Feb. 17, 2019 a.m.

KEEPING HIS COMMANDMENTS

Reading: **John 15:10-17**

**What Jesus taught the apostles just before going to Gethsemane.**

* *“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”* (**14:15**)
* *“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me.”* (**14:21**)
* *“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word”* (**14:23**)
* *“He who does not love Me and does not keep My words….”* (**14:24**)
* *“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love”* (**15:10**)
* *“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”* (**15:12**)
* *“You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.”* (**15:14**)
* *“These things I command you, that you love one another.”* (**15:17**)

**The next morning, their king would die on a cross. Would they obey Him?**

**They would when they understood and believed that He was the King.**

**Oh how John’s heart must have burned when he wrote these words some years later!**

**Do we want Jesus as our Savior and our Lord?**

**Are we going to obey Him?**

**What Jesus promised the apostles:**

* The Holy Spirit would teach them all things and remind them of all the things He had said to them. (**14:26**)
* The Spirit would *“guide* *(them) into all truth.”* (**16:12-13**)
* Jesus did not tell them all of the truth (they could not have handled it), the Spirit did.

**The apostles taught and wrote the commandments of the Lord.**

* **Acts 1:2; 1 Cor. 14:37; 1 Thess. 4:1-2; 2 Thess. 3:4, 6; 2 Peter 3:2**
* We are to continue steadfastly in the teaching of the apostles. (**Acts 2:42**)
* Their teaching is the foundation of the temple.
* *“The household of God* is *built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets.”* (**Eph. 2:19-20**) {see **Rev. 21:14**,names of the 12 on the foundations of the wall}
* This includes the words of those who were companions of the apostles. (prophets) [i.e, Luke with Paul, Mark with Peter]
* Jude pointed his readers to the words of the apostles. (**Jude 17**)
* Their words were received as being the word of God.(**1 Thess. 2:13**)
* The red letters of Jesus are no more important than the black letters of Peter and Paul.
* They spoke for Jesus – hearing them was hearing Jesus. (**Eph. 4:21**)
* Jesus prayed for those who believe in Him through the word of the apostles. (**Jn. 17:20**)
* Paul gave instructions about the Lord’s Supper that had been delivered (*paradidomi* – handed down, transmitted) to him by the Lord.(**1 Cor. 11:23**)
* Paul, on few occasions, was quick to point out that something he said was his judgment on a matter. (**1 Cor. 7:25, 40**)The fact that he did this adds weight to the rest of what he wrote as being the commands of the Lord.
* “Jesus never said anything about homosexuality,” one person wrote. But Paul did. And I receive his words as being the words of the King.
* One former preacher for churches of Christ wrote the following:
* “Since John's Gospel was written that we might believe and have eternal life **(John 20:31),** then it can be accepted that the Gospel of John contains everything we need to know and believe. It must also contain every behavior required to gain salvation. … Since John's Gospel contains little regarding baptism, communion, church leadership and attendance, the contribution, worship styles, women's roles in the church, etc., how can these issues be areas over which we bicker and divide?!”

(Are Examples Authoritative? David Tant quoting Virgil Fiske)

**Law or Grace? Are we under one or the other?**

* Are we free in Christ to serve Him as we please?
* Most of the passages that are referred to (not under law) are talking about the Old Law.
* Paul was quick to say that we are under law in Christ. (**1 Cor. 9:21**)
* *“Sin is the transgression of the law.”* (KJV) (**1 John 3:4**)
* If there is no law, there is no sin. (**Rom. 4:15**)
* If you are uncomfortable with the idea of having laws and rules to govern us, just insert commandments everywhere you hear the word law. Does that help?
* One preacher said he was uncomfortable with treating the NT as a code of law (like the Law of Moses) and that we seem to jump here and there, finding what we believe are the commands of God by looking over all the pages of the NT epistles.
* The Jews referred to the first five books of the OT as the Law.
* Do we find commands from God in every word in every one of those books?
* No, nor is every word recorded in the epistles a command.
* Yes, I will have to search through all of the NT books to find those commands.

**Are the commandments of the NT for us today?**

* I was told when we were appointing elders that I wasn’t Titus and we were not the church on the island of Crete. So what Paul told Titus to do, we are not to do?
* I was told recently that **1 Cor. 16:1-2** is not a commandment for us to take up a collection on the first day of the week unless we expect Paul to come and take it to Jerusalem. So when, how and what do you propose we do when we have Christians who have needs, preachers who need support, and local work that needs to be expedited?
* There is not one word in the entire NT that is specifically spoken to me or the church at Hillview. None of us were told directly by the Lord or an apostle to be baptized. It is a necessary implication that any of the NT should be believed and obeyed by us.

**Are we keeping His commands? Are we obeying our King?**

* Repentance, baptism, eating the Lord’s Supper, contributing, singing, teaching, sermon on the mount, hospitality, love our wives, submit to our husbands, teach and discipline our children, helping the needy, visiting orphans and widows, dressing modestly, withdrawing from the impenitent – a command, **2 Thess. 3:6**, exposing the works of darkness, appointing elders and deacons, respecting our roles in local churches, putting of the old man and putting on the new, love, humble, fruit of the Spirit, love our neighbors, etc.