

“O How Love I Thy Law!”
“The Heart Of The Matter”
Deuteronomy 5:29

Introduction:

1. Tonight - We Are Going To Continue:
 - Our Sunday Night Series:
 - About The Law Of God:
 - So That We Can Learn To Say:
 - These Words From Psalm 119:97:
 - “O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day!”
2. Last Week:
 - We Learned That:
 - In Order To Have A Law:
 - There Must Be A Law-Maker:
 - And A Law-Giver!
 - And - When It Comes To:
 - The Moral Law:
 - That We Find Written Down For Us:
 - In Exodus 20 - In The Form Of The Ten Commandments:
 - That Law-Maker Is God!
3. And - Even Though:
 - Many In This World:
 - Try To Deny & Reject The Law:
 - By Denying & Rejecting The Law-Giver!
 - Both The Scriptures & Nature:
 - Confirm:
 - The Reality, The Revelation:
 - And The Relationship:
 - Of God - The Law-Giver!
 - And We Learned This:
 - From The “Prologue To The Decalogue” - And The First Telling Of The Law - Found In:
 - Exodus 20:1-2 - “[When] God spake all these words, saying, / I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage!”
4. Well - Tonight:
 - We Are Going To Head In Our Bibles:
 - To The Re-Telling Of The Law:
 - Found In The Book Of Deuteronomy:
 - Which Simply Means - The “Second Law” - Or - The Second Telling Of The Law!
 - Whereas The Law Recorded For Us In Exodus:
 - Was Given Just **After**:
 - The Israelites Left Egypt:
 - The Law Recorded For Us In Deuteronomy:
 - Was Given Just **Before**:
 - The Israelites Entered The Promise Land!
 - So - Around 40 Years Separate:
 - These Two Events:
 - And - What We Are About To Discover:
 - Is That The Law:
 - Did Not Change One Bit!
5. And So - I Would Like For Us:
 - To Read Through Moses’ Retelling Of God’s Law:
 - To His People - From Deuteronomy 5:
 - Beginning With Verse 1:
 - 1 And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them.
 - 2 The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb.
 - 3 The LORD made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day.

4 The LORD talked with you face to face in the mount out of the midst of the fire,
5 (I stood between the LORD and you at that time, to shew you the word of the LORD: for ye were afraid by reason of the fire, and went not up into the mount;) saying,
6 ¶ I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.
7 Thou shalt have none other gods before me.
8 Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters beneath the earth:
9 Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me,
10 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.
11 Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain: for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.
12 Keep the sabbath day to sanctify it, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee.
13 Six days thou shalt labour, and do all thy work:
14 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou.
15 And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD thy God commanded thee to keep the sabbath day.
16 Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
17 Thou shalt not kill.
18 Neither shalt thou commit adultery.
19 Neither shalt thou steal.
20 Neither shalt thou bear false witness against thy neighbour.
21 Neither shalt thou desire thy neighbour's wife, neither shalt thou covet thy neighbour's house, his field, or his manservant, or his maidservant, his ox, or his ass, or any thing that is thy neighbour's.
22 These words the LORD spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice: and he added no more. And he wrote them in two tables of stone, and delivered them unto me.
23 ¶ And it came to pass, when ye heard the voice out of the midst of the darkness, (for the mountain did burn with fire,) that ye came near unto me, even all the heads of your tribes, and your elders;
24 And ye said, Behold, the LORD our God hath shewed us his glory and his greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire: we have seen this day that God doth talk with man, and he liveth.
25 Now therefore why should we die? for this great fire will consume us: if we hear the voice of the LORD our God any more, then we shall die.
26 For who is there of all flesh, that hath heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived?
27 Go thou near, and hear all that the LORD our God shall say: and speak thou unto us all that the LORD our God shall speak unto thee; and we will hear it, and do it.
28 And the LORD heard the voice of your words, when ye spake unto me; and the LORD said unto me, I have heard the voice of the words of this people, which they have spoken unto thee: they have well said all that they have spoken.
29 O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!
30 Go say to them, Get you into your tents again.
31 But as for thee, stand thou here by me, and I will speak unto thee all the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which thou shalt teach them, that they may do them in the land which I give them to possess it.
32 Ye shall observe to do therefore as the LORD your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.
33 Ye shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess.

