

"You shall observe/guard My mitzvos and perform them." (22:31)

Horav E.M. Shach, Shlita, asserts that there are two distinct demands made by Hashem. First, there is our obligation to personally carry out the *mitzvos*. Secondly, we are ordained to "guard" the *mitzvos* by seeing to it that all Jews perform them. It is not sufficient for a Jew to personally observe *mitzvos*; he is obliged to be mindful that others also perform *mitzvos*. This, claims *Horav Shach*, is the meaning of the *pasuk* "וְכָל יִשְׂרָאֵל יִשְׁמְרוּ אֶת שַׁבָּת" and *Bnei Yisrael* should observe/guard the *Shabbos*." One must see to it that "*Shabbos*" is observed by all Jews. It is our imperative to inspire others in the sacredness of *Shabbos*.

It is noteworthy that the command to observe precedes that of actual performance. Perhaps the *Torah* is alluding to us that if we are not concerned about overall *shmiras Shabbos*, then our own personal performance of the *mitzvah* is lacking. We are thus cautioned to guard the *mitzvos* by making sure that they are fulfilled by all our fellow Jews.