

At the start of the Reformation of the Church in Scotland in 1557, John Knox wrote to his congregation before going into exile and said,

“You are bishops and kings; your wife, children, servants, and family are your bishopric and charge. Of you it shall be required how carefully and diligently you have instructed them in God’s true knowledge . . .

And therefore I say, you must make them partakers in, exhorting, and in making common prayers, which I would in every house were used once a day at least.”

Let’s Worship God

21st-26th October 2013
Deuteronomy



Let's Worship God is a ministry of



Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church

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Family worship, a joy to be experienced every day!



Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?

Deuteronomy 30:13

reading Deuteronomy 18:1-8 - Servants of God

notes Here instruction is given concerning the material provisions for the Levites. Because they were called to the service of God, the Levites had no territorial inheritance in the land; God was to be their portion and inheritance. But the ancient church had a duty to these servants of God, to provide for their needs from their offerings to God. We should not misunderstand the greatness of their privilege, for the Lord was to be their inheritance, and they were in His special care in this regard. No man is ever the loser for having been set apart unto God! God is no man's debtor.

It is helpful to distinguish the functions of the Levitical priests and the Levites. The priests alone had the ministry of officiating at the central sanctuary and of offering sacrifices there; the Levites had other assisting tasks. But they both had in common the duty to instruct Israel in their covenant law, and it is in relation to these common tasks that they are spoken of together.

The authority of the Levites did not come from themselves, their pedigree, heritage, stock, training or commitment. Rather we are told that "the Lord thy God has chosen him out of all thy tribes, to stand to minister in the name of the Lord". Ministers are worthy of honour because they have been called by God, and they stand to minister in His Name. And because they are servants of God, they are worthy of the physical and financial support of the people of God. The servants of God are not parasites!

- questions**
1. Who provided food for the Levites?
 2. What is the difference between Levite priests and Levites?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 92B:1-6
1. Pray for your minister.
 2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
 3. Pray for family matters.



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Verse To Learn

Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?

Deuteronomy 30:13

reading Deuteronomy 19:15-21 - Justice

notes Verse 15 onwards tells us the importance of truth and witness-bearing. God required at least two or three witnesses before a case could proceed. But there was a heavy price for false witnesses; they were put to death. This protected the judicial system and put away evil from the community.

A most careful examination and enquiry was to be conducted, and the verdict was to be considered as the Lord's - hence the seriousness of the situation, and the extreme nature of the punishment meted out to the false witness (19). False witness is a sin against God.

These verses are often misunderstood. An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth does not seek to encourage vengeance but limit it. It limits vengeance and stands as a guide for a judge as he fixes a penalty suited to the crime. The principle was thus not licence or vengeance, but a guarantee of justice.

This emphasis on justice is one of the abiding characteristics of the Biblical doctrine of punishment, and one that we need to recover today. Justice is not just about deterrence and correction; it is also about the punishment that wrongdoers deserve. Careless notions of jurisprudence will ultimately deprive us of all our human rights.

- questions**
1. How many witnesses did there need to be?
 2. What was the penalty for being a false witness?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 94:7-12
1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
 2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
 3. Pray for family matters.



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reading Deuteronomy 19:11-14 - Life and Property

notes In Numbers 35 we see that the cities of refuge were chosen out of the cities set apart for the Levites. How wonderful that the servants of God and their dwellings became the vehicles of the Lord's mercy and compassion for those in urgent need. And the fact that the cities of refuge were spaced out throughout the land meant that no one was too far distanced from a place of sanctuary when need arose.

Verse 14 asserts that in Israel, reverence for life was to be accompanied by respect for property. In those days in Israel, where every man held his piece of land as an inheritance from the Lord, the removal of landmarks was an offence against the Lord Himself. There was a close connection between a man's possessions as his means of support and the very life of the man. This law was for the protection of the poor as well as the rich, and we see this in the case of Naboth and the might of King Ahab.

questions

1. What do these laws teach us about how God views murder?
2. What do these laws teach us about how God views private property?

praise pray Ps. 94:1-6

1. Pray for the leaders of our country that they would make Godly laws.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



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reading Deuteronomy 18:9-14 - Avoid Idolatry

notes In this important passage, Israel is again warned to avoid all forms of idolatry and evil religious practice. In contrast to these wicked alternatives, the Lord will raise His own Prophet who will have the Word of Jehovah and teach His people the truth. Whoever refuses the Prophet is guilty of refusing Almighty God Himself and will be held accountable.

If Israel desired further revelation of the will of God in addition to the written word, the means of Urim and Thummim were available to their priests. Beyond that, the initiative in revelation lay with God who would raise up and speak through prophets (verse 18). Israel must be satisfied with and submissive to Jehovah's revelation. If they deemed Moses and the prophets inadequate, then a voice from the dead would not help either. All false form of revelation was to be shunned.

As Christians, we must avoid fortune tellers, witches, spiritist mediums, horoscopists, and necromancers because of the methods they employ, and because they so easily bring men into contact with evil spirits. To consult unseen powers is tantamount to acknowledging a power other than God. These practices brought divine judgment upon the Canaanites, and they will do so again on any culture that dabbles in them.

questions

1. What were the children of Israel to avoid?
2. Where has God revealed Himself?

praise pray Ps. 92B:7-13

1. Give thanks for God's Word.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Wed.
23rd Oct.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

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reading Deuteronomy 18:15-22 - Another Prophet

notes The promise of the true Prophet will give rise to false prophets. These men are not called by God but claim to speak in His Name. It is clear that these false teachers are to be put to death. But the test of a true prophet is that his words are true and will be fulfilled.

In the contemporary church too there are false teachers. They claim to be sent by God and claim to have His word. But their words are not in harmony with Holy Scriptures, and they must be avoided.

The normal and therefore definitive way in which God communicates Himself to His people is through the Scriptures and the hearing of the Word. It is this, and no other, that we must covet. Ultimately this passage points to the Lord Jesus Christ. He Himself is the Word of God Incarnate, and God said of Him, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased: hear ye Him.'

questions

1. Who is the Prophet being talked about here?
2. What is the test of a true prophet?

praise pray Ps. 93A:all

1. Give thanks that Jesus Christ came to reveal God to us.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
- 3 Pray for family matters.



Thur.
24th Oct.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

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Deuteronomy 30:13

reading Deuteronomy 19:1-10 - Cities of Refuge

notes Cities of refuge were provided as sanctuary for a person who has, without malice aforethought, killed another. If an innocent killer is put to death, the shedding of this innocent blood is said to be upon that community and will be accounted for before the Divine Judge (v10).

But where a person has willfully killed another, then there has been a murder and the blood of the slain must be required from the hands of his killer. Verse 13 makes clear that it is only when the violent removal of human life is taken seriously that a society may expect all to go well with her.

Since in that ancient world the duty of avenging loss of life fell upon the near kinsman, it was an all too common experience for vengeance to be wreaked indiscriminately and without mercy, without proper investigation. With these cities of refuge, the manslayer was safe, pending an enquiry into the matter by judges from the congregation who would decide whether it was a deliberate or inadvertent act. If the latter, then the killer could find permanent refuge and sanctuary in the city and be free from the fear of any retribution so long as he remained within its bounds.

Our God takes an interest in fair trials, true verdicts, and genuine cases of asylum. As Christians we ought to pray for all those who serve in the judiciary, that they should be endowed with wisdom. And we should be compassionate towards those who genuinely need asylum.

questions

1. What was the purpose of the cities of refuge?
2. What do they tell us about God's character?

praise pray Ps. 93B:all

1. Pray that you would have compassion towards others.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
- 3 Pray for family matters.