

3/1/24

Prayer

Our gracious Father in heaven, we come to you this evening with thankful hearts that we have been chosen to be your people. As we open your law tonight, we ask that you will cleanse us with the water of your word, and give us the clean heart that only your word can give. We pray we will behold the wonderful things you have for us out of your word, and increase our faith and knowledge for the glory of your Son, in whose name we pray.

Amen

Vv. 1-4

The meaning of the word Deuteronomy is **the second or repeated law**. The Hebrew title for this book is "These be the words." This Hebrew form of the title is legal language because this book is the law of the covenant, a treaty between God and his people Israel as well as with all of mankind.

It is a copy of the law that is given as an act of grace. Deuteronomy is the words of the covenant that God made with those he delivered from bondage. God is the king and he has legal claim on the people he sets free from bondage. His people owe everything to God and are required to submit to him in a covenant.

That covenant was based on love. There was no merit in Israel. There was nothing worthy that influence God to set them free and establish his covenant with them. Nor is there any merit or worth in the church. His covenant with the church depends strictly on God's undeserved love, and his sovereign grace.

As we know, a covenant is a contract, and a contract always has conditions.

A covenant is always conditional, and God's covenant and his love are never unconditional. Deuteronomy tells us that there are blessings and curses attached to God's covenant law.

We see from Deuteronomy that God's covenant is all encompassing. It leaves no area of life and thought outside of God's covenant and of his law. There can be no covenant without conditions. His covenant law even applies to the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Deuteronomy can be summed up in four words, remember, obey, behold and all.

Let us look a little at this book

What does Moses tell the Church in the wilderness, the Israel of God in Deuteronomy 9:7?
Remember, [and] forget not, how thou provokedst the LORD thy God to wrath in the

wilderness: from the day that thou didst depart out of the land of Egypt, until ye came unto this place, ye have been rebellious against the LORD.

They were and are a rebellious people. Moses even told them that they had been a rebellious people from the time he knew them.

They deserved to have been cut off from the number of his people, and forever to have been deprived of the use of his holy word and ordinances: yet the LORD ever preserved his Church even for his own mercy's sake, and would still have his name called upon among them in spite of their rebellion.

How does God identify Israel in **Acts 7:38**.

*Acts 7:38 This is he, that was in **the church in the wilderness** with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and [with] our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:*

Starting with Jeremiah 31, God promises to write his law in the hearts of his new covenant people. In Philippians 2:13, we see that not only does God write his law in the law in the hearts of his new covenant people, he gives them both the desire and the power to do what He wrote in their heart.

Philippians 2:13 *For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of [his] good pleasure.*

Geneva Note

For by **his word he would be known** to be their God, and they his people, by his word **he would govern his Church**, and by the same they **would learn to obey** him: by his word he would **discern the false prophet** from the true, light from darkness, ignorance from knowledge, and his own people from all the other nations and infidels: teaching them by it [his law] to refuse and detest, destroy and abolish whatever is not agreeable to his holy will, seem it otherwise never so good or precious in the eyes of man.

That is, no matter how good and appealing apostasy may appear, his law exposes it, and they must never agree with that apostasy.

Romans 7:12 *Wherefore the law [is] holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.*

How does Paul define the law?

According to Paul, Deuteronomy contains the **law of holiness**.

How can one be holy even as he is holy unless we know what is required of us by the law of holiness?

Notice what Christ said in John 5:45-47

45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is [one] that accuseth you, [even] Moses, in whom ye trust. 46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. 47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?

What did Christ say here?

Belief in him is based on belief in Moses. Where does that leave the antinomians, those who say the law is not binding today, those who that say **we are under grace not law?**

I have a good pastor friend in Indiana who claims to be a good orthodox Baptist pastor who holds to the 1689, yet he cannot or will not understand how or if the law of God applies today.

Christ made it clear that rejecting the law is rejecting Christ.

Can you identify a passage that requires the law for conversion of the soul?

Psalms 19:7 *The law of the LORD [is] perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD [is] sure, making wise the simple.*

Where does Paul tells us that without the law, here is no knowledge of sin?

Romans 7:7 *What shall we say then? [Is] the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. 8 But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin [was] dead. 9 For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.*

Psalms 119:96 *I have seen an end of all perfection: [but] thy commandment [is] exceeding broad.*

Commandment is singular. We shall see that God's law is one word from one God.

In other words, there is no place one can go that is not addressed by **thy commandment**.

Deuteronomy 1:1-4, these are the words the LORD told Moses to speak to all Israel. The LORD told Moses to explain the law to all of God's people, including the children. He was to explain how the covenant law applies to everyday life.

With this book, Moses makes the law of God understandable to all people, impressing it upon their hearts. Deuteronomy develops and expands the ten commandments for all of life. It is an

explanation of, application of, and a review of the promises contained in the law of God.

Deuteronomy 5:31-33 gives at least three reasons for Deuteronomy.

*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.*

1. They must be taught so they can know and do them

2. May live A choice is given to God's people: life or death

3. Long life and prosper.

Moses is explaining the law in simple terms so everyone can understand it. He puts it on the bottom shelf where everyone can reach it and learn how to please God. Deuteronomy leaves God's people without excuse, for the will of God is clearly spelled out.

The law tells man which way to walk in order to please God.

Deuteronomy 30 is a key passage in the covenant law.

