

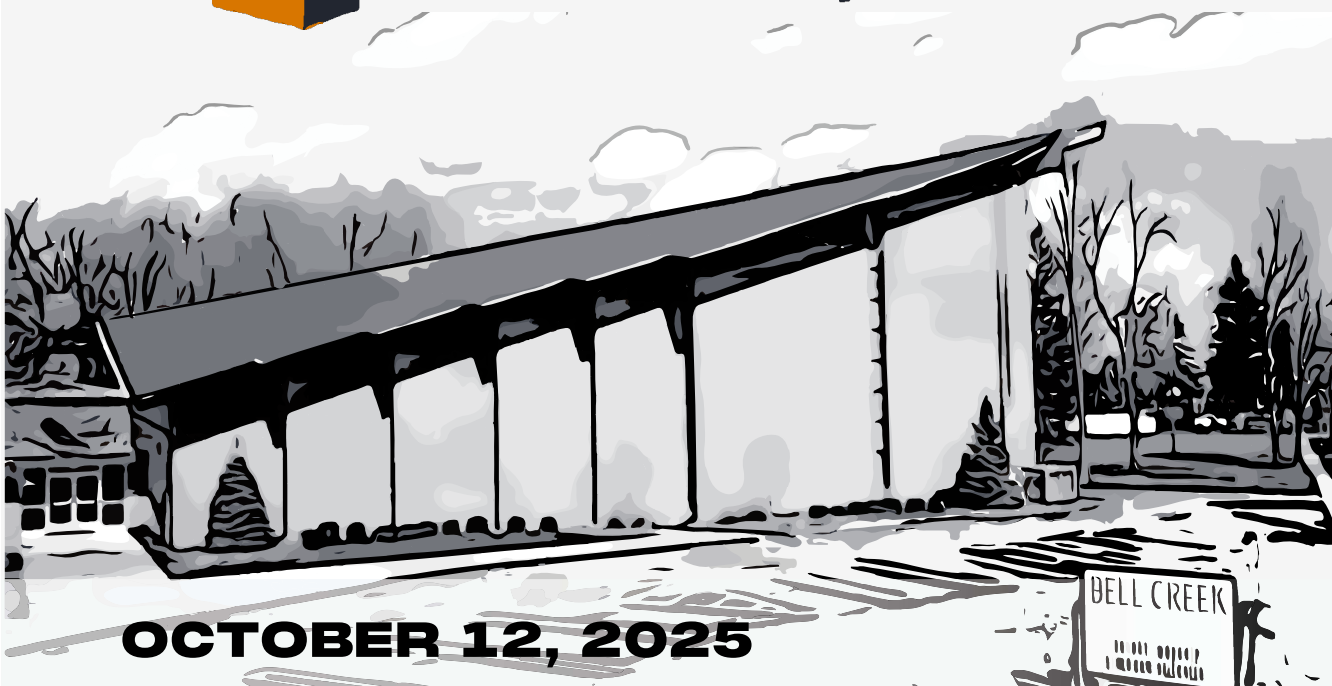
WELCOME TO



# BELL CREEK

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## Community Church



**OCTOBER 12, 2025**

**THE COMMAND, THE CONFESSION, AND THE CROWN**

2 JOHN 5—9 (ESV)

SERMON BY: PASTOR FRED WRIGHT

CURRENT SERMON SERIES: THE SHORT LETTERS

# THE COMMAND, THE CONFESSION, AND THE CROWN

2 JOHN 5—9 (ESV)

## The Commandment that Love Demands

## Deceivers Deny but Believers Confess

## The Reward We Have Worked For

### FOR NEXT WEEK

Read the Letter of 2 John again, and for bonus points, read 3 John too!

### DAILY CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE READING

OCTOBER 12: MATTHEW 11  
OCTOBER 13: MATTHEW 12:22-50; LUKE 11  
OCTOBER 14: MATTHEW 13; LUKE 8  
OCTOBER 15: MATTHEW 8:14-34; MARK 4-5  
OCTOBER 16: MATTHEW 9-10  
OCTOBER 17: MATTHEW 14; MARK 6; LUKE 9:1-17  
OCTOBER 18: JOHN 6

# **UPCOMING AT THE CREEK**

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## **MEET & EAT TODAY!**

All are invited for food and fellowship in the gym following both services. Cost is \$5 with a \$20 max per family. Guests are free! Hope to see you there!

