

THE RULE OF GOD'S COMMANDMENTS

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The Rule of God's Commandments by George Edward Jelf

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GEORGE EDWARD JELF

**THE RULE OF GOD'S
COMMANDMENTS**

THE RULE OF
GOD'S COMMANDMENTS.

BY
GEORGE EDWARD JELF, M.A.
VICAR OF SAFFRON WALDEN.

"Here are they that have the Commandments of God, and the
faith of Jesus."

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P R E F A C E.

IN some *German Letters on English Education*, written by Dr. Wiese during his tour in 1876, this passage occurs: "Nelson's words to his men before the battle of Trafalgar are well known, and whoever resides in England has plenty of opportunities of observing in the family life, and elsewhere in the actions of men, the effects of a wide-spread and deep sense of duty; every child that learns the English Catechism carries from it into life the command everywhere to do its duty." But the author also says, "Of all the contrasts which the English mode of thinking and acting shows, none

has appeared to me so striking and contradictory as the fact that a nation which has so great and sacred a sense of duty makes no use of that idea in the school education of the young; it has rather allowed it to be the custom, and it is an evil custom, to regard the prospect of reward and honour as the chief impulse to industry and exertion."

It is partly with the view of assisting, in some humble measure, to keep before the eyes of our people this idea of duty, as drawn by the Church from the Ten Commandments, that the following pages are published; partly, also, because it is believed that very many, even among educated Christians, have little notion either of the way in which those holy Commandments are binding upon them, or of the extent to which they are constantly broken by them.

In showing that obedience must be in the spirit and not merely in the letter, the writer has been greatly aided both by the Rev. M. F. Sadler (in that *Church Teacher's Manual* which is among the most valuable of his many excellent publications), and by the Rev. S. Clarke, in the *Speaker's Commentary*.

He would be very thankful if any words of his, from whatever source derived, might lead others to prize more highly, for themselves and for their children, the Church Catechism, not only as an instruction in faith, but also as a guide to duty; and specially to mark the exceeding breadth of those Divine Laws which show us our duty—to trace their close connexion with our Divine faith—and to use the access which they abundantly open to us, for Christ's sake, into the Divine Kingdom.

May that gracious Spirit of Truth, which has taught us that without faith it is impossible to please God, and that without holiness no man shall see the Lord, impart to us more and more of the faith which worketh by love, and incline our hearts to that holy obedience which proves the reality of our belief!

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