

Deuteronomy 6:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and his testimonies, and his statutes, which he hath commanded thee.

Analysis

The emphatic command 'Ye shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God' employs intensive Hebrew construction ('shamar tishmoru'—keep ye shall surely keep) demanding scrupulous obedience. The comprehensive scope 'his testimonies, and his statutes' covers all revealed will: moral law (testimonies of God's character), ceremonial regulations (statutes), and civil ordinances. Diligent keeping requires continuous attention, not sporadic effort. The phrase 'which he hath commanded thee' grounds obligation in divine authority. This verse illustrates the Reformed understanding that sanctification requires disciplined obedience to all Scripture, not selective compliance with preferred commands.

Historical Context

Moses repeatedly exhorted Israel to comprehensive obedience before entering Canaan (Deuteronomy 4:5-6, 5:1, 6:1-2, 7:11). The tripartite description (commandments, testimonies, statutes) encompasses all covenant stipulations governing worship, justice, family life, economics, and warfare. Israel's history demonstrated that partial obedience equals disobedience—Saul's incomplete destruction of Amalekites cost him the kingdom (1 Samuel 15:1-23). God requires whole-hearted obedience to all revealed will.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the intensive construction 'diligently keep' challenge casual or selective obedience to God's commands?
2. What does the comprehensive scope (commandments, testimonies, statutes) teach about God's lordship over every area of life?

Interlinear Text

תִּשְׁמֹר וְ	תִּשְׁמֹר וְ	אֶת	מִצְוֹת	יְהוָה
Ye shall diligently	Ye shall diligently	H853	the commandments	of the LORD
H8104	H8104		H4687	H3068
אֱלֹהֶיךָ	וְעֵדוֹתָיו	וְחֻקָּיו	אֲשֶׁר	
your God	and his testimonies	and his statutes	H834	
H430	H5713	H2706		
צִוָּךְ:				
which he hath commanded				
H6680				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:4 (Parallel theme): Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently.

Deuteronomy 11:22 (Word): For if ye shall diligently keep all these commandments which I command you, to do them, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, and to cleave unto him;

2 Peter 3:14 (Parallel theme): Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (References Lord): Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Exodus 15:26 (Word): And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

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