## **ETHICS SEMINAR**

Have you ever wondered what the Bible has to say about tough issues like war, abortion, sexuality, politics, and more? Are you interested in learning how to apply Scripture to our daily lives and think biblically about tough issues? Ethics touches on every aspect of our lives, and it is essential that we as Christians learn how to apply Scripture to today's world. Join Pastor Dylan for our Ethics seminar during the 11:00 AM service Sunday mornings!

## **LADIES CHAT BREAKFAST**

Our next Ladies CHAT Breakfast will be on Saturday, October 18 at 9:30 AM. We will meet at Steve's Family Dining (Middlebelt, just north of 5 Mile on the right). RSVP to Joyce (248) 756-5672 or Annie (248) 225-8754. There is no agenda, just a time of food and fellowship.

## **FALL FEST**

Our annual Fall Fest will be on Sunday, October 19 from 2:00-4:30 PM. We will have our chili cook off, games, face painters, bounce houses, and trunks with treats. If you are interesting in serving please visit [www.bellcreek.org](http://www.bellcreek.org) to sign up. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Adam ([adam@bellcreek.org](mailto:adam@bellcreek.org)) or Gretchen Schick ([gretchenschick@hotmail.com](mailto:gretchenschick@hotmail.com)).

# **MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES**

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## **PRAYER MEETINGS**

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:30 PM

FRIDAYS 12 NOON

## **PRE-TEEN & MIDDLE SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY**

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

2ND, 3RD & 4TH SUNDAYS

AFTER WORSHIP

## **AWANA**

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 7:45 PM

SEPTEMBER-MAY

## **HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY**

SUNDAYS 11:00 AM

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES  
AND EVENTS AT [BELLCREEK.ORG](http://BELLCREEK.ORG)**

# OUR MISSION

## **MATTHEW 22:37–40**

He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and prophets depend on these two commandments.”

## **MATTHEW 28:19–20**

Go therefore 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 everything I have commanded you. And remember that I am with you always to the end of the age.

# STAY CONNECTED

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU HERE!**

[WWW.BELLCREEK.ORG/CONTACT-US](http://WWW.BELLCREEK.ORG/CONTACT-US)

FOLLOW US!



**BELL CREEK**  
Community Church

30000 FIVE MILE RD.  
LIVONIA, MI 48154

## Sermon for Sunday, October 12, 2025

### Sermon Text: 2 John 5–9 (ESV)

#### Sermon Title: The Command, The Confession, and The Crown

#### The Commandment that Love Demands

**5 And now I ask you, dear lady—not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning—that we love one another.**

**6 And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it.**

“In modern times obedience to commands is often seen as evidence of a legalistic spirit, the very opposite of what we see as love. But the contrast is a false one. True love delights to do the will of the beloved (cf. Jn. 15:10; 1 Jn. 5:3). Those who know what love in the Christian sense really is are always eager to obey God’s commands.” - Leon L. Morris,

**God’s Commands are Loving. They Glorify Him and Provide for us and Protect us. God’s Commands are Life and Peace.**

“For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the LORD, but he who fails to find me injures himself; all who hate me love death.” (Proverbs 8:35–36, ESV)

“Whoever keeps the commandment keeps his life; he who despises his ways will die.” (Proverbs 19:16, ESV)

“I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.” (John 14:30–31, ESV)

“If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.” (John 15:10, ESV)

“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.” (1 John 5:3, ESV)

Deuteronomy 10:12–13 (God’s commands are for our good).

1 John 5:3 (His commands are not burdensome).

Matthew 11:28–30 (Christ’s yoke is easy, His burden is light).

God’s commands are not arbitrary. They are for our good, they lift our burdens instead of adding to them. To love God is to love His commands, and to reject His commands is to embrace something else, which inevitably harms the soul.