6. So - After 40 Years:
- Even Though There Were Many Changes:
- For The People Of God:
- There Was No Change:

- To The Law Of God!
- Because - The Nature & Character:
 - Of The Lord:
 - Never Changes!
 - He Is Immutable! (Malachi 3:6)

7. But - There Is Something Else:
- We Notice About God's Law:
 - From These Verses:
 - God's Law Is Really:
 - A Matter Of The Heart!
 - Even As The Lord Tells Moses:
 - Back In 5:29 - "O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!"
 - This Is An Important Lesson:
 - If We Are To Ever:
 - Understand & Use The Law Of God:
 - In The Right Way!
 - We Need To Recognize:

1. *The Requirement Of The Heart!*

- You See - The Law Of God:
 - **Cannot** Be Kept The Way God Intended:
 - Apart From The Heart!
 - It Is Not Just:
 - The Letter Of The Law:
 - That Matters To God!
 - It Is:
 - The Spirit Of The Law:
 - That Matters To The Lord As Well!
 - The Apostle Paul Makes This Distinction:
 - In The Book Of Romans:
 - Romans 2:29 - "But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God!"
 - So - When It Comes To:
 - The Requirement Of The Heart:
 - This Makes:
- The Difference Of The Law!
 - The Difference Between:
 - God's Law & Man's Law!
 - As Thomas Watson Once Put It:
 - "Man's Law Binds The Hands Only, God's Law Binds The Heart!"
 - Isn't **This** What Jesus Was Getting At:
 - In His Sermon On The Mount?
 - In Matthew 5:21-22 - Jesus Says This:
 - About The Sixth Commandment:
 - "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: / But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire!"
 - For Jesus - The Law Of God:
 - Was A Matter Of The Heart! And Then:
 - In Matthew 5:27-28 - Jesus Says This:
 - About The Seventh Commandment:
 - "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: / But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart!"
 - Once Again - For Jesus - The Law Of God:

- Was A Matter Of The Heart!
- The Reason Why Man's Laws:
 - Bind The Hands - And - God's Laws:
 - Bind The Heart - Is Because:
 - 1 Samuel 16:7 - "The LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart!"
- The Lord Knows:
 - What You **Would** Do:
 - If You **Could Do** It:
 - And Judges On The Basis Of Your Heart!
 - And - This Is Why - God's Desire:
 - And God's Demand - Is Not Just About:
- The Deeds Of The Law!
 - Though The Deeds Of The Law:
 - **Are** Important - They Are Not:
 - **All** That's Important!
 - After All:
 - According To Romans 3:20 - "By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight!"
 - God's Desire & God's Demand:
 - Is For More!
 - Not Just The Letter, But The Spirit! Not Just Your Hands, But Your Heart!
 - And So - From The Very Beginning:
 - Of God's Written Law:
 - We Can Discover:
- The Depth Of The Law!
 - As We Read Earlier:
 - From Deuteronomy 5:29 - "O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!"
 - God Desires & Deserves:
 - Obedience From Your Heart!
 - Later On In This Book:
 - Toward The End Of Moses' Life & Ministry:
 - We Find The Same Sentiment!
 - Deuteronomy 32:45-46 - "And Moses made an end of speaking all these words to all Israel: / And he said unto them, Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law!"
 - What Is God After?
 - Obedience From Your Heart!
- So - If God Wants - First & Foremost:
 - Your Heart - Then:
 - What's The Point Of:
 - All These Specific & Explicit:
 - Laws In The Ten Commandments?
 - It Is For:

