



KEEPING THE
RULES

TWO PERSPECTIVES

- Some see the Bible as a set of rules that help us obtain a reward. Like following a roadmap or a set of directions.
- Others see the “rules” as God’s way of helping us build a relationship with Him.

THE PRESENCE OF GOD

- **Philippians 1:23**
- **Luke 23:43**
- **It is the presence of God that is repeatedly emphasized as being the reward in the afterlife, not cosmic sightseeing (Rev. 21:3-7).**
- **The definition of hell also illustrates that God's presence is the ultimate treasure (2 Thessalonians 1:9, Matthew 7:23, 10:33, 25:30, Isaiah 59:2).**



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RULE-KEEPING AND SALVATION

- **Matthew 19:16ff – While we should give the man some credit for his persistence and honesty, it is nevertheless a sad story.**
- **What is the “treasure in heaven” that Christ promises? Is it a mansion? Is it gold streets? Possessions? Awesome sights and sounds?**
- **“And come, follow Me” is nothing short of an invitation to share a relationship with the Savior!**

**SO
WHY
KEEP
THE
RULES?**

- Consider, for example, the approach that different people have toward Bible reading. For some, it is a rule that must be kept in order to receive something.
- For others, Bible reading is a way to build a relationship with God.
- The Sermon on the Mount is the same way: Burdensome rules or disciplines in a relationship?