## **Examples of God's Commands: Blessings of Obedience, Consequences of Disobedience**

### **We are Commanded to Obey the Gospel**

#### **Repent and Believe the Gospel (Mark 1:15)**

Blessings of Obedience: Forgiveness of sins, eternal life, entrance into the kingdom.

Consequences of Disobedience: Remaining under God's wrath, eternal separation (John 3:36).

#### **Confess with Your Mouth and Believe in Your Heart (Rom. 10:9–10)**

Blessings of Obedience: Salvation, righteousness, assurance.

Consequences of Disobedience: Condemnation, lost without Christ.

#### **Call on the Name of the Lord (Rom. 10:13; Acts 2:21)**

Blessings of Obedience: Salvation, God's nearness and help.

Consequences of Disobedience: No salvation, left to stand in judgment alone.

#### **Obey the Gospel (2 Thess. 1:8)**

Blessings of Obedience: Deliverance from wrath, glory with Christ.

Consequences of Disobedience: Everlasting destruction away from the presence of the Lord.

### **We are Commanded to Grow in Christ**

#### **Be Baptized (Acts 2:38; Matt. 28:19)**

Blessings of Obedience: Public identification with Christ, assurance of discipleship, incorporation into the visible church.

Consequences of Disobedience: Refusal of Christ's command, loss of assurance, weakened witness.

#### **Remember the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:23–26)**

Blessings of Obedience: Communion with Christ, renewal of faith, visible proclamation of the gospel.

Consequences of Disobedience: Spiritual neglect, loss of fellowship, judgment if treated carelessly (1 Cor. 11:29–30).

#### **Continue in the Apostles' Teaching (Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:16–17)**

Blessings of Obedience: Growth in wisdom, maturity, and equipping for every good work.

Consequences of Disobedience: Ignorance, vulnerability to false teaching, spiritual stagnation.

### **Let the Word of Christ Dwell in You Richly (Col. 3:16)**

Blessings of Obedience: Deepened worship, wisdom in teaching and admonishing, songs of gratitude filling the heart.

Consequences of Disobedience: Shallow faith, lack of discernment, diminished praise.

### **Devote Yourselves to Prayer (Col. 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:17)**

Blessings of Obedience: Fellowship with God, strength, peace, answered petitions.

Consequences of Disobedience: Weak faith, reliance on self, distance from God.

### **Do Not Neglect Meeting Together (Heb. 10:24–25)**

Blessings of Obedience: Encouragement, accountability, growth in love and good works.

Consequences of Disobedience: Isolation, spiritual coldness, exposure to temptation.

## **We are Commanded to Trust the Lord**

### **Do Not Be Anxious (Phil. 4:6)**

Blessings of Obedience: God's peace guards heart and mind (Phil. 4:7).

Consequences of Disobedience: Anxiety overwhelms, weakens faith, steals joy (Matt. 6:25–34).

### **Do Not Fear (Isa. 41:10)**

Blessings of Obedience: Confidence and strength in God's presence.

Consequences of Disobedience: Fear enslaves the soul (Heb. 2:15).

### **Cast Your Cares on Him (1 Pet. 5:7)**

Blessings of Obedience: Relief, assurance of God's care.

Consequences of Disobedience: Burdens crush when carried alone.

## **We are Commanded to Rejoice, Give Thanks, Pray, and Worship**

### **Rejoice Always (Phil. 4:4)**

Blessings of Obedience: Joy strengthens faith and fellowship (Neh. 8:10).

Consequences of Disobedience: Despair, bitterness, loss of strength.

### **Give Thanks in All Circumstances (1 Thess. 5:18)**

Blessings of Obedience: Gratitude fosters humility and contentment.

Consequences of Disobedience: Complaining hardens the heart (Rom. 1:21).

### **Pray Without Ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17)**

Blessings of Obedience: Ongoing communion with God.

Consequences of Disobedience: Spiritual weakness, reliance on self.

### **Sing to the Lord (Ps. 96:1)**

Blessings of Obedience: Joy in God, encouragement to others.

Consequences of Disobedience: Loss of praise, spiritual dryness.

## **We are Commanded to Love and Honor One Another**

### **Love One Another (2 John 5; John 13:34)**

Blessings of Obedience: Unity, witness to Christ's love.