2. ***The Reflection Of The Heart!***

- The Truth Is - **Noone** - By Themselves:
 - Can Keep God's Moral Law:
 - In The Deep Way:
 - That God Both Desires & Demands!
 - And That Is:
 - One Of The Reasons Why:
 - God Recorded His Law For Us:
 - In His Word!
 - To Hold Up A Mirror:

- To Your Heart - So You Can See:
 - Who You Really Are! And:
 - What Your Heart Is Really Like!
- Again - As Paul Said In:
 - Romans 3:20 - "For by the law is the knowledge of sin!"
- So - How Does The Law Of God:
 - Reflect The Condition Of Our Hearts:
 - Apart From God?
 - It Reveals:
- A Heart Of Darkness!
 - Jesus Tells Us In Matthew 15:18-20 - That:
 - "Those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. / For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: / These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man!"
 - This Is The Condition Of Every Heart:
 - Apart From Christ!
 - It Is Dark - But When You Remain:
 - In This Darkness:
 - You Don't Even Know It Or Realize It! Even Get Used To It!
 - This Is Why God Gave Us His Law!
 - Because - As We Are Told In Proverbs 6:33:
 - "For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light!"
 - God Uses The Light Of His Law:
 - To Shine Upon:
 - And Expose:
 - The Darkness Of Your Heart!
 - But - What Happens:
 - When A Sinner Sees:
 - The Light Of God's Law?
 - **IE:** The Same Thing A Cockroach Will Do When Exposed To The Brightness Of The Light! It Will Shrink & Scurry Away From The Light As Fast As They Can!
 - This Is Why Jesus Said:
 - In John 3:19 - "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil!"
 - The Light Of God's Law:
 - Cannot Change A Heart Of Darkness:
 - It Can Only Expose It!
 - What Else Does It Reveal?
- A Heart Of Deception!
 - We Are Told In Jeremiah 17:9 - That:
 - "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"
 - And - How Do We See This Deception?
 - In The Same Way We Find In Isaiah 5:20:
 - When People - "Call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"
 - **IE:** How Many Examples Can We Give About This Deception Today?
 - Those Who Agree With God That Homosexuality Is A Sin - Are Now Themselves Called Evil!
 - And - Those Who Promote Homosexuality Are Considered Good!
 - But - Just Because You Can Call:
 - Something Good:
 - Doesn't Make It So!
 - And - This Is The Condition Of Every Heart:
 - Apart From Jesus Christ!
 - It Is Deceived - But When You Remain:
 - In This Deception:

