

## The Most Vexing of Biblical Antinomies

"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.** For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." Philippians 2:12-13

Have you noticed that Scripture teaches two conflicting ideas as equally true? One of the most vexing – because it touches our moral sensibilities – is **the sovereign control of God over time and events, and His holding man accountable for how he behaves.**

The New Covenant, predicted by Jeremiah, fulfilled by our Lord Jesus, and quoted in **Hebrews 8:10** says, "...For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people..." If I have a heart for obedience, it is a gift from God; He gave it to me; He "put His law into my mind and wrote it on my heart."

The Apostle John warns in **1 John 2:4**: "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." If I lack a heart for obedience, it indicates that I do not know God, and He will judge me accordingly. **Both quotes from the Bible are equally true, and I dare not believe one at the expense of the other.** If I desire to obey God, I have no reason to feel good about myself; He placed the desire in my heart. **If I ignore His commandments, I do not know God, and I face certain judgment.**