

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

9th-14th 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!



Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
You shall teach them
diligently to your children,
Deuteronomy 6:7a

reading Deuteronomy 5:1-5 - An Expression of Life

notes In verses 1-5, Moses is reminding the children of Israel that the covenant made at Sinai in Exodus 20 was not simply an event of the past, but was the concern of every Israelite in the present. According to verse 4, this covenant is not about legalistic observance of the law but about a personal relationship between a sinful human being and a holy God. Thus we are told, 'the Lord talked with you face to face'. It is most important that we grasp this if we are to understand the Bible correctly.

The law then is the expression of life within the covenant (not a method of entering into the covenant). God's will is to have fellowship with us. Since He is God, that will is expressed as a sovereign claim upon us. But since He is love, He desires that His sovereignty should be freely accepted by us. He wants to awaken a responsive love in us. It is for this reason that we must understand the law as God's explicit claim on man in terms of the covenant established between man and God.

If we fail to grasp this, our obedience will degenerate into a righteousness of works. Law as the claim of God becomes constantly misunderstood in legal terms, as something we must do; whereas that claim is not in the first place asking us to do something, but to be something: "My son, give Me thine heart". All God wants is that we should love Him. It is out of this that all 'doing' springs.

questions

1. What is God asking us to be through the law?
2. Was the covenant an event of the past or a present reality?

praise pray

Ps. 80:all

1. Give thanks that you are in a relationship with God.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
- 3 Pray for family matters.



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reading Deuteronomy 6:10-25 - A Warning

notes God through Moses warns the children of Israel that the temptation to forsake their love for God is most powerful when they have experienced and enjoyed the blessings of God. Is this still not the case with us? In the midst of prosperity, we are inclined to forget His goodness. We tend to assume that the past has always been like the present. Such forgetfulness is dangerous; it causes us to forsake the Lord and therefore His laws and thus incur the wrath of the Most High. When faith becomes lukewarm, we turn to strange gods .

From verse 20 onwards, the ancient church is told to teach the rising generation of what God has done for them. Evangelism is simply telling others of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. In Sunday Schools and Family Worship, let us not teach our children a legalistic observance of God's commands. Instead, let us teach them of the evangelical response in gratitude to such a God for His mighty redemptive work. It will be better if we tell our children of the depths of our sin and how the Lord has saved us, and how it is this gratitude that motivates us to keep His laws.

questions

1. When are we tempted to forget God?
2. What should we teach our children?

praise pray

Ps. 84A:1-6

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 6:4-9 - A Complete Love

notes Here the people are given a summary of the foundation upon which all the other laws rest: love the Lord your God with all your being and do not tempt Him.

This love for God is to be complete, affecting every part of the human person. And it has to have the fullness of the human delight. For this reason it says: thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might . There is no part of our being, no sphere which does not come under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

In Mark 12:29ff, Jesus quotes the words of verses 4-5 as a summary of the gospel. Everything that Jesus came to do - His life, death, resurrection and ascension, His sending forth of the Holy Spirit, was accomplished in order that this great commandment might be fulfilled in us, in lives of obedience and love.

Thus we have here Israel's confession that the Lord their God was One, and as such the sole object of their faith and obedience. This 'Shema' (the Hebrew word for 'hear') of verse 4 is still recited as a daily prayer by Jews. The claim that 'Jehovah is our God, Jehovah alone' is meant to be an exclusive statement, and all other gods are put out of court. To Him alone does the name Jehovah belong and there is nobody like Him. In Isa 40:18,25 the prophet asks, 'To whom then will ye liken God...?' The New Testament gives us unequivocal answer: Christ is the visible image of the invisible God(Col 1:15), in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form (Col 2:9). Jesus alone is God!

questions 1. What is the love of God to affect?
2. What did Jesus come to do?

praise pray Ps. 83:7-11
1. Pray that you would love God with your whole heart.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3 Pray for family matters.



