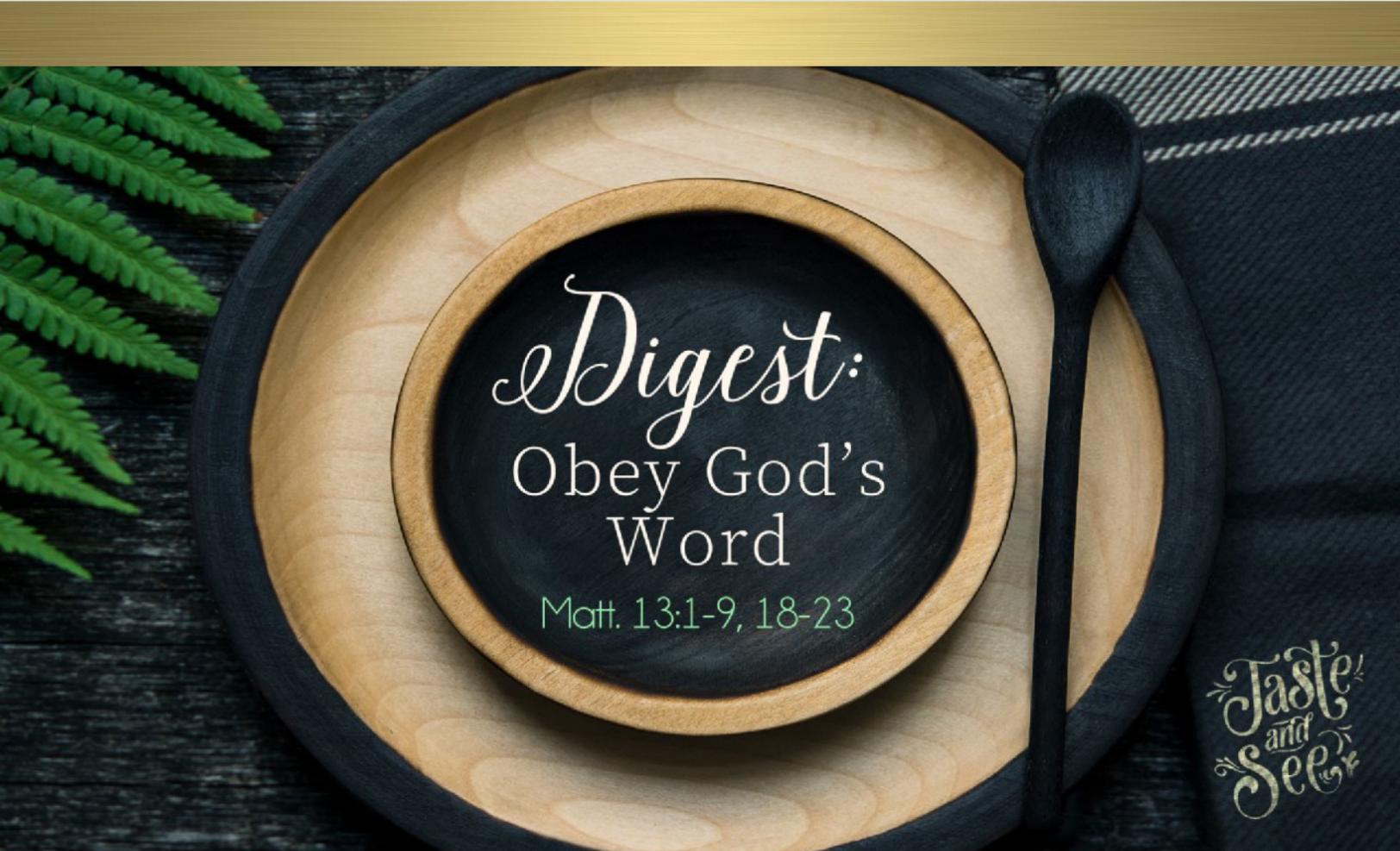




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Digest:
Obey God's
Word

Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23

*Taste
and
See*

WHY WE MUST OBEY COMMANDMENTS

WRITTEN BY: EVELYN C. POINTER, ELDER

And God spoke all these words saying, "I am the Lord God Lord thy God which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me," (Ex 20:1-3). Unlike man, God does not change. He said, "For I am the Lord, I change not." (Mal 3:6). Yet grievous wolves came into the Christian churches set up by the disciples. They changed the laws of God to worship idols (Acts 20:29-30). The so called Christian churches of today have become so deceived by false doctrine that they preach that the laws of God are done away with, or that it is no longer necessary to obey the law of God. But what did God say about them? "To the law and the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Is 8:20).

When were the laws of God established? They were established from the foundation of the world and man received God's verbal laws. However man disobeyed him from the beginning, starting with Adam and Eve.

The very first law was to obey the Lord with all your heart, soul and might, which Adam did not do. God ended his work on the seventh day and rested from his work and this is when he established the Sabbath. This was not a Jewish law, but was established from the beginning of time. But what did man do instead? They took the first day of the week, the day that the heathen worshipped the sun, and called it the Sabbath, the Lord's Day. God put man and woman together from the beginning, he said, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh"(Genesis2:24). Yet, they commit adultery and fornication. We know that the first murder was done by Cain who killed Abel. Cain was a murderer, a liar, and disobedient to God and his parents. When God told Cain sin lieth at his door, there had to be a law for there to be sin. "Sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4). Due to the wickedness of man and his refusal to obey, God sent a flood and destroyed all except eight souls in the ark, as a remnant of them who would obey. When Israel became a nation, God gave them his Holy Oracles while the world worshipped idols. These were his written laws on stone, and they were placed in the Ark of the Covenant. These laws governed the children of Israel, and were a light unto the world. There were always grievous wolves among Israel who tried to change the laws of how to obey God. The children of Israel did not obey God's law and were punished for sinning against him.

When Christ came in the flesh, he brought the Gospel and showed man how to obey his commandments in perfection. He said, "Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matt 5:48). He gave us his testimonies, statutes, judgments, and ordinances which would bring us into perfection with the blood of Jesus Christ. For those who think the laws of God are done away with when Christ came in the flesh he said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets; I am not come to destroy but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law till all be fulfilled" (Matt 5:17-18).

Today the laws of God remain the same even as sin has reached its peak. Satan has made sin a common thing that everyone does, so that it doesn't seem wrong. But God punishes man little by little to give him a chance to repent for his sins before judgment comes down on his head. As in the days of Noah God said, "The earth is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinances and broken the everlasting covenant" (Is 24:5).