

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

2nd-7th September 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!



Mon.
2nd Sept.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
And these words
that I command you today
shall be on your heart.
Deuteronomy 6:6

reading Deuteronomy 4:1-8 - A Covenant God

notes These words are a repetition of God's Law and a preparation for its second exposition to a new generation. This is why this book is called Deuteronomy. It sets out again the whole body of teaching which showed the people of Israel the way to live in fellowship with Jehovah and with one another. That life would enable Israel to enjoy to the full the blessings of the covenant.

This law is set forth in terms of a covenant between God and His people. There are terms or conditions to be obeyed, and these are unalterable (verse 2). As part of the covenant process, witnesses are summoned (verse 26), consequences are made clear (verse 27ff) and the duty is imposed to teach the next generation for the covenant is between God and His people of every generation. How we need this reminder that our God is a Covenant God, and that He makes His covenant with us and our families. This means that our children, however young, are not excused from the worship of God. On the contrary, as verse 10 makes plain, even the terror of Sinai was to teach children and adults the spirit of reverence and worship.

questions

1. What responsibility did the people have to the next generation?
2. What is a covenant?

praise pray Ps. 78A:13-18

1. Pray for the salvation of our covenant children.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Sat.
7th Sept.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
And these words
that I command you today
shall be on your heart.
Deuteronomy 6:6

reading Deuteronomy 4:41-49 - A City of Refuge

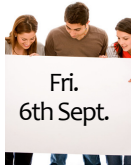
notes The appointment of cities of refuge belonged to the general judicial system of Israel. Notice that the provision they offered was for the manslayer, not the murderer (Numb 35:16 ff), for the man who killed inadvertently or unawares, not the man who deliberately took life. In ancient times, the duty of avenging a killing lay upon the nearest kinsman. This merciful legislation was instituted to prevent excesses that might develop from blood-feuds. A man could flee to such a city of refuge for sanctuary, pending an enquiry into the matter made by the congregation, who would judge whether it was a deliberate murder or an inadvertent killing. If the latter, the killer could find refuge and sanctuary in the city, and be free from the fear of retribution, so long as he remained within its walls. In a world where fallen man is stained with bloodguiltiness, Jesus Christ alone is our city of refuge from the wrath of God's justice.

Verses 44-49 are transitional, concluding the historical prologue of 1:6 to 4:49 and introducing the terms of the covenant life as contained in 5:1 to 26:19. This next section begins with a repetition of the decalogue, and a notice of the powerful impression which was made by God's proclamation at Horeb (ch. 5); the true essence of the law, and of that righteousness which the Israelites were to strive after, consisted in loving Jehovah their God with all their heart (ch. 6); the people were bound, by virtue of their election as the Lord's people of possession, to exterminate the Canaanites with their idolatrous worship, in order to rejoice in the blessing of God (ch 7); that, having regard on the one hand to the divine chastisement and humiliation which they had experienced in the desert (ch. 8), and on the other hand to the frequency with which they had rebelled against their God (ch. 9:1-10:11), they were to beware of self-exaltation and self-righteousness, that they might not forget their God when enjoying the rich productions of the land, but might retain the blessings of their God for ever by a faithful observance of the covenant (ch.10:12-11:32). This is followed by an exposition of the different commandments of the law (ch.12-26).

questions Ps. 79:8-12

praise pray

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.



Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
And these words
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Deuteronomy 6:6

reading Deuteronomy 4:32-40 - The Works of God

notes Following upon the stern warning of the previous passage, these verses are deeply moving to read. We cannot sufficiently admire the way in which Moses exhorts the people against declension. It is impossible to miss the sense of wonder that his words convey to them. There has been nothing in the whole of history, he maintains, comparable to the dealings God has had with this people of His choice (32, 33). Yes, it is the sheer wonder of the Divine election and the Divine condescension that is ever the best incentive to both devotion and faithfulness on the part of God's people, in any age.

What need there is, therefore, to be constantly rehearsing all this - the miracle of Divine grace in bringing His people out of Egypt, giving them a Land, giving them His law (36) - and what a moving statement we have in this verse, 'Out of heaven He made thee to hear His voice' - pledging to them His covenanted love (37). It is this that is emphasised so clearly in Paul's words in Eph 2:11, 'Wherefore remember....' And this, we may add, is the purpose and function of a continuing ministry of the Word in the Christian Church today, for how better could we recollect the mighty acts of God in our redemption than by going over the Word that expounds and unfolds them, over and over again, drawing continual wonder and awe from the realisation of the greatness of God's love in Christ.

This is the best way to remember, being much in the whole counsel of God, delighting in its riches, meditating on His ways, until our whole souls are kindled and fired by a passion to walk in obedience to His will all the days of our life.

questions 1. What are the benefits of reminding ourselves what God has done?
2. Where do we find out what God has done?

praise Ps. 79:1-6
pray 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.



Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
And these words
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Deuteronomy 6:6

reading Deuteronomy 4:9-14 - Remember

notes Again, there is an emphasis on remembrance. A true recollection of what we have seen of God and from God is an inner dynamic for life, and this serves to explain why the New Testament also underlines it so emphatically (cf Eph 2:11 ff). Such is intended to become the basis and motivation of true and generous and godly living.

Just as important is the note in verse 9 to instruct Israel's children and grandchildren. Again, this was a common requirement in ancient covenant relationships between a great king and his vassal states. The king expected obedience from his vassals and their children after them. Similarly, Israel's own wellbeing would be best served by their teaching future generations the terms of God's covenant. It was this obedience that was going to be the way to the enjoyment of the supreme blessings of the covenant - the nearness of God in saving power(v7), and knowledge of true righteousness(v8). This is true wisdom and genuine understanding(v6). Some people speak of children as the future of the church. This is not true. In God's eyes, children are part of the present church. They need to be instructed, they ought to be part of Christian worship, and parents will be wise to take them to spiritual occasions.

questions 1. Why is it good to remember what God has done?
2. What is your responsibility towards the children of the church?

praise Ps. 78A:19-24
pray 1. Pray for the parents in the congregation.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Wed.
4th Sept.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
And these words
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Deuteronomy 6:6

reading Deuteronomy 4:15-24 - Dangers of Idolatry

notes Moses reminds Israel that at Sinai they saw no similitude of God. This was a warning about idolatry. Although this notice did not ultimately save Israel from ignominious captivity and centuries of humiliation in the land, they could not say that they had not been warned.

Idolatry is dangerous in many ways. First, the worship of an inanimate object is unsatisfying to intelligent creatures. As humankind, we need our worship to engage our active powers in some sort of self-expression. Since sticks and stones do not make any moral demands, the self-expression often becomes carnal and gives entrance to demon spirits whose office is to invade empty personalities and destroy them.

Secondly, the inclination to worship images contains the tendency to worship lower and lower creatures (Romans 1:23). Thirdly, idolatry externalises worship, so that whatever demands are made on the worshipper, he is still free to live some sort of a life apart from his god. This is what true religion denies. For the Christian, God indwells him and all of life becomes sacred, lived under God's constant gaze. But false religion and false worship leave a person free to live his own sinful life when his devotions have been performed.

Israel's calling was to be a 'people of inheritance' (v20). This meant a close relationship between God and His people. Israel did not seek to appease an angry deity but walk in step with Jehovah's Spirit. Here, human beings remain human, and God remains God. It is this humility which makes men human, and saves them from the pride which makes them inhumane.

- questions**
1. What are some of the dangers of idolatry?
 2. Should the Christian have a part of his life separate from God?

- praise pray** Ps. 78A:25-27
1. Pray that you would get rid of idols in your life.
 2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
 3. Pray for family matters.



Thur.
5th Sept.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
And these words
that I command you today
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Deuteronomy 6:6

reading Deuteronomy 4:25-31 - The Danger of Being Comfortable

notes Moses now looks into the future and sees the danger facing an idolatrous nation. History proves the truth of Moses' prophecy. Notice the form of words in verse 25: 'remained long in the land', which the RSV renders 'grown old in the land'. How common is the temptation to become used to the blessings of God and taking them for granted can breed complacency and forgetfulness. Was not David's tribulation period much healthier and safer for him than the days of his settled kingship? And does not Hosea remind a backslidden Israel of how different everything was when they were first 'espoused' to the Lord?

What was true for the ancient church is true for the New Testament church too. And what is true for the church is true in the lives of Christian individuals also. It is for this reason that we need to cry with the prophet Habakkuk who prayed with these words in Hab 3:2: 'Revive Thy work in the midst of the years' - it is the middle years that are the difficult, dangerous ones, when we settle down, and begin to 'grow old in the land'. With regard to the declension mentioned in 25, 28, Delitzsch comments: "What Moses threatens here, follows from the eternal laws of divine government. The more refined idolatry of image worship leads to coarser and coarser forms, in which the whole nature of idol-worship is manifested in all its pitiableness", and Delitzsch goes on to quote from a contemporary scholar, "When once the God of revelation is forsaken, the God of reason and imagination must also soon be given up and make way for still lower powers, that perfectly accord with the I exalted upon the throne, and in the time of pretended 'illumination' to atheism and materialism also"

- questions**
1. What is the danger of being too used to the blessings of God?
 2. What is often the time of greatest temptation for a Christian?

- praise pray** Ps. 78B:all
1. Pray that you would not take God's blessings for granted.
 2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
 3. Pray for family matters.