

Love the Lord Your God
Deuteronomy 6:1-9

November 3, 2024

INVOCATION: Merciful Lord, we thank you once again for calling us into your Holy Presence. We thank you for your great love for us and for the health and safety that you have given us to be here today. Receive our praise and our worship as we bring it to you today. Remove any distractions from us as we focus on you today. In the name of Christ our Savior, Amen.

WELCOME: Be sure to welcome visitors.

HYMN # 447 Trust and Obey
HYMN # 448 Just a Closer Walk

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MISSIONARY PRAYER CALENDAR

PASTORAL PRAYER:

- **Missionaries**
 - Katie Barnum: Missionary to UK
 - Mark & Allison: Missionaries
 - **Backdoor Ministry:**
 - Needs volunteers
- **War in Israel**
- **Homebound**
 - Barbara Moore: Homebound
 - Nina Lemocks: At Rehab
 - Jean Rose Gill:
 - Abe Norfleet: Dunlop House
 - Carol Mayes: In nursing home in Waverly.
 - Claude: Cardiology appointment 11/5.
 - Dessie: Home on Hospice.
 - Bobby Spiers: In a nursing home on hospice.
 - Billy Spiers: Moved to nursing home in Lawrenceville.
- **Continued Prayers for:**
 - Vivian Spiers
 - Helen Rideout
 - Matt: Severe arm injury from work accident. Is having physical therapy now and will have surgeries later.
 - Judy: begins chemo on Nov 4
 - Anna: Angie's daughter. Has embraced Wicca and wants nothing to do with her family.
 - Eric Bass (Pastor friend of Barney and Sue): Cornea transplant 10/24. Cardiac blockage being treated with medication. Shoulder surgery in February.
 - Matt's BIL Mike: Terminal cancer, upcoming surgery.
 - Candy: Returning to North Carolina on Sunday.
 - Mack Narron:

- Cancer is back and more aggressive than before. Starts treatments on 10/25.
- Penny has broken arm
- Victims of Hurricanes Helene and Milton.
- Linda Thompson: Recovery is expected to take months.
- Mike's Uncle Walt- back at home and doing well
- Caleb: Fell and messed up connective tissue in leg. Facing several surgeries.
- Patricia: Is at home with a wound vac after her surgical scar was not healing.
- Rory & Christina Willams: involved in car accident on 10/29 both in hospital with non-life threatening injuries, both have broken bones and Christina will have surgery on her leg
- Karen: had gallbladder surgery and is doing well
- Patty's cousin-in-law had back surgery
- Julie and family need prayers
- Salvations and Baptisms

OFFERTORY HYMN # Nearer My God to Thee

SERMON FOCUS: True love of God is both internal and external.

SERMON FUNCTION: The hearer will understand that love of God should color what they feel and do.

BACKGROUND: Deuteronomy was written by Moses toward the end of the time of the Exodus from Egypt. It was the giving of the law to God's people right before they were going into the promised land, and it was telling them how they were to live as God's chosen people.

SCRIPTURE READING: Deuteronomy 6:1-9

INTRODUCTION:

Do we obey out of love or fear?

MESSAGE:

1. THE LORD GOD IS THE ONLY ONE WORTHY OF OUR WORSHIP

- a. (4) "Listen, Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."
- b. This is the introduction to the Jewish Statement of Faith called the Shema.
- c. There is only one God.
 - i. He is the Creator
 - ii. He is the Sustainer
 - iii. He is the only God who is actually real.
- d. If we worship another god, it is an insult. Worship of another god is saying "You are not enough."
- e. We are designed to worship, and we will worship. We must choose the right Object of our worship!
- f. There are lots of things competing with God for our worship.
- g. In truth, we cannot divide our loyalty between God and someone else because...

2. WE ARE TO LOVE GOD WITH ALL OUR BEING

- a. (5) "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength."
- b. There is a reasonable chance that you are better acquainted with Jesus saying these words (Mark 12:28-34; Matt. 22:34-40; Luke 10:25-28) in response to the question from the Pharisees "What is the greatest command." The second like it comes from Leviticus 19:18, "Love your neighbor as yourself."
- c. This is why in verse 6, we are told that "these words are to be in your heart."
- d. Love of God is to permeate our thinking, our feeling, and as a result, our actions.
- e. Love of God requires deliberate effort, in spite of how we may feel.
- f. Love of God requires changing our desires to suit His, not the other way around.
- g. Love of God means giving up the evil that you may entertain in your heart and making room for only Him and His will.
- h. Love of God is not just internal, however. It is to be visible to others.

3. OUR LOVE FOR GOD SHOULD BE OBVIOUS TO OTHERS

- a. (6-7) “Repeat them (these words) to your children. Talk about them when you sit down in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”
 - i. When our love for God is real, He should dominate our conversations.
 - 1. Tell your children how good He is to you.
 - 2. Tell your friends when you’re out.
 - 3. Talk about God with your family.
 - 4. If your heart really belongs to Him, you’ll talk about Him! You’ll think about Him morning, noon, and night.
 - 5. God’s love doesn’t just result in visible obedience, it results in
 - ii. When our love for God is real, we recognize His presence everywhere and we recognize His goodness in all situations.
- b. (8) “Bind them as a sign on your hand”
 - i. The hand symbolizes “doing”. All our deeds should reflect our love of God.
 - ii. (Rom. 6:12-13) “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, so that you should obey its desires. And do not offer any parts of it to sin as weapons for unrighteousness.”
 - iii. Having the word of God as a symbol on your hand would be a reminder to not use your hand to sin.
- c. (9) “Let them be a symbol on your forehead.”
 - i. This is intended to keep the word of God in front of your eyes so that you do not submit your eyes to evil.
 - ii. The eyesight is where lust starts, and it is entertained in the heart.
 - iii. (Job 31:1) “I have made a covenant with my eyes”
 - iv. Not only should God’s word be in front of your eyes, It should be visible to others in your face.
 - v. If you have the joy of the Lord, people will see it and will want it too! Then you will need to share the gospel with them.

4. THE GOSPEL IN SIMPLE FORM (adapted from Dr. James Merritt).

- a. Bad News: We are all sinners separated from God.
- b. Worst News: There is nothing we can do about our sin problem.
- c. Good News: Christ did for us what we cannot do for ourselves.
- d. Best News: Salvation and eternal life are a free gift, but you must receive it.

FOUR QUESTIONS:

- 1. What do you hear God saying to you?
- 2. What keeps you from doing that?
- 3. If you were to do that, what might be a good first step?
- 4. Who are you going to tell?

INVITATION HYMN # 277 Take My Life

