

INTRODUCTION

Jesus Christ has laid down His life for His friends, when He died in our place, for our sake, on the cross. He became the curse of sin for us, and died to save us from the wrath of God. There is no greater love than that. We have heard that in His death, burial, and resurrection, there is now forgiveness of sins for us, and eternal life. Believing in Him, we repent of our sins, and know forgiveness from God and justification in His sight. Having been so loved by Jesus Christ, we now love Him profoundly. How, then, are we, for whom Christ died, to show our love for Him? He said to us, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." His commandment in general is, "Love one another." Okay, but how do we do that? By letters from His apostles, we have the more specific commandments that give us the necessary instruction in how to love one another. Remember what we have heard already in 1 Timothy:

Charge some that they not teach other doctrine, nor give heed to myths...

Wage the good warfare...

Pray and give thanks for all men, for kings and all who are in authority...

...men, pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting...

...women, adorn yourselves in modest apparel...[and] with good works...

...women, learn in silence with all submission...

A bishop must be blameless...likewise deacons...likewise their wives

...every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving...

...instruct the brethren in these things...but reject profane and old wives' tales, and exercise yourself toward godliness.

...these things command and teach...

...be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity...

...give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine...

...meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them...

Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, younger women as sisters, with all purity.

Honor widows who are widows indeed. But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents...

...if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith...

Do not let a widow under sixty years old be taken into the number...

...I will that the younger marry, bear children, manage the house...

Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor...

Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all...

Do not lay hands on anyone hastily...

No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities.

Let...servants...count their own masters worthy of all honor...

...having food and clothing, with these we shall be content...

Flee from the love of money and the desire to be rich and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life...

All of these commandments, from our Lord through His apostle Paul, we have read and studied together. The Holy Ghost helping us, working among us and in us, we have come to know these things as the commandments of the Lord. It is good that I have read these commandments to you from the holy scriptures, have explained their meaning, and have applied them to your conscience. It is good that you have heard these commandments. But that the blessing of God be upon us in this, there is also the matter of keeping the commandments. Jesus said, Luke 11:28 “...blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” John wrote to us in Revelation, “Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written...”

In our study of 1 Timothy, we are only a few lines from the end of the letter. We realize here that the apostle is summarizing and concluding his message. The Holy Spirit speaking through Him, Paul has commanded many things. Now he urges upon Timothy and upon us that we keep the commandment we have received.

TEXT

1 Timothy 6:12-14 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. (13) I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, (14) that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing,

BODY

I. Keep This Commandment

A. Keep

1. used to mean “guard” as of a prisoner
2. used to mean “protect” as of something valuable
3. regarding our Lord’s commandments, and all of His word, it means a combination of
 - a) hearing
 - b) believing
 - c) doing
4. “keep” it is nearly synonymous with “obey”

B. This commandment or the commandment

1. singular
2. Is Paul referring to what he just wrote in the previous lines? “Flee these things...Fight the good fight of faith; lay hold on eternal life...”
3. Or as Paul starting to conclude his message, is he referring to all that he had commanded Timothy in this letter?
4. Or is Paul giving a very general charge to keep all that God has commanded?
5. The old authors give different opinions on this, and I don’t know how to tell. But I know that this saying applies to us regarding all of our Lord’s commandments, so I will speak to you on this today in the broadest sense, as pertains to all of us and all of our Lord’s commandments
6. When the apostles wrote us commandments in their letters, they are the commandments of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 14:37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

C. We need to know what God’s commandments are

1. some commandments we hear are not God’s commandments
 - a) the world gives commandments that are against the commandments of God
 - b) religious men like the Pharisees or the pope and his pack of wolves give commandments that they have made up---inventions of their own imagination, that actually subvert God’s commandments
 - c) God Himself has given commandments that applied to Israel in the Old Covenant, but which do not apply to anyone any more since Jesus died to institute the New Covenant
2. our Lord Jesus, by His own words and through His apostles, has given us the scriptures, so that we can know what God’s commandments for us are
3. this letter from Paul to Timothy explains and applies our Lord’s commandments in a number of things, so that we know what God’s commandments are

D. We need to be charged solemnly to keep our Lord’s commandments

1. there is sin still at work in our flesh; by that, we are tempted to hear the commandments of God, but not to keep them
2. so, when our Lord commands us, we need Him also solemnly to charge us to keep His commandments
3. see Matthew 7:24-27

[If time is up, conclude here.]

