

The Path to Eternal Life

**"And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak."
John 12:50**

Many Christians see an emphasis on keeping the commandments and salvation by grace as mutually exclusive concepts. In this passage, Jesus says that God's commandment is life everlasting. The Apostle Paul taught, **"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."**¹

If a person is saved by grace, apart from works, why does our Lord say that His commandment is life everlasting? In part, it is due to the fact that obeying Him is the only path to life. The Bible defines spiritual death as separation from God, and spiritual life as union with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God will not form a union with one who refuses to obey Him.

Jesus said, **"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."**² If you want eternal life, you must believe the Son, and believing the Son entails keeping His commandments. When you seek to reconcile the words of our Lord Jesus with those of Paul, **you must be careful not to do violence to the intent of either author.**

¹Ephesians 2:8-9 ²John 3:36