- You Don't Even Know It Or Realize It! Even Get Used To It! You May Even Start To Believe Your Own Lie!
- But This Too Is Why God Gave Us His Law!
 - Because - As We Are Told In Psalm 119:142:
 - "Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth!"
 - God Uses The Truth Of His Law:
 - To Shine Upon:
 - And Expose:
 - The Deception Of Your Heart!
- But - What Happens:
 - When A Sinner Sees:
 - The Truth Of God's Law?
 - **IE:** Just Like A Child Often Does, When A Lie Is Confronted With The Truth - They Double Down - And Deny The Undeniable - And Even - Romans 1:25 - "Change The Truth Of God Into A Lie!"
- The Truth Of God's Law:
 - Cannot Change A Heart Of Deception:
 - It Can Only Expose It!
 - But - What Else Does It Reveal?
- A Heart Of Death!
 - In Ephesians 2:1 - We Are Told That:
 - Before You Trust In Jesus Christ:
 - You "[Are] dead in trespasses and sins!"
 - And - That Death Was A Spiritual Death That Reached Into The Depths Of Your Heart & Your Soul!
 - And - This Is The Condition Of Every Heart:
 - Apart From The Gospel!
 - It Is Dead - But When You Remain:
 - Spiritually Dead:
 - You Don't Even Know It Or Realize It!
 - This Is Another Reason Why God Gave Us His Law!
 - Because - As The Lord Tells Us In Leviticus 18:5:
 - "Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD!"
 - God Uses His Law:
 - Which Was "Ordained To Life" To:
 - Become A "Ministration Of Death" - To Those Whose Hearts:
 - Are Spiritually Dead!
 - Romans 7:10; 2 Corinthians 3:7
 - **IE:** Sometimes - You Can Make "Dead Things" Look Nice & Even Alive! Like "Dead Flowers" - Pressed & Dried - Put On A Card - Tasteful & Pretty! But - There Is No Comparison When You Put Something That Is Dead Next To Something That Is Alive!
 - This Is What Happened To The Apostle Paul!
 - In Romans 7:9-10 - He Shares With Us Part Of His Testimony - In Terms Of God's Law:
 - 7:9a - "For I was alive without the law once!"
 - This Does Not Mean That He Was Spiritually Alive, But That He Was Living His Life As If Everything In His Life Was AOK!
 - But - In Reality - His Heart Was Dark & Deceived & Dead! What Happened?
 - 7:9b - "But when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died!"
 - This Means That His Life Was No Match For God's Law!
 - And - The More He Was Confronted With God's Living Law - The More He Realized How Dead His Heart Really Was!
 - 7:10 - "And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death!"
 - So - The Life Found In God's Law:
 - Could Not Change Paul's Dead Heart!
 - It Only Exposed It For What It Really Was!
 - But - With This Kind Of Heart:
 - Is There Any Hope?

- And - If The Law Cannot Change:
 - Our Hearts:
 - Is There Any Help?
 - Absolutely – Yes!
- This Is Why In Romans 8:3-4:
 - Paul Calls God’s Law - “Weak!”
 - “For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: / That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit!”
 - So - Because Of The Weakness Of The Law:
 - God Himself Promised & Paved The Way For:

3. ***The Restoration Of The Heart!***

- This Is Where The Gospel Comes In!
 - Because - The Lord Himself:
 - Promised – Not Only To Expose:
 - Your Heart - But Also:
 - To Change Your Heart:
 - So That You Can Obey His Law The Way He Originally Intended!
 - Listen To The Word Of The Lord:
 - To The Prophet Ezekiel - In:
 - Ezekiel 36:25-28 - “Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. / A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. / And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. / And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God!”
 - Remember What We Learned:
 - This Morning In Sunday School?
 - That The ***History*** Of The Old Testament:
 - Is ***Our History?*** Well - In The Same Way:
 - The ***Promises*** Of The Old Testament:
 - Are Also ***Our Promises!***
 - And These Promises Are Fulfilled:
 - In The Gospel Of Jesus Christ!
 - When You Turn To & Trust In Him:
 - He Gives You A Whole New Heart!
 - No Longer Dark!
 - No Longer Deceitful!
 - No Longer Dead!
 - But Alive & Transformed By The Holy Spirit Of God:
 - Who Makes Your New Heart:
 - His Home!
 - And - Did You Catch:
 - What Your New Heart:
 - And Your New Spirit:
 - Are For?
 - 36:27b - To - “Cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them!”
 - So That - You Can & Will:
 - Live According To:
 - The Spirit Of God’s Law:
 - From The Very Depths Of Your New Heart And Soul!

Conclusion:

1. This Is The Heart Of The Matter & The Heart Of The Law!
 - And - This Is Why:
 - The Law Of God:

- Still Matters:

- To Those Who Are Still Sinners:

- And To Those Who Are Saved!

2. So - Let The Lord Continue To:

- Renovate & Restore **Your** Heart!

- So That You Can - **From** Your Heart:

- Follow After The Law Of God:

- Which Still Remains:

- "Holy And Just And Good!"

* Have You Forgotten About Or Are You Ignoring The Law Of God In Your Life?

* Has Your Heart Been Changed Through The Gospel?

* If So, Is Your Heart Drawn To The Commandments Of The Lord, To Obey Him Through Them?

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