Consequences of Disobedience: Division, selfishness, hatred (1 John 3:15).

### **Forgive One Another (Col. 3:13)**

Blessings of Obedience: Freedom, healing, peace.

Consequences of Disobedience: Bitterness poisons and spreads (Heb. 12:15).

### **Honor Father and Mother (Exod. 20:12; Eph. 6:2-3)**

Blessings of Obedience: Well-being, long life.

Consequences of Disobedience: Ruin, broken families (Prov. 30:17).

### **Husbands Love, Wives Respect (Eph. 5:25, 33)**

Blessings of Obedience: Strong marriages reflect Christ and His church.

Consequences of Disobedience: Resentment, broken homes.

### **Love Your Enemies (Matt. 5:44)**

Blessings of Obedience: Freedom from revenge, likeness to God.

Consequences of Disobedience: Hatred consumes, multiplies conflict.

## **We are Commanded to be Holy and Pure**

### **Do Not Commit Adultery (Exod. 20:14; Matt. 5:27-28)**

Blessings of Obedience: Faithfulness, trust, stability.

Consequences of Disobedience: Guilt, shame, family collapse (Prov. 6:32).

### **Flee Sexual Immorality (1 Cor. 6:18)**

Blessings of Obedience: Purity, honor.

Consequences of Disobedience: Sin against your own body, slavery to lust.

**Do Not Steal (Exod. 20:15; Eph. 4:28)**

Blessings of Obedience: Integrity, ability to give generously.

Consequences of Disobedience: Distrust, judgment, guilt.

**Do Not Lie (Col. 3:9; Exod. 20:16)**

Blessings of Obedience: Trustworthiness, likeness to God.

Consequences of Disobedience: Bondage to deceit, alignment with Satan (John 8:44).

**Do Not Covet (Exod. 20:17)**

Blessings of Obedience: Contentment, peace.

Consequences of Disobedience: Envy, strife, endless dissatisfaction (1 Tim. 6:9–10).

**Be Holy (1 Pet. 1:16)**

Blessings of Obedience: Fellowship with God.

Consequences of Disobedience: Separation, corruption.

**We are Commanded to Honor God in Our Daily Living****Work Honestly (Eph. 4:28; 2 Thess. 3:10–12)**

Blessings of Obedience: Provision, dignity, generosity.

Consequences of Disobedience: Poverty, shame, idleness.

**Do All to the Glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31)**

Blessings of Obedience: Meaning and purpose in every task.

Consequences of Disobedience: Empty, wasted living.

**Do Not Get Drunk (Eph. 5:18)**

Blessings of Obedience: Spirit-filled joy and clarity.

Consequences of Disobedience: Addiction, shame, ruin (Prov. 23:29–35).

**Be Content (Heb. 13:5)**

Blessings of Obedience: Peace, trust in God's provision.

Consequences of Disobedience: Greed, discontent, restlessness.

**Speak the Truth in Love (Eph. 4:15)**

Blessings of Obedience: Builds maturity and unity.

Consequences of Disobedience: Gossip, flattery, division.

## **We are Commended to Be Disciples of Jesus and Make Disciples of Jesus**

### **Take Up Your Cross and Follow Me (Luke 9:23)**

Blessings of Obedience: True life in Christ.

Consequences of Disobedience: Losing your soul (Matt. 16:25).

### **Abide in My Word (John 15:7)**

Blessings of Obedience: Fruitfulness, answered prayer.

Consequences of Disobedience: Barrenness, withering.

### **Make Disciples (Matt. 28:19–20)**

Blessings of Obedience: Joy in seeing others follow Christ.

Consequences of Disobedience: Neglect leaves others in darkness.

### **Do Not Love the World (1 John 2:15)**

Blessings of Obedience: Freedom from idols, eternal perspective.

Consequences of Disobedience: Worldliness chokes the soul (1 John 2:17).

### **Set Your Mind on Things Above (Col. 3:2)**

Blessings of Obedience: Hope, peace, heavenly focus.

Consequences of Disobedience: Anxiety, despair, worldliness.

