

Job 23:12

*I have not departed from the commandment of His lips;
I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary food.*

“Paper or plastic?” do you remember way back in the day when that was asked at the grocery store? Even before you had that option, do you remember when you didn’t have to bag your own groceries or even scan them yourself? In fact, way, way back in the day, there was no scanning of food at the grocery store, there were little stickers on the package that had the price. See if you can recall hearing something like this spoken over the PA system at the store. “Price check on a 12 ounce can of Green Giant green beans.”

But over time, things have changed, and most foods now have a bar code, even fruits and vegetables have stickers with bar codes on them, so they can be scanned. But it’s not just going grocery shopping that has changed over the years, what about books? Now a days, we can just download a book and read it on our phones or tablets or computer, whereas back in the day, we had to either buy the book or go to the library and check it out to read it. And if it was a popular book, we had to be put on a waiting list at the library, to be able to check it out when it became available.

Even phone calling has changed over the years. We make fun of kids, thinking that they wouldn’t know how to use a rotary phone (Landline) if they had to. In fact, for us older folks who have bad memories, we don’t have to remember phone numbers anymore or carry around a little black book with phone numbers in it, because they are all in our phones (I can barely remember my own phone number lol).

Kids will download the sound of a phone ringing (ring-ring) to play when they get a phone call, thinking it sounds cool. But most have that little “ding” or some type of sound notifying us when we have a text or message or email. So, you hear that “ding” meaning you got a text message, and what do you do? Sure you look at your phone and see who it’s from, and read the message or read it later, depending on how busy you are and who it’s from.

But this time you look down and see that the message is from Jesus or God, What do you do? Do you ignore it, or read it later, or do you read it right away? I think we would all read it right away.

Now imagine that the bible was multiple text messages from God or Jesus to you personally throughout the day. Now we don’t usually carry around a bible with us (All though I do have a small one in my car), but we have current technology, which means we can download the free Bible App and have it with us on our phones. And how many of you do have the Bible App on your phone, maybe it’s sitting right next to the Candy Crush, or a Solitary App, or some other

game? We are quick to click on the game and play it for several minutes, maybe at break time at work/school or while you are eating lunch or even in the evening.

But here's a thought, what if you actually treated that bible App like it was a text message to you from God throughout the day? Maybe someone texts you and you respond, but after you do, you click on the Bible App and read a verse or two, maybe even responding to the Lord in a quick prayer in response?

What, you don't have time you pray? Then I guess Candy Crush is your new god then, since you find you have time for it, but not God's word. So what do you do? Maybe do what King Manasseh did when he repented of his idol worship.

† **2 Chronicles 33:15** *He took away the foreign gods and the idol from the house of the LORD, and all the altars that he had built in the mount of the house of the LORD and in Jerusalem; and he cast them out of the city.*

But let's change this a little for what we would need to do. *He took away the idol from off of his phone, and all the altars that he had built in Farmville and Candy Crush, and he deleted them off of his phone.*

Or read today's verse again: ***"I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary food."***

What if we changed it to: *I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth More than the Apps on my phone.*

Now I am not saying that these little games (apps) are sinful, I play some of them myself. Just like money in itself isn't sinful, but the bible says, ***"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."*** 1 Timothy 6:10

So we would change ***"the love of money"*** to ***"the love of the Apps on my phone"*** which would read like: *For the love of the Apps on my phone is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.* If you think about it, don't you find it strange that the makers of Apps will ask you ***"Do you love this app?"***

So, if you don't have time to be in God's word everyday, but you have time to play a game on your phone or tablet, you are doing what God tells us not to do. ***"You shall have no other gods before Me."*** Exodus 20:3

† **Exodus 34:14** *for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.*