



MONDAY 29 MAY 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 6:1-3

Plug In...

Although the NIV renders '*These* are the commandments', the best way to translate verse 1 is to notice the singular noun: "*This* is the command – the statutes and laws" which some other translations pick up [see: [HCSB](#); [ESV](#)].

Moses is about to give *the* command to which all other commands hang off. That specific command we look at tomorrow ([Deuteronomy 6:4-5](#)).

Chew It Over...

Before giving the key command that drives obedience to all others, what is the purpose Moses says in providing this (vv.2-3)?

Prayer Suggestion

Ask the Lord for life-long reverence for God secured by Jesus. Pray that this reality is seen in our increasing obedience. May the fruit of our obedience be every spiritual blessing.



The Lakes

TUESDAY 30 MAY 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Plug In...

“Hear O Israel. The LORD our God, the LORD is One.”

Hear: Stand up and fix yourselves on this preeminent truth.

One: The Lord is unique and a unity. Not really focussing on the question how many is God, but *who* is this God of Israel? Reply: He is God alone! The only one!

This cry of allegiance demands obedience. Such obedience is only possible if coming from the love for God at the very centre of one’s being.

Chew It Over...

In Moses’ sermon, he shows this is the heartbeat of the Old Testament. Moses teaches it all comes down to the centre of the heart. What one loves the most will drive everything else.

Is the Lord Jesus that treasure at the centre? ([Matthew 6:21](#)) Can we reach down enough to cultivate such hearts? Are we exposed? Is it possible?

Prayer Suggestion

Oh we must pray. Pray that Jesus would pronounce those blessings from the big sermon He came to deliver for the impoverished of heart ([Matthew 5:3-10](#)).



WEDNESDAY 31 MAY 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 6:6-9

Plug In...

Should a love for God alone be in our heart it will flow out and permeate all our life. It is concentric. The heart as the centre of a person's being spills out to direct all of one's soul/life. That life uses all resources (strength) it has to love and honour the LORD God being lord.

These next verses list a practical outflow, still concentric. Repeat this all to the children. Inside and outside the house. At the beginning of the day, in the middle of the day, at the end of the day.

Chew It Over...

Verses 8-9 may be metaphoric. Still, what's the point?

There is no compartmentalisation of Christianity. Jesus is Lord of all. Are we leaning in, or out?

Prayer Suggestion

Ask the Lord Jesus for the help He promises to rearrange everything in our life around Him.



THURSDAY 1 JUNE 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 6:10-19

Plug In...

God is good; He will bring Israel into the Land. He will bless them abundantly. They will be given gift after gift after gift with no toil from them. It is in the context of great blessing that Moses warns them of a lurking threat. They could still turn away and worship something else.

Chew It Over...

What would be going on for a people for whom after receiving blessing after blessing would still fathom turning away from God?

What would be going on for us that we might fathom turning our backs on Christ after becoming a Christian? How do we guard against this? (Reflect on [Philippians 3:7-14](#) to help answer. What did Paul specifically chase after?)

Prayer Suggestion

May Jesus be our prize, our satisfaction, our deepest joy and desire.



The Lakes

FRIDAY 2 JUNE 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 6:20-24

Plug In...

Again, there is focus on parents passing on the revelation of God to their children. Notice it is not merely 'rules-to-live-by'. It is the story of the gift of redemption and salvation. The story of victory won by God for the Israelites. It includes the story of the Land being a gift first promised and now given. It is the story that God is so wonderful to us that He blesses us further with the secret to life and prosperity – He says this is the way to live, this is the way to live life to the full, this is the way to continue in long life.

Chew It Over...

When sharing the gospel with friends and family – our children – we must not lead with 'get your life in order', or communicate to our kids (directly or indirectly) 'be a *good* little boy or girl'. We must lead with the story of Jesus saving us, giving to us, developing in us all the things we couldn't do ourselves. The motivation to change life comes from tasting that the Lord is good ([Psalm 34:8](#)).

Prayer Suggestion

As we go about encouraging moral behaviour, particularly with our children, ask the Lord Jesus that we don't place the cart before the horse. Help us Lord Jesus to not destroy the good news of the gospel before our friends and family as we strive for obedience.



The Lakes

WEEKEND 3-4 JUNE 2017

SERIES: DEUTERONOMY – CHOOSE LIFE

Read: Deuteronomy 6:25

Plug In...

The father has been explaining to the son the reason for the laws taught to his children over the early years. The father concludes with “righteousness will be ours if we follow carefully”. The father is not saying they will necessarily be perfect moral beings (i.e. righteousness as we often think of it) – for part of following the commands in the Old Testament meant the commands of sacrifices which accounted for human imperfection. ‘Righteousness’ often in the Old Testament means ‘right direction’. In the context of chapter 6, the right direction is ‘right relationship with God’.

Chew It Over...

When Paul says a ‘righteousness’ from God has been revealed in Jesus, Paul *is* using the category of a perfect moral righteousness (i.e. legal perfection; morally perfect before God). For, we need this substitute in Jesus to stand before God as the former sacrificial system ultimately doesn’t cleanse of sin ([Hebrews 10:4](#)). Yet this need for a righteous substitute is needed first before a relationship with God is possible. In this way, Jesus as perfect righteousness, as a substitute, is linked with the ideal of a right relationship with God in Deuteronomy 6. Moses’ great fear in chapter 6 is not that the Israelites may trip up in their morals from time-to-time (or even regularly). The great fear Moses has is that deep in their heart they actually don’t love God, don’t want a relationship with God, and will turn away to follow their own gods they’ve made.

The New Testament resolves this problem by this logic: Jesus fully pays for all unrighteousness (i.e. in the sense of sin) – [Romans 8:1-4](#). Therefore, the Holy Spirit can and does dwell with us – [Romans 8:5-11](#). From inside us, the Holy Spirit wrests our

hearts and beautifully causes us to love God – [Romans 8:12-17](#). No wonder we cry *Abba Father!* The relationship occurs.

Prayer Suggestion

Let us praise our Father God for this.