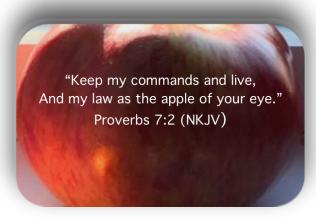


Thought for today...

There are those in the world who believe that the alignment of the stars, luck, or happenstance are key components to ensure good fortune and long and productive lives, and then there are those of us who, being followers of Christ, know that alignment is of paramount importance, not, however with the stars, but with God's Word.

Alignment relates to the correct positioning of something, a state of agreement or cooperation among persons, or the adjustment of parts.

In the Bible, God gives us copious instructions by which to live, so that our lives may be blessed, abundant and full



of joy and peace. However, even followers of Christ may at times miss the instructions, believing them to relate to those of whom we read in the Old and New Testaments, holding little or no relevance for our lives today.

As followers of Christ, we are eager to see the manifestation of God's promises in our lives, not realising that we too must play a part in order for this to be so, failing to accept that we must first come into alignment with God's Word.

Recognising that we stand in need of forgiveness for the wrong things that we may say, do or think, we often pray for such, even though we may not have forgiven someone else whose words or deeds have caused us offence. Jesus said: "For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." Matthew 6:14-15 (NIV).

The same principle applies to our treatment of others. <u>Proverbs 21:13</u> outlines the consequences for failing to treat well, those who are less fortunate: "Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be heard." (NKJV).

But to those who align themselves with God's Word concerning those in need, Psalm 41:1 declares: 'Blessed is he who considers the poor; the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.' (NKJV).

If we fail to align ourselves with God's precepts, there are consequences, but we are still free to choose! There is a common saying that 'what goes around, comes around'. Though not accredited to the Word of God, this saying is based on Biblical principles. **Galatians**6:7 warns: 'Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.' (English Standard Version).



Can we reap love if we have sown hate, peace if we have sown strife, or mercy if we have sown judgement? If we choose to align ourselves with God's Word, we will reap the good rewards that He has promised.