Deut 30:11 *For this commandment which I command thee this day, it [is] not hidden from thee, neither [is] it far off. 12 It [is] not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? 13 Neither [is] it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? 14 But the word [is] very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.*

This law is given again in

Isaiah 30:21 *And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This [is] the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.*

Where else is the law of Deuteronomy 30:14 given?

It is a very well-known and often use passage.

Hint: it is part of what is known as the Romans Road.

Note the context?

Romans 10:8 *But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, [even] in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.*

The context of **Deut 30:11** on is salvation. This is the way to salvation, **walk ye in it to Christ** who said

Matthew 7:13 *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide [is] the gate, and broad [is] the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait [is] the gate, and narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

This is the way to eternal life.

Paul continually tells us that the lawful use of the law leads to Christ and life. (Romans 7, 1 Timothy 1:8)

Moses will use several means to make the law understandable for everyone who desires to live a holy life. *Be ye holy as I am holy.*

He reminds them of their past history and God's provision.

He exhorts them not to forget what they saw of the Lord at Horeb.

He reminds them of who their Lord is. He points out the results of obedience as being long life and prosperity.

He reminds them of God's requirements.

He points out the dangers not only of disobeying His commandments.

He warns them that the inhabitants of the land will win their heart away from their God.

He continually reminds them their conquest of Canaan will not be because of who they are; rather, it will be because of who their God is.

He points out many times that God's promises and blessings are conditional, and if they ignore his conditions, they will lose the promises, and inherit his anger.

The laws in Deuteronomy tell us how to be holy in EVERY area of life:

We will not get into the differences between the Old and the New covenant, but we will say this. Moses here explains the laws of the covenant which are binding for all time upon all people.

Some of those areas of life

Proper behavior towards the Lord God and our fellow man, whether slave, **foreigner**, neighbor or **family** member

Examples: Good Smartian

Example: husbands love your wives Ephesians 5

Proper behavior toward the civil government in their appointments of all official rulers, whether they be kings, judges or magistrates.

Example. Romans 13

He defines the duties and rites of not only of civil rulers, but also of the priests and Levites

Example, Timothy and Titus

He gives the proper precautions which are to be observed regarding human life, war, enemies, criminals and even women taken in war

He defines proper prayers and thanksgiving and giving are also covered.

Example: The Pharisee who prayed with himself in Luke 18:1

The Lord leaves no area of life to the imagination of man. He is a total God, and He gives total law for the total man.

Finally,

We must make it clear that law does not save, but law does define sanctification. That is, how the child of God is to live after salvation. The pastor will get to that in James.

In his sovereignty, the Lord gives the power to a particular people to come to him by faith, and then he works in them to give them the desire to be holy even as he is holy. (I can be described as a Particular Baptist.)

In Deuteronomy, Moses lays out the way of life vs. the way of death, along with pleading with God's people to choose the way of life through obedience.

As he gets ready to die, he reminds the people of his life, and then gives his final charge to Joshua.

This book is referred to by every New Testament author, including our Lord. It is quoted many times and given its proper application for us.

We know that by the time Christ came that these books of the law had been completely corrupted by Judaism. Christ came restoring the spirit of the law. The New Testament authors continued on with the proper applications of the law.

The Gospel never did away with the law, but put it back in its proper application as God originally gave it. The letter of the law, as it was being used by the religious leaders of Christ's day and even by the religious leaders of our day, only had bondage and death in it, making it a burden.

2 Cor. 3:6 *Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.*

What did Christ do here.

He replaced the burden of the letter of the law as taught by the religious leaders of his day with its intended spirit of life.

What are some examples of Christ giving life to the law?

Healing on the sabbath

The good Samaritan

Harvesting corn to eat on the sabbath

Therefore, our goal here will be to see how these laws apply in our day not in the letter, but in the spirit.

This is where my pastor friend in Indiana has a problem. He can only see the letter of the law, and is unable to see its spirit.

From Deuteronomy 30:15-17, Paul tells us that we have a choice: a life of obedience and blessings or a life of cursing and death, ***therefore chose life, 30:19.***

This is a very practical book, as is Proverbs and James. James tells us that we show our faith by our works. Here in Deuteronomy, we have the works identified that please God and that show our faith.

Deuteronomy contains the law mentioned in Psalms 1 with its many promises of blessings for those who read it, study it, meditate upon it and apply its principles to their lives.

Without an understanding of *the Law of the Lord*, we have no firm foundation, no doctrine, nothing to reprove by, no standard to correct our lives by and, most of all, we have no instruction in righteousness.

Pray

Lord we ask that you will enable us to apply our hearts in the wisdom that comes out of your law word. Give us the understanding that we might be bolder and better servants of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

We are commanded to study Deuteronomy as well as the other four books of Moses. Otherwise, we will be embarrassed as we incorrectly divide the word of truth. Here is where our good works are defined. Without the laws summarized in this book, we have NOTHING to instruct *those that oppose themselves*, and nothing for God to use to give the sinner repentance. Herein is contained the truth that God will give them repentance to acknowledge. Here is found the definition of iniquity which man is to depart from and purge himself of. Without the truth (law of God) contained herein, the devil can take a man captive at his will. Here, also, is found the definition of sin according to the apostle John (1 Jn. 3:4). In other words, the laws contained here that Moses reviews is what Paul encouraged Timothy to study and teach to those under his care. Can we do any less?