

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

25th-30th November 2013
Deuteronomy



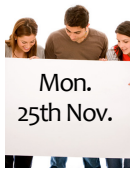
Let's Worship God is a ministry of



Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church

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Family worship, a joy to be experienced every day!



Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed. Deuteronomy 31:8

reading Deuteronomy 28:20-48 - Curses

notes The list of curses described in these verses clearly occupies a disproportionate space compared with the blessings in Verses 1-14. This is probably because the blessing is freely promised but the curse follows upon transgression. And since the sins of the people were to be manifold, the description of the curses that would come upon them is manifold also.

Delitzsch speaks of a five-fold view being given of the divine curse. First, in verses 20-26, the curse in all its forms (20), then seven diseases (21,22), drought (23,24), and defeat in battle (25, 26). Secondly, in verses 27-34, diseases of body and soul, plunder and oppression by enemies. Thirdly, in verses 35-46, calamities already threatened as signs of the rejection of the people of Israel from covenant fellowship. Fourthly, in verses 47-57, the horrors that will fall consequent upon being given up to the power of the heathen. Fifthly, in verses 58-68, hardening of heart into disregard of the glorious and fearful name of the Lord their God. The picture is truly frightening.

Did you know that we too stand to reap the curses of the new covenant if we should carelessly participate in the Lord's Supper? Read I Corinthians 11:27-31.

questions

1. What would cause a curse to come upon the people?
2. What are some of the curses described here?

praise pray

Ps. 103:19-21

1. Give thanks for the forgiveness we have in Christ.
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

It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed. Deuteronomy 31:8

reading Deuteronomy 30:11-20 - Love

notes 'Who will ascend into heaven?' and 'Who will descend into the abyss?' express human impossibilities. But according to verses 11-14, God's demands are neither 'too hard' nor 'far off'. This is Paul's language in Romans 10:6 ff also. There he says that the righteousness that comes by faith is neither difficult nor hard to obtain, but is accessible and near to all. We see then the doctrine that sinful people are justified before God by faith is not a new innovation but is found in the law itself (Rom 3:21; 4:1 ff). Thus, when we hear Moses properly, we recognise that his gospel is exactly the same as Paul's.

The summons to obedience is not law, but grace. The command to love the Lord (16) means that the choice they were to make was to be the fruit of grace. Love is the order of the redeemed life. Life properly understood consists in loving God. When we speak of what God wants of us, we can sum it all up in this way: all that God wants of us is that we should love Him. Indeed, in this sense, this sums up all that Moses has been saying throughout Deuteronomy, and it underlines the truth that love is the fulfilling of the law.

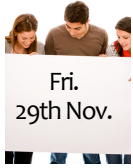
questions

1. How has God provided for the keeping of the law?
2. What does God want from us?

praise pray

Ps. 104:25-31

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.
29th Nov.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed. Deuteronomy 31:8

reading Deuteronomy 30:1-10 - Restoration

notes While chapter 29 warned Israel of the punishment that threatened them in case of apostasy, in chapter 30 there is promise of restoration on the ground of sincere repentance and return to the Lord (30: 1- 14), and ends with a final appeal to Israel to choose life (15-20).

The words 'thou shalt call them to mind' in verse 1 tells us that as Christians we ought to discern the meaning of all that happens to us. God is teaching us through providence. The promises made here are the fulfillment of the promises that God made with Abraham in Gen 17, which ultimately reach their fulness in Jesus Christ (1 Pet 2:4-10).

We must be careful here not to narrowly limit this prophecy to ethnic Jews but with the covenant community, here concretely denoted in its Old Testament identity as Israel. Accordingly, the picture in verse 3b and 4 finds its chief fulfillment in the universal New Testament gathering of sinners out of the human race, exiled from Paradise in Eden, but now back to the Lord Christ enthroned in the heavenly Jerusalem. Verse 7 makes clear that while God's people inherit the earth, their enemies are to be plagued with every curse in the act of redemptive judgement.

questions

1. What does it mean to repent?
2. What does God promise to do if we repent?

praise pray

Ps. 104:19-24

1. Pray that you would love God with all your heart.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
- 3 Pray for family matters.



