

Daily Devotional, January 2, 2021

'A New Commandment for a New Year', (John 13:34, NKJV)

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.” (John 13:34)

As you move into the New Year, why not resolve to please God through obeying His commandments? We know the Ten Commandments given through Moses. But did you know that there are a total of 613 commandments in the Law of Moses? In the New Testament, we have the Law of Messiah, which ups the ante in many cases by getting to the spirit and heart of the Law. Take a read through **Matthew Chapter 5** to see examples of this. Now we don't keep the Law to be justified by God, **“knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified”** (Galatians 2:16).

But we also know that to keep the moral commandments both in letter and in spirit is profitable. We as Christians choose to do this out of love for Jesus Christ. Knowing that this commandment is pleasing to God and profitable to men, it ought to be easy to agree to resolve to keep it. Not so easy in practice, but a noble goal indeed! A new commandment for a New Year. We need look no further than God's Word to see what kind of love our Lord requires. **“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails”** (1 Corinthians 13:4-8).

Go then in the spirit of the commandment of Christ Jesus. If indeed He is your Lord, then you would obey Him. How can you practically do this commandment with your spouse, parents, children, family, friends, strangers like the waitress in the restaurant or the clerk in the store, and even that difficult person in your life?