II. Keep This Commandment Considering Who Is Watching Us

A. God who gives life to all things

1. God made every one of us
2. God wrote His law of love, of right and wrong, into our hearts
3. being our Creator, He has every right to command us and judge us
4. He knows everything, including everything about whether or not we keep His commandments

B. Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession

1. He came down here and lived as one of us
2. He always kept all the commandments of God perfectly
3. He now sits on the throne of heaven, and knows all that we think and say and do

III. Keep This Commandment Without Spot, Unrebutable, Until Jesus Comes combining what we read about this in James and 1 Peter

A. We are not to keep some of God's commandments some of the time

1. only at church on Sunday
2. only when other people are looking, or might find out
3. only when it is easy

B. Instead, we are to keep all of God's commandments all of the time

C. When we live such a life, we are

1. without spot
2. blameless or unrebukeable - G423 *anepileptos*
 - a) GEN, KJV unbreakable NKJV blameless ESV free from reproach CSB without failure
 - b) we worked to understand this when we studied chapter 3 - a bishop must be blameless

D. But the world is so filthy with sin that contact with it threatens to contaminate us; the world is so sinful that it tempts us to sin its sin with it

E. We remember that God already has destroyed this world with all its sin once before, by the great flood; and He will destroy it all again, even more thoroughly, by fervent heat;

F. We look forward to the fulfillment of our Lord's promise of new heavens and a new earth, where there will be no more sin, but only righteousness

G. Looking forward to these things, we are diligent to be found spotless when our Lord Jesus Christ comes

CONCLUSION

Revelation 12:17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

Allison - Prelude

Allison - Trinity 168 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" - Alex lead

Rita - Trinity 108 "Praise Ye, Praise Ye the Lord" - Andrew lead

Rita - Trinity 212 "A Hymn of Glory"

Jeremiah - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Psalm 119:105-112

Jeff - Scripture Reading - Deuteronomy 30:9-20

Jeff - Lord's Supper - 1 John 3:16a

Dillon - Congregational Prayer

keep G5083 *tereo*

Mat 28:20

John 8:51

John 8:55

Eph 4:3

1 Thess 5:23

2 Tim 4:7

James 2:10

Jude 6

Rev 1:3

Rev 2:26

Rev 3:8-10

Rev 22:7

commandment G1785 *entole* from G1781 *entellomai*

used to refer to God's commandments and men's

Mark 12:29-31

Romans 13:9

1 Corinthians 14:37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

2 Peter 2:21

2 Peter 3:2

Rev 22:14

keep + commandment(s)

Mark 7:9 He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.

John 14:15-21 "If you love Me, keep My commandments. (16) And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-- (17) the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. (18) I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. (19) "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. (20) At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. (21) He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

John 15:9-14 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. (10) If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. (11) "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. (12) This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. (13)

Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. (14) You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.

1 John 2:3-5 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. (4) He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. (5) But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him.

1 John 3:22-24 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. (23) And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. (24) Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

1 John 5:1-3 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. (2) By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. (3) For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

Revelation 12:17 And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.

without spot G784 *aspilos* ESV unstained CSB without fault

James 1:27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.

1 Peter 1:18-19 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, (19) but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

2 Peter 3:10-14 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. (11) Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, (12) looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? (13) Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (14) Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

unrebukeable G423 *anepileptos* NKJV blameless ESV free from reproach CSB without failure

1 Tim 3:2

1 Tim 5:7