

Keeping Jesus' Word

"Truly, truly I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death."

What "word" is Jesus talking about? Is He talking about obeying the Ten Commandments? Perhaps you would like to think so – for, in your opinion, you do a fairly good job keeping them. Yes, you sin, but you certainly don't sin like others do. Compared to everyone else, your sin surely won't be much of an issue when you meet your maker in the end.

It's convenient to think that way, but it's not scriptural. James writes, "Whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it" (James 2:10). Despite our best efforts – no matter how sincere they are – we're not going to "keep" the commandments as long as we are breathing on planet earth.

So, what "word" can we possibly "keep" in order to never see death? "Repent, and believe the good news!" - the first words of Jesus recorded in the book of Mark.

To "keep" Jesus' word means that we have faith in who He is, the Son of God. It means that we trust in His promises – that He has overcome death and sin for us sinners, and as such, we will not see eternal death. To "keep" the word of Jesus means we can be encouraged and have joy and gladness in this life, knowing that our salvation does not depend on our best sincere efforts, but rather upon His life, death and resurrection. To "keep" the word of Jesus ultimately means that no matter what happens, God's love for us in Christ is an eternal reality.

O Holy Spirit – enable us to always keep the word of Jesus! Amen.

- Pastor Morris Meseke