

## ***God's Telescope***

Phillip Brooks once wrote, **“The Bible is like a telescope. If a man looks *through* his telescope, then he sees worlds beyond; but if he looks *at* his telescope, then he does not see anything but that. The Bible is a thing to be looked through, to see that which is beyond; but most people only look at it; and so they see only the dead letter.”**

Some joy-filled saints learn the beauty of God and His Son *through* the scriptures. But others, sad souls, merely see the scriptures as a book of rules. Does scripture contain rules? Of course. But God's word is *not merely* for the *purpose* of rules. It is for the *purpose* that “we might share His holiness,” (Hebrews 12:10).

In other words, God's commandments are much like rules from any other loving parent – they protect us from our own excesses, they guide us through the maze of a crazy culture and they bless us with a closer relationship with Him. No wonder Jesus said, “If you love me you will keep my commandments,” (John 14:15).

In I John 5:3, God says it this way, “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.” Those who see God's commandments as burdensome have not lived deeply in the love of God! Much as newlyweds rejoice in pleasing each other, those in love with Jesus rejoice in keeping His commandments.

And when those commandments are broken in a moment of weakness, the lover of God finds deep solace in the repentance and prayer that brings the full grace of God back into his or her life. And nothing brings the depths of joy like the fullness of grace. No wonder King David wrote, “The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul,” Psalm 19:7.

Do you look *at* the Bible merely to see rules, or do you look *through* the Bible to learn relationship with the Jesus you love?

Ray Wallace

Further study: Psalm 19:7-14; II John 6; I John 2:3-6; Matthew 11:28-30