

Sermon, January 30, 2011,
“Love God”, Deuteronomy 6:4-9,
Pastor Thomas P. Bellhy

Short Review

In our study of the Bible we now come to the 5th book of the Pentateuch (remember the Pentateuch is the first 5 books of the Bible written by Moses)

- Genesis - Grace and mercy of God; God provides; God promises
 - Exodus - God delivers, sets free, redeems; gives His law (10 Commands)
 - Leviticus - Rules for a Holy People
 - Numbers - Rules broken; obedience, disobedience and consequences
 - Deuteronomy- Love the Lord your God and Obey
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- In Exodus, Moses received the 10 Commandments.
 - In Leviticus, he receives detailed instructions on holiness...how God requires His people to live.
 - Leviticus taught how the people are to live holy...Numbers shows unholy behavior, their failure to obey God in faith. Numbers shows us how there is consequences to behavior.
 - Deuteronomy is the last word of Moses to the people of Israel to love God and obey His commandments.

Deuteronomy

- The Hebrew name of the book is *‘elleh haddebarim* (“These are the words”) or, more simply, *debarim* (“words”; see 1:1).
- The word “Deuteronomy” (meaning “second law”, “repetition of the law”)

Highlights and Themes

- Deuteronomy locates Moses and the Israelites in the territory of Moab in the area east of where the Jordan flows into the Dead Sea (1:5).
- The entire book seems to cover events that happened within a 24 hour period (Dt 1:3; 32:48).
- Moses delivered his three farewell addresses to prepare the people for their entrance into Canaan.
- The new generation of Israel renewed the covenant with God before entering the Promised Land.
- Moses clearly outlined the blessings of covenant obedience and the curses of covenant disobedience.
- Israel was to have a special relationship with God as His people.
- Messianic verse in 18:15; the promise of a prophet like Moses...Christ. (Acts 3:22; 7:37)
- As his final act at this important time, leadership is transferred to Joshua.
- In contrast to the matter-of-fact narratives of Leviticus and Numbers, here the words of Moses come to us from his heart as this servant of the Lord presses God’s claims on his people Israel.
- Jesus used Deuteronomy to answer Satan when He was tempted in the desert for 40 days (Mt 4:1-11; Mk 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13):

Outline of Deuteronomy

- I. **Moses' First Address (1:6-4:40); Historical review (1-3) ending in exhortation (4)**
- II. **Moses' Second Address (4:44-26:19)**
- III. **Moses' Third Address: Another Covenant, the Moab Covenant 29-30**
- IV. **The Concluding Events (chs. 31-34)**

The overall theme of Deuteronomy is to love the LORD your God and obey His commandments.

- There are 72 exhortations to keep, observe obey God’s commands
- **Deuteronomy 11:22** ²² *“For if you are careful to keep all this commandment which I am commanding you to do, to love the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and hold fast to Him,*
- There are 10 exhortations to “love” God in Deuteronomy (5:10, 6:5; 7:9; 10:12; 11:1, 13, 22; 13:3; 19:9; 30:6, 16)
- **Deuteronomy 30:6** ⁶ *“Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.*
- In 10:16 and 30:6 Moses writes of the true believer who is obedient out of love for God. The circumcised flesh is not the true sign of the people of God, but a circumcised heart that truly loves the LORD.

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Immediately before our Scripture verse today, Moses restates “the Law”:

- In Chapter 5 He restates the 10 Commandments to the people
- **The promise: “...do these that it may be well with you...” (6:3)**

The first verse 6:4 is emphatic, forceful, important, a statement on the One True God...

Deuteronomy 6:4 *Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD is one.* שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד.

- Listen up Israel, this is important! Who is God? The LORD, YHWH, tetragrammaton
- A name too holy for you to even utter, Jews to this day say Adonai...
- You have one master to please, one benefactor to seek,
- Interesting that LORD, God, LORD mentioned three times...is one

The first commandment is relationship oriented...

Deuteronomy 6:5 ⁵ *You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.*

- Love God with all your heart...in truth, internal integrity, with everything internal to your physical nature...all your heart
- Love God with all your soul...your whole being, not only body (flesh), but within the inner sanctum of your very existence...with all your soul
- Love God with all your might, strength...in all your actions,

Deuteronomy 6:6 ⁶ *Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.*

- Your willingness to keep God’s commandment must be deep in you, your desire, truly, part of your being, part of your way of life in everything you do...

Now Scripture moves from Love to Obedience

- Love of God is intertwined with obedience;
- Jesus said in John 14:15, “If you love Me, you will keep my commands.”

Deuteronomy 6:7 ⁷ *Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.*

- You shall teach them diligently to your children...Literally you shall sharpen them (your children), whet the edge, hone them in preparation for battle that they may be effective...
- You are to sharpen your understanding of God’s Word
- This is an all consuming command! It requires a heart totally committed in love...

Deuteronomy 6:8-9 ⁸ *Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead,* ⁹ *and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

- Devout Jews take this literally, bind the word on their hands and their forehead when reciting the Shema
- Obedience to God is to be part of your every action...a sign on your hand
- Obedience to God’s commands must be on your mind always...as an emblem on your forehead
- The world should be able to look at you and your family and say, “There is a godly house.”...written on the doorposts of your house
- Gates in this sense means gates of the city...the influence of the Christian community should be so obedient, loving and intense that the entire city is overwhelmed by your faith...

Conclusion:

- WWJD? Love and obey His Father
- What do you pursue? Are you following God at the level He wants or the level that is convenient to you? Are you learning more about Him every day?
- Your love of God will be evident in your pursuit of His Word and commands, and your exercise of them...
- You will not be perfect, you will fail like the Israelites did, but God is always faithful to forgive a loving and repentant heart. One with a desire to change and be more like Christ.
- This is total union with Christ, a relationship with the Lord, His very body and blood reflecting Himself in you!