

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

1 John 5

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The Apostle John continues the theme of loving God which results in loving the brethren, no ifs, ands, or buts about it. God commands us to love one another. The Lord Jesus the night He was betrayed said it was the mark of discipleship and that it was what would let those on the outside of the faith understand we are different than the rest of the world. **"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples if you have love for one another."** (John 13:34-35)

John repeats what he says throughout this book, namely, if you say you love Jesus, then you must keep His commandments, as the love of Jesus is always marked by practicing obedience as a way of life. **For this is the love of God, that we keep (keep is in present tense) His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?** (1 John 5:3-5)

Notice that John says, that when we keep the Lord's commandments it is not a thing to be dreaded or a lifestyle that is a burden or

oppressive. The Greek word for "Burdensome" is *Βαρύς, barus*, pronounced (*bar-ooce'*) properly, **heavy (weighty)**; (*figuratively*) what is **grievous (burdensome)**, pressing down on a person with oppressive force. **Such a grievous burden makes a person unable to function (enjoy free movement)**. [Discovery Bible definition]

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God. (1 John 5:13) John closes out this letter with the assurance that those who know God, love God, and walk with God, are those who do not practice sin as a way of life. It is not their habit. *Their lives are not dominated by the practice of sin* as it was before they came to know God in a personal way in Jesus Christ. All the words like "Commit" "Love" and "Obey" that are talked about as characteristic of the follower of Jesus are couched in the **Present Tense**. This speaks of a habit of life and a lifestyle. It has at its heart and roots the idea of continuance, not hit, and miss. It is a habit that one is known by and continues to practice. This is the expectant life of the believer. John wrote this entire book to give assurance to the Saved person and to warn those whose life is all talk and no action.

Prayer and Action Steps

Lord, thank you for your love for us. May we love each other as you love us and encourage one another to walk in obedience as a way of life.

Amen