I. Why is Obeying the Gospel Urgent?

1. Man has a big problem and that problem is sin.
   a. Sin separates mankind from His Creator (Gen. 2:7, 15-17, 18-22, 3:1-6, 17-19, 22-24; cf. Isa. 59:1-2).
   b. Sin only produces death (Jm. 1:13-15; Rm. 5:12, 6:23).
   c. Sin brings about the wrath of God (Rm. 1:18; cf. Eph. 5:3-6; Col. 3:5-6).
   d. The wrath of God is ultimately realized with **eternal** separation from God in hell (2 Th. 1:7-10).
2. The gospel is the **solution** to the sin problem.
   a. Mankind can have his sins forgiven through the blood of Christ and thus avoid the wrath of God (Rm. 3:9-26, 5:8-11).
   b. The only way in which we can contact the blood of Christ is through obedience to the gospel (Rm. 10:1-17, 6:1-4; cf. Rev. 1:5-6, 7:14).
   c. Therefore, one **cannot** have the blood of Christ applied without obeying the gospel culminating in baptism.

II. Examples of Urgency in Obeying the Gospel

1. The three thousand on the Day of Pentecost (Ac. 2:14-41).
   a. "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and **the same day** there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls." (Ac. 2:41 emphasis added).
2. Saul of Tarsus (Ac. 22:11-16, 9:18).
   a. "And **now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins**, calling on the name of the Lord" (Ac. 22:16 emphasis added).
   b. "And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, **and arose, and was baptized**" (Ac. 9:18 emphasis added).
3. Cornelius (Ac. 10:30-33, 10:1-6, 47-48).
   a. "**Immediately** therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God" (Ac. 10:33 emphasis added).

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4. Sergius Paulus (Ac. 13:6-12).
   a. "Then the deputy, **when he saw what was done, believed**, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord" (Ac. 13:12 emphasis added).
   b. **believed** is used as a synecdoche for gospel obedience as we will see in our next example.
5. Philippian jailor (Ac. 16:22-34).
   a. "And he took them **the same hour of the night**, and washed *their* stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, **straightway**" (Ac. 16:33 emphasis added).
   b. It was only *after* the Philippian jailor heard the Word of God, believed it, repented, and was baptized that the Bible records that he was "**believing** in God with all his house" (Ac. 16:34 emphasis added).
6. The Ephesians (Ac. 19:1-5).
   a. "**When they heard *this*, they were baptized** in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Ac. 19:5 emphasis added).

III. Examples of Delaying Obedience to the Gospel

1. The others on the Day of Pentecost (Ac. 2:1-13).
   a. The Biblical record shows that about three thousand obeyed the gospel on the Day of Pentecost (Ac. 2:41).
   b. What about the others?
   c. It is quite possible that many of them never obeyed even though they had the opportunity to do so (Mt. 7:13).
2. Felix (Ac. 24:24-25).
   a. It is a tragic thing to not have time for the salvation of your soul.
3. Herod Agrippa II (Ac. 26:27-29).
   a. We have to give God our **all** and almost is less than all (Lk. 14:26-27, 33).