Tue.
26th Nov.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed. Deuteronomy 31:8

reading Deuteronomy 28:49-68 - Christ Became a Curse

notes Note that the altar of burnt offering was to be built on Mount Ebal (27:4-5). We would have expected this on Mount Gerizim, the place of blessing. The reason is simple: the altar of burnt offering speaks ultimately of the great sacrifice for sin, the Lord Jesus, Who in the fulness of the time came into the world, to bear away the sin of the world as the Lamb of God. Ebal was the place of a curse and Christ became a curse for us, in bearing away the sin of the world. Remarkably, the shadow of the Cross stands over ancient Shechem!

Note also that in 27:12-13, it is all the stronger and larger tribes that were positioned on Gerizim to shout out the blessings, and the smaller ones on Ebal to shout out the cursings, as if God always intended that the blessings would overpower the cursings and gain the victory over them. The list of curses may be longer than the blessings, but the blessings ring out louder than the cursings!

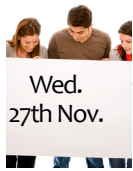
questions

1. What is the ultimate curse of sin?
2. How did Christ deal with this curse?

praise pray

Ps. 104:1-6

1. Give thanks for Christ's death and resurrection.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
- 3 Pray for family matters.



Wed.
27th Nov.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you.
Do not fear or be dismayed.
Deuteronomy 31:8

reading Deuteronomy 29:1-13 - Remembering

notes Moses gives his third address to the children of Israel as they stand on the borders of the Promised Land, urging them to accept and renew their covenant with Jehovah. Again he reminds them of their slavery in Egypt, the Lord's redemption and His goodness to them over the years as He finally brought them into the land flowing with milk and honey. The mercy of the past was to cause them to live lives of gratitude in obedience to God's terms in the covenant. This covenant was to include the coming generations (verse 14-15). The purpose of the covenant was to establish them as His people and ratify His promise to be their God forever.

As Christians, it is important that we frequently take time to remind ourselves of our own sinfulness and the Lord's goodness towards us. Birthdays, wedding anniversaries, and death notices are helpful landmarks in our pilgrimage through life. But God has provided every Lord's Day to remind us of the death, resurrection and second coming of Jesus Christ. We are not left in any doubt of our sinfulness that cost the blood of the Son of God; His goodness to us in life and His hope for us in the life to come.

But a covenant has both blessings and curses; blessings for obedience and curses for rebellion. 'Into his oath' in verse 12 indicates that to enter into the covenant blessings was also to commit themselves to the curses, in case of disobedience. Then as now, the wages of sin is death.

questions

1. What does Moses remind the people of?
2. What day especially reminds us of what Christ has done?

praise pray Ps. 104:7-12

1. Pray for your minister as he prepares for the Lord's Day.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Thur.
28th Nov.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you.
Do not fear or be dismayed.
Deuteronomy 31:8

reading Deuteronomy 29:14-29 - The Covenant

notes In verses 12 and 14, we learn something about the nature of God's covenant with His people. The equation of the Lord's covenant with the oath that He required of Israel (v12,14) indicates that God's covenant is an instrument of God's rule whereby He secures the commitment of a people to His service.

We notice especially the genealogical continuity that is recognised in verses 14-15. This is emphasised here not because God's covenant mercies are an inalienable family right, but because God is faithful to His promise to extend His blessing to all who love Him and obey His commandments. It is for this reason that we baptise infants of believers, thus setting the sacramental sign of consecration on them. But verse 19 threatens the divine curse upon those who presume upon the divine grace, fancying themselves immune from the consequences of their sin just because their family is 'under the covenant'.

In verse 29, many things are secret and mysterious. But all that we need for life and godliness has been revealed. It is unwise and dangerous to be so preoccupied with the mysterious that we neglect to pay heed to the things that are within our knowledge and grasp and that we ought to do.

questions

1. What promise does God give to families?
2. Where do we find God's revelation?

praise pray Ps. 104:13-18

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.