

John 12:50

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.

Analysis

Jesus concludes by equating the Father's commandment with eternal life. Obedience to God's word produces life, not death. The Father's 'commandment is life everlasting' establishes inseparable connection between divine word and eternal life. Jesus therefore speaks exactly as the Father instructed, guaranteeing His words bring life to believers. This validates *sola scriptura*—Scripture alone brings salvation because it alone is God's word. The chapter ends affirming that Jesus' teaching, far from being rejected, is the very word of life.

Historical Context

This conclusion reinforces John's Gospel purpose statement (20:31)—that readers might believe and have life through Jesus' name. His words are the Father's words, which are life itself.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the equation of God's commandment with eternal life establish Scripture's salvific power?
2. What does this teach about the inseparable connection between word and life?
3. In what ways are you allowing God's word to produce eternal life in your daily experience?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	οἶδα	ὅτι	ἡ	ἐντολὴ	αὐτοῦ	ζωὴ	αἰώνιός	ἐστιν
And	I know	that		commandment	his	life	everlasting	is
G2532	G1492	G3754		G1785	G846	G2222	G166	G2076
αὐτοῦ	οὖν	λαλῶ	ἐγὼ	καθὼς	εἶρηκέν	μοι	ό	
whatsoever	therefore	I speak	I	even as	said	unto me		G3588
G3739	G3767	G2980	G1473	G2531	G2046	G3427		
πατήρ	οὗτως	λαλῶ						
the Father	so	I speak						
G3962	G3779	G2980						

Additional Cross-References

John 17:3 (Eternal Life): And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

John 6:68 (Word): Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

John 6:63 (Word): It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

1 John 5:20 (Eternal Life): And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