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reading Deuteronomy 5:6-21 - The Three Uses of the Law

notes John Calvin wrote of the three uses of the Law:

First, the law discloses to men the righteousness of God and in so doing convinces them of their sin. This is the accusing function of the law. Through the law a person must learn that he is a sinner before a holy God; it is only then that the message of the forgiveness of sins can mean anything to him or her.

Secondly, there is the civil use of the law. Here, those who feel no concern for justice and righteousness, will hear of the terrible punishments of the law and be restrained by a fear of its penalties. In this way, the law serves the purpose of God's common grace in the world at large.

Thirdly, the law is used as a rule of life for believers, reminding them of their duties and leading them in the paths of righteousness. It is 'an excellent instrument to give them from day to day a better and more certain understanding of the divine will to which they aspire and to confirm them in the knowledge of it'.

But Calvin was clear to emphasise that the law "no longer exercises towards us the part of a rigorous exacter, only to be satisfied by the perfect performance of every injunction". We are no longer slaves, but sons, members of the family of God.

questions 1. What are the three uses of the law?
2. Do we need to keep the law perfectly to be saved?

praise pray Ps. 81:all
1. Give thanks that Christ has kept the law perfectly.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3 Pray for family matters.



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reading Deuteronomy 5:22-33 - Keeping the Commandments

notes The repetition of the Ten Commandments at this point indicates that the process of covenant renewal is taking place in Israel. The people are told about how the first generation of Israelites had received the law at Mount Sinai, how they had pledged obedience(v27) and yet had failed and died in the wilderness.

Verse 29 longs for the new generation to be different. Their well-being was to depend on a new and continuing obedience from them as they prepared to enter their inheritance in Canaan. Moses is accepted by God as a mediator (32) through whom the unfolding of the divine commandments would be given to the people, and what follows in chapter 6 onwards gives us the interpretation and extension of these fundamental commands of the Decalogue.

It is in this light and against this background that we are to understand the phrase 'that ye may live' and the promised blessings of verse 33. What is presented here is not a religion of works in order to attain life. On the contrary, Biblical obedience is seen as the expression of the people's gratitude to God for their redemption. What is in view here is not 'entrance into life', but quality of life and well-being and prosperity. If we love Jesus, we will keep His commandments.

- questions**
1. How is Moses like a mediator?
 2. Why should the people obey God?

- praise pray** Ps. 82:all
1. Pray that you would obey God.
 2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
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reading Deuteronomy 6:1-3 - The Meaning of Law

notes We see here words like commandments , statutes and judgements . It is therefore important that we understand what we mean by the phrase law of God . The Bible uses law in many different ways.

First, the Hebrew word 'Torah', meaning 'law' first of all means the Pentateuch, as distinct from the Prophets and the Writings (the other two divisions of the Old Testament). Secondly, it also means the whole covenant relation of the Old Testament, the sum total of all God has revealed to His people.

Thirdly, it means and signifies God's explicit claim on man, His direction for man's life. This latter is expressed in the Old Testament in a threefold way, in the civil (penal), ceremonial, and moral law. Fourthly, there is the law of the Ten Commandments, the Decalogue.

Fifthly, there is the use of the law which contrasts law and promise, or law and gospel. Sixthly, there is the idea of the law which equates law with the old covenant, in contrast with the new covenant.

Seventhly, we also have the idea of the law that is written in men's hearts. Eighthly, there is the idea of natural law, in the sense of the order of creation. Ninthly, there is the law that 'entered', or 'slipped in between' (Rom 5:20), or was 'added' because of transgressions (Gal 3:19). Tenthly, there is the law conceived as a method of divine education, as Paul indicates in Galatians 3 and 4 in his use of the idea of tutors and guardians.

- questions**
1. What are some of the things the word law can mean in the Bible?

- praise pray** Ps. 83:1-6
1. Give thanks for God's law in all its meanings.
 2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
 - 3 Pray for family matters.