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John 14:15-24

15. “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

16. ‘I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;

17. that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

18. ‘I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

19. ‘After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also.

20. ‘In 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 is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.’

22. Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, ‘Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?’

23. Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.

24. ‘He who does not love Me does not keep My words;

and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.””

These statements by Jesus come from the dialogue Jesus had with His chosen disciples during the Last Supper. In this portion of Scripture Jesus defines “love” in solid, tangible terms.

Verse 15 states, “If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” In verse 23 Jesus says, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word.” And in verse 24 He states, “He who does not love Me, does not keep My word.”

It is clear then, that Jesus defines love as keeping His word and commands. Note that the word “keep” in these verses means to “observe, obey, or follow.”

In verse 21 Jesus makes this statement: “He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me.” The phrase “has My commandments” indicates a person who has a working knowledge of the commands of Christ. In the Bible Study Fellowship notes for “Israel and the Minor Prophets”, page 1, the following statement is made.

“Following God's commands requires spending time to know what these commands are and then deliberately choosing to obey them.” Jesus expects us to search the Scriptures to know and then do His commands here and now. Ignorance is no excuse, His grace gives us time to learn and apply His directives.

In verse 23 Jesus then ties our love and subsequent obedience to our very salvation: Quote: “The indwelling presence of God, through His Spirit, is the essence of our salvation in Christ”--as stated in Romans 8:9 and a host of other verses.

Do you truly love Jesus, as He Himself has defined love? Then you need to continue to study His Word to learn His will. And most importantly you need to “keep,” that is “obey,” the commands of Jesus Christ.

For Christmas Jesus simply asks that we love Him--with all our hearts, and all our souls, and all our minds--and that we love our neighbors as ourselves.