

“KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS!”

(Jno. 14:23)

“23 If a man love me, he will keep my word,” Jno. 14:23. One of the evidences of a man having the **“love of God”** within him is that he **“keep the commandments of Christ.”** Another passage emphasizing the same thought is Rom. 6:23. In this passage the “keeping of the commandments” is the distinction between being lost or saved: *“23 For the wages of sin is death; but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Just before this passage there is emphasized the **obedience to the word of God**, *“17, But thanks be to God, that, whereas ye were servants of sin, ye became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching whereunto ye were delivered,”* Rom. 6:17. The emphasis is between a man **doing** and **not doing** the “Word of God.”

One may think it strange that we emphasis **obedience** to the “Word of God,” but that is **just what the Word teaches** – be obedient to the Word of God, if a person wants to be saved, Rev. 2:10: *“10 Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life.”* We are not able to determine what we want to do and expect God to accept it. We always note a passage in Heb. 8:5, *“5 See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern that was showed thee in the mount.”* Emphasis is placed upon Moses that all things must be done as God directs – **look at the pattern!** Well, the same thought is presented in II Tim. 1:13. The KJV has, **“sound words.”** This is the same as the **“pattern,”** designated in the ASV. We are held to the **“RULE”** that God has designated, *“16 only whereunto we have attained, by the same rule let us walk.”* Phil. 3:16. We have no choice; but, to walk, obey, adhere to, **“the pattern,”** which is God’s word.

In the realm of the New Testament, we all have the same standard. Concerning our obeying the gospel and becoming children of God, the whole world is held to the same message, Rom. 1:16. The worship to God is designated, Jno. 4:24 and we are expected to abide by that standard. The organization of the church is specified and we have no right to change or alter it. Then there are the principles governing Christian Living.

We are not to curse, steal, lie, manifest anger, cheat, fornicate, be led by wine, follow the ways of the flesh; or the ways of the world - *“19 the whole world lieth in the evil one,”* Jno. 5:19. Our mission is to follow the Lord, and his teachings, Col. 3:17. The **“whatsoever ye do,”** means **“everything you do,”** we must be led of God and be obedient to his leading.

Please observe the object is, **“to go to heaven,”** Jno. 14:2. The **“many mansions”** means there is room for all; but, only if we do the will of the Father, Jno. 14:23. You cannot determine yourself what you want to do; but rather, let God guide you through his word, Acts 20:32: *“32 And I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you the inheritance among all them that are sanctified.”* From these thoughts and from our life of being obedient to the commandments we can have comfort in the fact, *“23 If a man love me, he will keep my word,”* Jno. 14:23

The ultimate end will be the time when the Lord will say: *“34 Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world,”* Matt. 25:34. Caa

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