

Committed

Deuteronomy 30:11-20

Open: Emmanuel re: weekend

Story: Weekends – Pranks, pulled on others, team building, challenge 3am (best at that time) = test the commitment of youth – get up or stay in cozy sleeping bags = How committed are you?

Transition – Read Deuteronomy 30:11-20

- Deuteronomy, chapter after chapter, Laws, curses/blessings, covenant
- Today, ch. 30, pinnacle, closing statements before Moses' leadership passed on
- This passage speaks of the law and its purpose but more important is the focus on relationship

The Essence of the Law

- Connection to love (vs.16, 20) – both times “This commandment I command you today” also, to love Jehovah Thy God” = overriding purpose – love for God is the sovereign command – the ultimate one
 - Obedience is tied to our love for God – the obedience that pleases God is obedience that comes out of our love for Him
 - That love for Him brings life to our person as we follow His will for us

➤ Read - Paul Romans 10:5-10 repeats these words of Moses and emphasizing the need for us to connect our heart, mouth to belief in Jesus

- Focus on our relationship to God that comes from our hearts = true salvation
- And God makes this relationship accessible to us - Deut.30:11,14: God has revealed, given His will access to us – “in our hearts, mouths so that we may obey it” (14)
- The commands of God shouldn't be seen as a heavy burden but rather as merciful guideposts for us towards what love for God looks like.
- “They do not so much lay weights on our backs as they give light to our eyes”
- They are a blessing- they reveal God's desire for us – to bless us

➤ Command to love

- (16) “to love your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His commands”
- (20) “to love the Lord your God, listen to His voice, hold fast to Him”

The Choice to Commit Ourselves

- (15) God sets before us Life or Death and the choice is ours
 - Here, physically, material focus of passage
Life = material blessings, tied to live and prosper in the Promised land God gives them

- Deeper meaning (20) “For the Lord is your life” – deeper and more blessed than our physical sense

- All our being is sustained by His continual energy = life

- Death = physically but also the separation, opposition, failure, destruction, continual fight as described in ch.28
 - Sometimes we look at “success” of others without the struggles, a slim window, small picture – eternally there is destruction for those who don’t choose God – they choose death

We all have to make the choice as to whether we will choose God (19) – I have set before you life and death, blessing or cursing...but God also gives us His passion = **“CHOOSE LIFE”** – two simple words God is passionately revealing His will – He want us!

Not to choose the life God promises is to choose to reject God. There is no in between.

Unfortunately, many people try to live in the “in between”

- Buffet lifestyle – choosing what they like from following God (eternal life in heaven, good friendships, family...) but also from what they like from their own desires (freedom to do what I want, partying, fun...)

God says here, there is no such thing as a “buffet lifestyle” – we either choose the Life God promises or we choose the curses from not following Him.

- There is no in between – either we are in, or out – Rev. 3:15-18 – Lukewarm Laodicea.

“Choosing Life”

- Means choosing to live in a deep relationship with God – “all our being is sustained by Him”
 - Requires our commitment – like the 3am kind, not the “cozy sleeping bag” kind
 - Continually choosing God, all He has given, all He is, is His desire for us, hearing His voice, holding fast to Him
 - It will demand our attention, our time, our allegiances, sacrifice, our commitment to His commands
 - **Will You choose to commit yourself to LIFE?**
 - (19,20) – “choose life, that you and your children may live, and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to His voice and hold fast to Him”

Committed Deuteronomy 30:11-20

This passage speaks of the law, its purpose and its focus on relationship.

The Essence of the Law

- Connection to _____ - vs.16, 20
- Overriding purpose - _____

- The Command to love Deut.30:16 - *“to love your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His commands”, (20) “to love the Lord your God, listen to His voice, hold fast to Him”*

The Choice to Commit Ourselves

- Life or Death
- Deeper meaning (20) “the Lord is your _____”
- “_____” - God wants us!
- “Buffet lifestyle” (Rev. 3:15-18)
- “Choosing Life” = “a deep relationship with God”

Will you choose to commit yourself to LIFE?

“Choose life, that you and your children may live, and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to His voice and hold fast to Him” - Deut. 30:19-20