‘Keeping God's commandments’

When we speak of keeping God's commandments, we refer both to the Law that God gave to Moses, i.e. the Ten Commandments, and to the commandments of the Lord Jesus received through the Gospel, which do not exclude the former, but confirm and strengthen them.
The following parenthetical quotations from the Holy Scripture show us that that the will of God the Father and the Lord Jesus is to keep their commandments, and at the same time teach us that what the observance or non-observance of these rules of life means and entails:

(“Don’t think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets. I didn’t come to destroy, but to fulfill.
For most certainly, I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not even one smallest letter or one tiny pen stroke shall in any way pass away from the law, until all things are accomplished.) Matthew 5 : 17

If the Lord Jesus did not abolish the Law of the Father nor the word of the prophets, then we must keep the Law of God the Father and the word of the prophets. Jesus even says that as long as heaven and earth exist, all that has been written will remain valid, for a total fulfilment of the Scripture.

(Pray like this: “‘Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy. Let your Kingdom come. Let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.) Matthew 6 : 9

If the Lord Jesus taught us to pray to the Father, saying, Thy will be done, then we must keep the Law of God the Father, for this is the will of the Father and the Son.

(“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.) Matthew 7 : 21

If the Lord Jesus will not let those who do not observe the will of the Father enter the kingdom of heaven, then, in order to live in eternal bliss with the Lord, we must observe the Law of God the Father.

(One said to him, “Behold, your mother and your brothers stand outside, seeking to speak to you.”
But he answered him who spoke to him, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?” He stretched out his hand toward his disciples, and said, “Behold, my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father who is in heaven, he is my brother, and sister, and mother.”) Matthew 12 : 47

If the Lord Jesus recognises us as his brothers, sisters and mother, by virtue of our obedience to the Father, then we must keep the Law of God the Father.

(Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.) Matthew 28 : 19

If the Lord Jesus taught us to pray by saying to our heavenly Father, 'Thy will be done', then for us this can be understood as a commandment from the Son of God, as a manifestation of His will in accordance with the will of the Father, so we must keep the Law of God as He has commanded us.

(One who believes in the Son has eternal life, but one who disobeys the Son won’t see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”) John 3 : 36

In reference to this the Lord Jesus also said:
(Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will still live, even if he dies.) John 11 : 25
(Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.) John 14 : 6

If the Lord Jesus is the ‘life’, then if we want to see this life and live eternally in the presence of the Lord, we must obey his will, keeping his commandments and the commandments of God the Father, for this is his will.

(One who has my commandments and keeps them, that person is one who loves me. One who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him, and will reveal myself to him.") John 14 : 21

If to be loved by God the Father we must keep the commandments of the Lord Jesus, then, since Jesus wants the will of the Father to be done, we must keep the Law of God the Father.

(If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, even as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.) John 15 : 10

If the Lord Jesus kept the commandments of the Father, to abide in His love, then, since Jesus is (the 'way', the truth and the life) that leads to the Father, to live eternally with God, in the peace and bliss of His Kingdom, we must follow His teaching, observing, like Him, the Law of God the Father.

(Behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." He said to him, "You have answered correctly. Do this, and you will live.") Luke 10 : 25

If, in order to inherit eternal life, we must love the Lord God with all our heart, etc., then we must keep the Law of God the Father, for we know that keeping God's commandments means loving him, according to his own words spoken through the second commandment below:

("You shall not make for yourselves an idol, nor any image of anything that is in the heavens above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: you shall not bow yourself down to them, nor serve them, for I, Yahweh your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and on the fourth generation of those who hate me, and showing loving kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.) Exodus 20 : 4

If keeping God's commandments means loving him, not keeping them means hating or despising him, even if we do not realise it. How can we claim to live in the eternal bliss of God's Paradise?

(When I couldn't see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of those who were with me, I came into Damascus. "One Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well reported of by all the Jews who lived in Damascus, came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' In that very hour I looked up at him.) Acts of the Apostles 22 : 11

If the Lord Jesus gave a man, a devout follower of the Law, the power to heal Saul from the blindness he had inflicted on him, it means, that in order to remain and live in God and for God to live in us, enabling Him to work miracles through us as well, we must keep the Law of God the Father and the commandments of Jesus.

The following quotation from the Gospel makes us realise this:

(If you remain in me, and my words remain in you, you will ask whatever you desire, and it will be done for you. "In this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; and so you will be my disciples. Even as the Father has loved me, I also have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, even as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.) John 15 : 7

("Remember the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded to him in Horeb for all Israel, even statutes and ordinances. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and terrible day of Yahweh comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.") Malachi 4 : 4

Malachi's prophecy refers to the end time, just before the day of judgement, making us realise that even at this time we must keep the Law of Moses in mind, thus keeping the ten commandments of God the Father.

(Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you listen to the commandments of Yahweh your God, which I command you today; and the curse, if you do not listen to the commandments of Yahweh your God, but turn away out of the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known.) Deuteronomy 11 : 26

If the Lord has placed a curse before us, for the non-observance of the commandments, then, this curse, must necessarily take effect, in our earthly life and for eternal life, i.e. evils of all kinds, death and eternal damnation.
In fact, we know that suffering and death began with the disobedience of Adam and Eve, because of God's curse on them, which falls on all of us, having inherited the consequences of Adam and Eve's original sin.
The Lord Jesus, having not abolished the Law of God the Father, nor the word of the prophets, means that the curse of God in the world, linked to the non-observance of the Law, remains in force for all those who do not observe it, with all the evils that follow.

The Lord also said:

(For as the rain comes down and the snow from the sky, and doesn’t return there, but waters the earth, and makes it grow and bud, and gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater; so is my word that goes out of my mouth: it will not return to me void, but it will accomplish that which I please, and it will prosper in the thing I sent it to do.) Isaiah 55 : 10

"Conclusion"

Keeping the commandments of God the Father and the Lord Jesus certainly means:

- Loving God
- Fearing God
- Belonging to God
- Being loved by God
- Being blessed by God
- Living in God and God in us
- Experiencing God's miracles
- Being able to enter the Kingdom of Heaven or God's Paradise

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The Messenger of God