

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

4th-9th November 2013
Deuteronomy



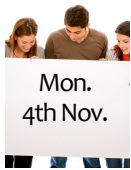
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Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church

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Family worship, a joy to be experienced every day!



Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
Then Moses summoned Joshua
and said to him
in the sight of all Israel,
Be strong and courageous,
Deuteronomy 31:7a

reading Deuteronomy 22:1-4 - Caring for Others

notes These assorted laws for Israel in the promised land again remind us that God is concerned with every area of our lives. His concern extends to our livestock, our neighbours, our environment, and our work and its conditions. There is no ground that does not belong to the Lordship of King Jesus Christ.

In 1-4, we are reminded that we are all our brother's keepers. As such, we ought to show concern for his goods and possessions. The law of God must be obeyed by a person even in his or her secret actions which are beyond the detection of God's human agents of law enforcement. God's requirements concerning our relations with our fellow human beings are only truly fulfilled where there is a spirit of love that goes beyond mere concern for a technical legality sufficient to avoid penal sanctions of human judiciaries; rather, it positively seeks the welfare of others as though it were our own.

Thus indifference towards others is not a Christian option. Our Lord Himself taught this in the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10) and that of the sheep and the goats (Matt 25), where the issue is seen to be one of eternal importance, becoming the basis of the last judgment itself.

questions

1. What belongs to God?
2. What does this passage teach about caring for others?

praise pray

Ps. 96C:7-12

1. Pray for the salvation of others.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
- 3 Pray for family matters.



Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
Then Moses summoned
Joshua and said to him
in the sight of all Israel,
Be strong and courageous,
Deuteronomy 31:7a

reading Deuteronomy 23:7-8 - Egyptians

notes The previous verses read together with verse 7 indicate that God's directive to Israel was no arbitrary harshness or exclusiveness. What is in view -and at stake - is the principle of purity within the congregation of the Lord. Israel had to be a pure, exclusive people in order to fulfil her true destiny, and this 'exclusiveness' was built into the structure of the law God had given them to keep them so.

But this law like the other laws was as a means to an end, not an end in itself. For this reason, we find this notion of exclusiveness being breached by the grace of the gospel. In Isa 56:1-8 we see eunuchs being given a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters, and the sons of the stranger welcomed into the fold of the family of God. In New Testament, Gentiles are openly welcomed into the fold of covenantal grace. It is the principle of purity, not the literalness of the law's fulfilment, that is important here.

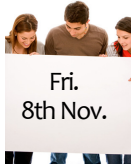
questions

1. Who is now welcome to enter the kingdom of God?
2. How do we enter the kingdom of God?

praise pray

Ps. 99B:all

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.



Fri.
8th Nov.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
Then Moses summoned Joshua
and said to him
in the sight of all Israel,
Be strong and courageous,
Deuteronomy 31:7a

reading Deuteronomy 23:1-6 - A Holy People

notes In verses 1-8, Israel is told who may and who may not be admitted into the citizenship of God's people. The wounded, illegitimately born, the Ammonites and the Moabites are banned from Israel as are their children for ten generations. According to verse 6, the curse of God was to be upon those who lived their lives in rebellion to God; but mercy is shown to the Egyptians since Israel once lived there.

Verse 1 forbids emasculation and the mutilation of the nature of man as created by God in His image. 'Forbidden union' in verse 2 probably refers to a child of an incestuous union or of adultery, or of mixed marriages between Israelites and those of other nations. This made the child an intrusion into the natural order of things and makes it fall into the category of the unnatural, which is an abomination to the Lord. For the same reason, there is the prohibition with regard to the Ammonite or the Moabite: their attitude to Israel was regarded as unnaturally hostile (4-6), as indeed was their incestuous origin (ct Gen 19:30-38).

By this exclusion from participation in the official theocratic assembly of those disqualified in various ways was the sacredness of the congregation of the Lord signified. As Christians, we must not forget that the contemporary Church too has a calling to be the Bride of Christ Jesus.

questions

1. Why were Moabites forbidden from entering the sanctuary?
2. Who is the Bride of Christ?

praise pray Ps. 99A:all

1. Give thanks that through Christ we can come to God.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Tue.
5th Nov.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
Then Moses summoned Joshua
and said to him
in the sight of all Israel,
Be strong and courageous,
Deuteronomy 31:7a

reading Deuteronomy 22:5-12 - Modesty

notes On verse 5 Calvin comments: 'This decree also commends modesty in general, and in it God anticipates the danger, lest women should harden themselves into forgetfulness of modesty, or men should degenerate into effeminacy unworthy of their nature. Garments are not in themselves of so much importance; but as it is disgraceful for men to become effeminate, and also for women to affect manliness in their dress and gestures, propriety and modesty are prescribed, not only for decency's sake, but lest one kind of liberty should at length lead to something worse....Decency in the fashion of the clothes is an excellent preservative of modesty.'

Verse 12 indicates that literal interpretation and application is not the point; it is rather the confusion of the divine, natural distinction between the sexes. Christians need to be watchful against fashion trends which are demon-inspired, with intent to undermine what is natural in society.

Is it wrong for women to wear men's clothing? It depends. Some wear it for comfort's sake (to keep out the cold) or for convenience of work. Some wear it because of tradition (in some parts of India, native dress for women includes trousers; and the Scottish kilt looks like a skirt to foreigners!)

questions

1. What is the principle being taught in these verses?
2. What should be our heart attitude towards what we wear?

praise pray Ps. 97:all

1. Give thanks for the clothing God has provided you with.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Wed.
6th Nov.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and courageous, Deuteronomy 31:7a

reading Deuteronomy 22:13-22 - Purity

notes This section gives some of the regulations that were to govern the sexual ethics of Israel. A man was prohibited from making a false accusation against his wife concerning her virginity. But if he is proved correct, then she is to be punished for engaging in pre-marital sexual intercourse. Extra-marital relationships are to be severely dealt with according to verse 22. Where a woman is engaged to be married, and she is sexually assaulted by another man, that woman was expected to raise the alarm. If she does so, she is protected and her violator is put to death. But if she fails to raise the alarm, then she and the rapist are both to be punished with death.

Where a sexual relationship is engaged in before marriage, then the man had to compensate the family of the woman and submit himself to marriage to that lady. He may not put her away all his days. The disorders and sins mentioned were recognized as serious because they attacked the sanctity of family life, and this is why they were dealt with so severely

questions

1. What happened if a man falsely accused his wife?
2. How seriously does God take marriage?

praise pray Ps. 98A:all

1. Give thanks for Godly marriages.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
- 3 Pray for family matters.



Thur.
7th Nov.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and courageous, Deuteronomy 31:7a

reading Deuteronomy 22:23-30 - Protection of Women

notes Verses 23-29 concern the seduction of unmarried girls, whether betrothed(v 23-27) or unbetrothed (v28-29). What is clear in these laws is the protection that the divine law afforded women. Although it seeks to be fair, the language of these verses puts most of the responsibility and culpability upon the men. To our modern ears, this expression of divine will concerning human sexual ethics may appear old, outdated, and unnecessarily rigorous. But this probably indicates just how far we have moved away from the Word of God and His Holy will.

We must make a distinction between the sanction of the law and the penalty. The latter may change, from age to age, but the sanction remains. It is still wrong to do such things, although they are not punished in the same way now.

questions

1. How are women treated here?
2. Who bore the bulk of the responsibility in these situations?

praise pray Ps. 98B:all

1. Pray that our rulers would make Biblical laws.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
- 3 Pray for family matters.