

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

30th Sept. - 5th Oct. 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 write them
on the doorposts
of your house
and on your gates.
Deuteronomy 6:9

reading Deuteronomy 11:1-9 - Obeying God's Word

notes In this chapter, God through Moses sets before the people of Israel the choice between the divine blessing and the divine curse.

After rehearsing the mighty works of God on their behalf, the people are told that obedience to God's Word will do two things. First, it will make them strong to go in and possess the land (verse 8). Secondly, it will bring God's blessing upon them (verse 9). This is true for us too. The Word of God has the potential to fill our hearts with courage and strength; to comfort and revive us and to send a peace that defies human understanding. True obedience makes us victorious. But a humble reception of this Word will also draw the fulfilment of all the promises that God has made to His children. This is Jesus' promise:

"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." - John 14:21

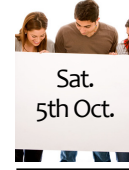
questions

1. What will obedience to God's Word bring?
2. What blessings does God promise on those who obey His Word?

praise pray

Ps. 88:7-12

1. Pray that you would obey God's Word.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



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reading Deuteronomy 12:20-32 - The Horror of Sin

notes The last few verses of chapter 12 stand as a preface to the substance of chapter 13, which instances three examples, or 'cases' which illustrate the point made in 12:30. The warning is against any kind of compromise with the pagan religions. The starkness of false worship given in verse 31 is terrifying. The Bible shows us the end-product of sin, shorn of all its seductive attractiveness and beguilements, and shows it up as the ugly and deadly horror that it is. Every Lord's Day that we are absent from the worship of God without good reason, we are engaged in false worship; our children will be upon the altar, and soon we shall find that we have sacrificed them!

Many of these warnings may have appeared unnecessary for a children under the Kingdom of God. Surely, Israel would not sink into the practice of child sacrifice? But Israel did, and God's warnings to her were not empty. What a reminder this is to us of how dangerous - and misleading - it is ever to say 'We would not, in our worst moments descend to such depths'. We would, if the restraints of common grace were lifted from us. There is no depth to which we might not sink, if the evil inherent in our natures were to take us over. This is the realism of Scripture: it shows us the ugliness and painfulness of sin.

questions

1. What is the warning given here?
2. How did the other nations treat their children?

praise pray

Ps. 89:25-30

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 12:1-19 - The Importance of Worship

notes This chapter gives the divine mandate to destroy all existing idolatry in the Promised Land and commands Israel to worship God in accordance with His revealed will. In the new circumstances, this worship was to be centralised in the place where the Lord was pleased to set His Name. They were not to continue the old practice of doing "whatsoever is right in his own eyes" which had been their practice until then (verses 8-16).

This reminds us that God is to be worshiped not according to human self-will. Rather humankind must submit to God's will as disclosed in His Written Word. But it also tells us that revelation is progressive and God accommodates Himself to the ignorance and continuing maturity of His people. What was once permissible is now proscribed.

The fact that God begins His code of law with instructions concerning worship also tells us that worship is not a peripheral issue for Christians. No, it is central and is the highest exercise possible for any human being. Moreover, a right relationship with the Lord is the beginning of everything. But notice also that these worship regulations were not meant to make them joyless. Instead the emphasis is on joy (e.g. 7, 12, 18). God's Word, properly understood and used, is both liberating and empowering.

questions

1. What were the Israelites to destroy?
2. How do we know that worship is important?

praise pray Ps. 89:19-24

1. Pray that you would joyfully come to worship God on Sunday.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



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reading Deuteronomy 11:10-17 - Prosperity

notes Verses 10-21 make plain that Israel was entering a good land with promises of prosperity. It is said that the prosperity and fertility of Egypt was man-made, with elaborate and artificial irrigation by mechanical means. But this was not the case with Canaan. The Promised Land was dependent on the blessing of God for its prosperity. Not human industry, but divine endowment, was to be the criterion. For God's people in those days, these words were literally true, and were literally fulfilled. But the words are surely true also of every place where the Lord sets His name: there are favoured peoples and favoured places in the spiritual sense also, as many have had good cause to prove. And the continuance of that favour is still, today, contingent upon obedience (verse 12). The divine blessing will be maintained where there is an obedient people, and the promise of rain is unailing.

But they were also warned that sin would remove that glory. This did indeed happen. After the affluence of the reigns of David and Solomon, national declension set in and Israel went into exile. The garden became a desolation. Every country needs to learn that nations become poorer (whatever their natural potential) as spiritual decline sets-in. It is God Who sends the swarm of locusts upon nations.

questions

1. How is the Promised Land described?
2. What effect would sin have on the Promised Land?

praise pray Ps. 89:1-6

1. Pray that our nation would turn back to the Lord.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



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reading Deuteronomy 11:18-25 - The Sign of Obedience

notes A believer's obedience to God is not servile, and our God is not a tyrant. He is our Heavenly Father. Verse 22 makes clear that the doing of the law is the expression of our love to God. And walking in all his ways is the strongest signal that we are cleaving to Him. It is not lawkeeping that makes us acceptable before God. Rather it is the fact that God accepts us through the shed blood of Jesus Christ that makes us want to keep the law. Love drives the Christian's obedience to God's Word.

The 'signs' in verses 18 and 20 signified an inward reality of undeviating observance and obedience. Sadly, by the time of the Lord Jesus' ministry on earth, these 'signs' became ends in themselves and proved to be a legalistic snare to the Pharisees and others. But there is nothing legalistic about Moses' words here. Indeed, their obedience was to prove a dynamic for them, the dynamic of continuous victory (22 ff), enabling faith to claim the promise (24) as they went forward resting on the word of a faithful God.

How we need to learn that moral and spiritual obedience gives God's people the power to rout all their enemies, and this is just as true in the spiritual life today as it was in Israel's experience under Joshua. Obedience adds moral stature to life, and this is what wins through in battles, but how slow we are to learn this all-important lesson! It is in the obedience we offer to the divine Word and will that the secret of effective and victorious service lies.

- questions**
1. What should motivate us to keep God's law?
 2. Why is it so important for a Christian to be obedient?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 89:7-12
1. Give thanks for all God has given you.
 2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
 3. Pray for family matters.



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reading Deuteronomy 11:26-32 - Blessing and Cursing

notes This is the first reference to the blessing and cursing associated with Mounts Gerizim and Ebal, and is expanded upon in chapters 27 and 28. The fulfilment of this takes place in Joshua 8. The scene is set in a great valley formed like a vast amphitheatre, in which voices from one side of the valley can be clearly heard on the other side. Six tribes were on one side and six on the other, on Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim respectively, and the Levites were down in the valley. The Levites were to speak to all the men of Israel, crying with a loud voice, 'Cursed be the man that maketh any graven image'. And all the people were to say, Amen. And the Law of Moses, the law of God, was rehearsed before the people in this way.

In all this, Joshua and the people were paying their vows to the Lord, according to the Scriptures. Worship, not warfare, was the first priority of their lives. Humanly speaking, Israel should have pressed on into battle especially after overpowering Ai. But instead, they paused at Shechem, where Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim were located, and there they paid their vows to the Lord. The experience in Ai had shown them the power of both cursing and blessing, cursing because of their disobedience and blessings because of their renewed obedience after the disaster. Covenant blessings and covenant curses are not empty theories, but present and eternal realities.

- questions**
1. Describe the way the law of God was repeated to the people.
 2. What came before warfare for the people?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 89:13-18
1. Give thanks that you can worship God.
 2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
 3. Pray for family matters.