## **Deceivers Deny but Believers Confess**

**7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh. Such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist.**

**Why did Jesus have to be fully God and fully man?**

**To Reveal God Perfectly He Had to Be Fully God**

John 1:1, 14 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Colossians 1:15, 19 “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation... For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.”

**To Represent Humanity and Bear Sin He Had to Be Fully Man**

Hebrews 2:14–17 “Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of

death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”

Romans 5:18–19 “Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.”

### **To Offer an Infinite Sacrifice He Had to Be Fully God**

Hebrews 9:12, 14 “He entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.

How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.”

Acts 20:28 “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.”

### **To Conquer Death He Had to Be Both Man and God**

John 10:17–18 “For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

Revelation 1:17–18 “Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”

### **To Sympathize with Us and Intercede for Us He Had to Be Both Man and God**

Hebrews 4:15–16 “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Hebrews 7:25 “Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.”

**Application:** Jesus had to be fully God so His sacrifice could save completely, and fully man so He could truly stand in your place. In Him, God Himself entered our world, felt our weakness, and bore our guilt to open the way back to life with Him. The cross shows how far God was willing to go to bring you home, and the resurrection proves His power to save.

**Question:** If Jesus has already come all the way to you and taking on your nature, carrying your sin, and conquering your death, what keeps you from trusting Him today?

## **The Reward We Have Worked For**

**8 Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward.**

**9 Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.**

### **There is a Reward for Our Faithfulness!**

Matthew 5:11–12 “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Hebrews 11:6 “Without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”

### **Our Reward is the Fruit of Labor for Jesus and Perseverance in Trusting Him**

1 Corinthians 3:8, 14 “Each will receive his own reward according to his own labor... If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward.”

Galatians 6:9 “Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”

### **Our Reward is Eternal Joy and an Everlasting Inheritance**

Matthew 25:21 “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’”

Colossians 3:23–24 “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”

2 Timothy 4:7–8 “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day.”

### **Our Reward is God Himself**

Genesis 15:1 “After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: ‘Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your very great reward.’”

Psalms 16:11 “You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

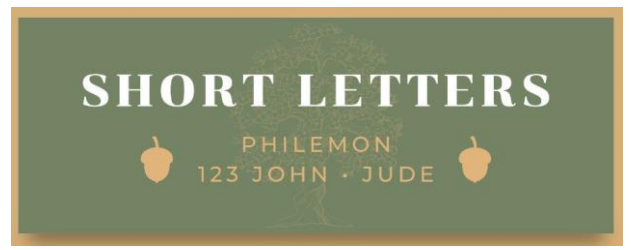
Revelation 22:12 “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.”

**Application:** Believers are not called to strive for salvation but to abide in the One who saved them. But abiding takes watchfulness. The Christian life is a long obedience remaining in the

teaching of Christ, walking in the power of the Holy Spirit, holding fast to truth when the world shifts, and continuing to do good even when fruit seems slow to grow.

Christ has promised a full reward - not as wages earned, but as joy fulfilled: the deep satisfaction of finishing well, hearing "Well done," and entering into the joy of our Master. Every quiet act of faithfulness, every unseen prayer, every endurance in truth will be gathered and made radiant in His presence.

**Question:** Are you faithfully guarding your walk with Christ so that you do not lose the joy, peace, and fruit that come from abiding in Him and so that, at the end, you may receive your full reward in His presence?



## The Command, The Confession, and The Crown

1. What did you think of the sermon "The Command, The Confession, and The Crown"?

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2. If true love for God delights to do His will, not resist it, do I see His commands as burdens or as expressions of His love for my good?

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3. Since Jesus had to be both fully God and fully man to save me, do I truly confess Him as He is - not merely as a good teacher or moral example, but as the divine Savior who became a man and took my place?

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4. Am I carefully watching myself, or have I begun to "go on ahead" of Christ's teaching - trusting my feelings, culture, or logic more than His Word?

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5. What did the sermon say about the "full reward" that Christ wants me to guard? What could be lost if I stopped abiding in Him?

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6. If our greatest reward is God Himself - His presence, His pleasure, His "Well done," is that truly what I'm living for day by day?

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