

What keeps us from Keeping God's Laws

Deut. 8:2 *"Thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee."*

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Jan 14th

Reflection: We closed 2023 by reflecting on Deut. 6 and remembering:

1) That we should "keep" God's Commandments. Dt 6:1,2

"Keep": shamar: guard, have charge of, Treasure

2) Why we should keep God's commands Deut. 6 "Keeping" God's Laws Produces:

- A Full life 6:2 "that thy days may be prolonged"
- A Fulfilling life v 3 "that it may be well with thee"
- A Fruitful life v 3 "that ye may increase mightily" Dt. 10:13

3) How we should keep God's commands. With:

- Fear (Dread/reverence) This Guards us! Dt 6:2; Pr. 9:13
- Faithfulness (Dedication) This Guides us! Dt 6:2-9
- Fidelity (Devotion) This Grows us! Dt 6:4,5 *"Love the LORD ... with all thine heart..."*

Last week we learned that Failure to "keep" them, (ignorantly/indifferently) results in us being incomplete, ill equipped, and ineffective! 2 Tim. 3:16,17 *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable ... That the man of God may be perfect, (complete) thoroughly furnished (equipped) unto all good (useful/beneficial) works."*

Direction: Ps 19 opens with how God reveals himself generally in nature (vs 1-6)

And specifically in scripture. (Vs 7-11) and that *"by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward"* Vs 11

Since keeping God's word results in such "Great Rewards" (2 Pt 1:4)...

What keeps us from "Keeping" God's Word?

1. Ignorance: We don't know! (Comprehend/Understand) Leaving us vulnerable:

A. To Deception 2Cor 4:3,4 *"if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: (apollymi: destroyed)*

In whom the god of this world hath blinded (typhloo: obscure, blunt) the minds (noema: perception, purpose) of them which believe not, (apistos: faithless {Jn 3:18}) lest the light of the glorious gospel ... should shine unto them."

1) Deception is related to Drifting. Mt 22:29 *"Ye do err, (to drift, deceive) not knowing the scriptures"*

a) The *"god of this world"*, (2 Cor 4:4) uses the current (and cares) of this world to pull us from God! (Mk 4:19; Mt 13:22; 2 Tim. 4:10; 1 Jn 2:15,16)

b) A "Slow drift" (compromise) is most effective!

B. Drifting (and deception) usually leads to Destruction. Pr 14:12; 16:25;

Mt 7:13 *"wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, (apō'leia: perdition 8x, destruction 5x, Waste! 2x) and many there be which go in thereat:"*

1) Of our eternal soul! Lk 12:16-21; Mark 8:36,37; 2 Thes. 1:7-9

2) Of our Eternal Rewards. Eph. 4:17-20; Phil. 3:18,19 *"For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, (apōleia: waste) whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind (phroneo: focus, regard) earthly things."*

a) Satanic deception and self preservation tend to shift our priorities (focus) from Heaven to Earth.

Conclusion:

As darkness is dissolved by light, Ignorance is dissolved by God's Truth!

While Satan "*blinds the minds*" (2 Cor 4:4) vs 6 "*God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 but we have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellency of the power may be of God*"

Application: Light (truth) received brings more light!

John 8:12 "*I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, (scotia: obscurity/ignorance) but shall have the light of life.*"

Ps 119:130 "*The entrance of thy words giveth light; (ôr: clarity) it gives understanding (bîn: perception, discernment) unto the simple.*" (also Ps. 119:105; Pr 4:18)

Ignorance is Resolved by receiving and understanding "The Word of Truth."

Jms 1:16-21 "*Do not err, (drift, be deceived) my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights... Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be ...firstfruits of his creatures.*"

James 1:21 "*Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, (Em'phytos: implanted) which is able to save your souls.*"

➤ What are you doing to make room to "receive" (engraft) God's Truths into your heart and life?

Information without application produces self Deception! James 1:22

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

➤ What are you doing with the truths of God's word? Ps. 119:9-11

James 1:25 "*whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, (abides: Jn 15) he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*"

(Markarios: supremely fortunate) see Ps 1

Do you want to be "blessed" (prosper) in 2024?

Make much of God's Word, And it (He) will make much of you!

Ps. 19:10,11 "*More to be desired are they than gold... sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.*"

Light (truth) received brings more light!

Responding to what God has revealed (Ps 19:1-6) brings more revelation: (Ps. 19:7-11)

Light (truth) rejected, brings Darkness! Ro. 1: 18-22,25

18 *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: 21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

22 *Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools...25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, And worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator,"*

What are you doing with what God has revealed?

Who are you really worshipping and serving?