

THE GREAT REWARD

TEXT: *Psalms 19:11b: . . . and in keeping of them there is Great Reward*

Introduction: Sometimes we hurriedly read into Scripture something which it did not say. Here is one such instance. It does not say: “*Because I keep them [God’s commandments], I shall have a Great Reward,*” but “*in keeping of them there is Great Reward*”.

God Himself wants us to keep them, because He loves us. He says:

Deuteronomy 5:29: Oh that there were such a heart in them, that they would fear Me, and keep all My Commandments always, that it might be well with them.



This reward is an indisputable (though too often fully unrecognized) fact of every Christian experience: that we may have to keep His commandments in the very teeth of trial, loss, or opposition. Distress does not touch the fact that it’s IN the keeping of His words, not afterward, that He takes care to keep His word that there shall be Great Reward.

Matthew 19:29: And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My Name’s sake, shall receive one hundred fold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

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John 14:24: He that loveth Me not keepeth not My sayings: and the Word which ye hear is not Mine, but the Father’s which sent Me.

See how many times *keep* and *love* are joined together in all parts of His word.

Exodus 20:6: And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me, and keep My Commandments.

Deuteronomy 11:1: Therefore thou shalt love the Lord thy God, and keep

His Charge, and His Statutes, and His Judgments, and His Commandments, always.

John 14:15: If ye love Me, keep My Commandments.

Now, if we have only been obeying in mere form and letter because we were afraid to disobey, this is not heart-obedience which is always crowned with blessings. So, if we cannot quite set to our seal that God is true to this promise, let us be quite sure that the reason is because we have not fulfilled His condition.

John 3:33: He that hath received His Testimony hath set to His Seal that God is true.

And let us now, at once, ask Him to write His laws in our hearts, and so to shed abroad His love in us by the Holy Ghost, that we may begin at once to keep them for very love to our glorious Lawgiver and Mediator.



Deuteronomy 5:27: Go thou near, and hear all that the Lord our God shall say: and speak thou unto us all that the Lord our God shall speak unto thee; and we will hear it, and do it.

Romans 5:5: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by The Holy Spirit which is given unto us.

Hebrew 8:10: 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.

Deuteronomy 6:24: Then we shall know for ourselves that they are not grievous, but that they are for our good always.

1 John 5:3: For this is the love of God, that we keep His Commandments: and His Commandments are not grievous.

Yet surely we may appeal to the experience of every one of the King's servants, that however feeble and imperfect our obedience has been, we do know something about Great Reward — that we are not rewarded FOR it, but IN it. Just as in the days of Hezekiah when the hand of God was to give them one heart to do the commandment of the king, and the result was great gladness, great joy, great blessing, and great prosperity, so is it now in the spiritual reign of our King.

2 Chronicles 30:12, 21, 26:

12 Also in Judah the hand of God was to give them one heart to do the commandment of the king and of the princes, by the Word of the Lord.

21 And the Children of Israel that were present at Jerusalem kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with great gladness: and the Levites and the priests praised the Lord day by day, singing with loud instruments unto the Lord.

26 So there was great joy in Jerusalem: for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel there was not the like in Jerusalem.

2 Chronicles 31:10: And Azariah the Chief Priest of the house of Zadok answered him, and said, Since the people began to bring the Offerings into the House of the Lord, we have had enough to eat, and have left plenty: for the Lord hath blessed His people; and that which is left is this great store.

2 Chronicles 31:21: And in every work that he began in the service of the House of God, and in the Law, and in the Commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered.

Job 36:2: Suffer me a little, and I will show thee that I have yet to speak on God's behalf.

Not an outward and visible reward, though even that He very often adds — and far more exceeding — but an inward and spiritual reward, not in general only, but in the minutest particulars. Having pledged Himself to this, He is not unrighteous to forget the least act of Spirit-wrought obedience.

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Hebrews 6:10: For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have showed toward His Name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Sometimes He puts such wonderful sweetness into the doing of or the refraining from some little thing for His sake, that we wonder what makes us so happy about it, and cannot but be conscious that it is not exactly one's mere natural feeling. Is not this precious experience of Great Reward all the greater because it came through some very little thing?

Mark 10:30: But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses,

and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come Eternal Life.

1. STRENGTH:

Deuteronomy 11:8: Therefore shall ye keep all the Commandments which I command you this day, that ye may be strong, and go in and possess the land, whither ye go to possess it;

Proverbs 10:29: The way of the Lord is strength to the upright: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.

2. SAFETY:

Ecclesiastes 8:5: Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing.

3. LIBERTY:

Psalms 119:45: I will walk at liberty: for I seek Thy Precepts.

4. PEACE:

Psalms 119:165: Great peace have they which love Thy Law: and nothing shall offend them.

Isaiah 48:18: O that thou hadst hearkened to My Commandments! Then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea:



5. LIFE AND HEALTH:

Psalms 62:8: Trust in Him at all times;

1 Peter 5:7: Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you.

Matthew 6:25-34:

²⁵ Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your Heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? 28 And why take ye thought for raiment?

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.



30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your Heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

33 But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His Righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Proverbs 3:1-2, 8:

1 My son, forget not My Law; but let thine heart keep My Commandments:

2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.



Proverbs 4:20-22:

20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.

21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

6. KNOWLEDGE:

John 7:17: If any man will do His Will, he shall know of the Doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of Myself.

7. **ANSWERED PRAYERS:**

John 8:31b-32:

31 If ye continue in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed;

32 And ye shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall make you free.



8. **GLADNESS:**

1 John 3:22: And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him, because we keep His Commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

9. **THE FATHER'S LOVE:**

John 14:21a: He that hath My Commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father,

10. **THE MANIFESTATION OF JESUS:**

John 14:21b: And I will love him, and will manifest Myself unto him.

11. **THE INDWELLING OF THE TRIUNE GOD - "We":**

John 14:23b: And We will come unto him and make Our abode with him.

12. **THE WITNESS OF THE SPIRIT TO THIS INDWELLING:**

1 John 3:24: He that keepeth His Commandments dwelleth in Him, and He in him. And hereby we know that He abideth in us, by the Spirit which He hath given us.

Hebrews 11:32: What shall I more say?

Revelations 22:14: Verily, in keeping of them there is Great Reward both now and hereafter.