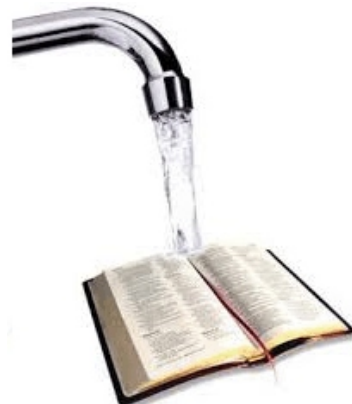


Sharing God's Word

We have such a watered down understanding of Christianity in our world today that it's shameful.

Loving God involves guarding, cherishing, and obeying His word! Jesus said in John's Gospel: "As the Father hath loved Me, so have I loved you: continue ye in My love" (John 15:9). Then He answers the question of how we do that: "If ye keep My commandments, ye shall abide in My love; even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love" (John 15:10).



We sometimes want to ask so-called believers, "What part of "keep My commandments" do you not understand?" If we truly love God, we will love His word, and our love will be revealed by the way in which we choose to live, in obedience to it—or as John would say, "walk in the Truth." We cannot leave God's Word out of our daily life if we are going to love God and walk in the Truth. Isaiah tells us: "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the LORD" (Isa 55:8). In order for us to know His ways and to know His thoughts we must be yielded to His Word, where they are revealed to us. To love God; to love Christ; is to love His Word by obeying His word—which is once again what John calls "walking in Truth!"

In this short article we want to see that the priority of **avoiding taking a "cafeteria approach"** to it. If we love God, we won't pick and choose what we will obey and what we won't.

To illustrate: In John 6, many disciples who had been following Jesus everywhere, and who had been enamored by His miracles, now heard Him speak some difficult things, and they walked away and did not follow Him anymore. When this happened Jesus turned to His twelve faithful followers and asked them, "*Will you also go away?*" How sad that this is so often the truth about believers who just don't like the hard things!

In 2 John 4 says, "*I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.*" The phrase "I rejoiced greatly" is indicative of active. This points to the time when he learned about their walking in Truth. When John got the news of these believers walking in the Truth, experiencing God's love and grace: mercy and peace, he was ecstatic!

"*I found*" is Greek is *hearisko*, which means to discover something that you didn't know before. He found "some" [inferred to from the Greek *ek*, "out of"] walking in Truth. "Some" tells us that some, but not all, of the church were obedient, or else that he only had news of some of the congregation. The ones that he found out about were walking in the Truth. *Peripatoes*, "walking," literally means to walk around but figuratively it refers to living one's life on a daily basis.

Their walking in the Truth was a continuous practice, because the verb is in the present tense. Further, the use of the active voice tells us that this was their daily intentional choice to do so. So John had learned that the lifestyle of these believers was to daily and consistently walk in the Truth. *En*, "in," completes the picture of believers who are "fixed in or under the sphere of Truth" and therefore live under it's influence.

Now, what is truly exciting is that these believers were obedient to the whole Truth—which we learn from *kathos*, "just as," referring to action that is the exact equivalent to something. Just as what? "*Just as we have received commandment to do so.*" The word "received" is the Greek word *lambano*, and it, of course, refers to two actions: To receive something means first of all that something must be offered—in this case, the Word of God. This Word that is offered to all must then be received, as we are commanded.

There are not options to a commandment. We are commanded as God's children to receive His Word. We are commanded to allow it to totally influence the way we think and the way that we live!!

