blind Haitians we come across.

A special "thank you" for the contributions we have received for this need also. We appreciate your heartfelt gift.

\$75 for one. \$275 for five.

Ongoing need

We want to recognize the memorial gifts given to honor:

Alv Norr and Richard Norr

Malcolm's Great Uncles who faithfully supported Charis.

*Note: Any donations of school supplies, medical supplies, backpacks, uniforms and/or musical instruments can be sent to our main address and will then be shipped over to Haiti in barrels.

Charis
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Mission Statement

Charis (Greek for God's Grace) operates in complete obedience to God, giving Him His rightful place in determining the path and goals of His ministry that He has, by grace, allowed us to perform. Charis primarily focuses on the unseen spiritual needs in Haiti, and secondarily on the seen physical needs, always remembering that our success is completely dependent on the will of God, the gospel of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit working effectively through us, His willing servants.



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