

The Remaining Commands

Deuteronomy 6:1-11:32

@ Home Study Guide

After reiterating the Ten Commandments, Moses launches into a sermon that gives Israel motivation to keep God's law. The remaining commandments found in this section redirect Israel's eyes from looking at tablets of stone, and focus their eyes on their hearts. Obedience of the Law must stem from love for God and gratefulness for His mighty works. To simply moralize your outward life without inward heart transformation is legalistic, hypocritical, and dishonoring to the Lord.

The Pharisees of Christ's day lived this way. They strove to keep the whole law, but failed to understand its true purpose, which was to give structure to a life that demonstrated love for God and their fellow neighbors. As a result, Judaism became a religious cult based upon ethics.

It is God's desire in these chapters to emphasize that it is only by His grace that He chose Israel. They had nothing to offer God by way of good works or merit. They were totally undeserving, and yet He still chose them to be His people. As a result, they must cast their allegiance upon Him and love Him with all their hearts, souls, and minds. Their behavior will not make Him love them any more or less. Their behavior manifests if they have a heart that truly loves God.

The similarities between Israel and us are very clear in these passages. As you study this week, reconsider your motives for being obedient to God. Recognize that He receives no glory for people who attempt to gain His favor by their behavior. Resolve to live for God based upon your love for Him and gratitude to Him.

Day 1

Read Deuteronomy 6:1-25

1. God wants more from His people than a strict adherence to a code of conduct, He wants their love. Verse 5 says that our love for God must be unreserved and wholehearted. How do you demonstrate this kind of love for God? How could you do better?

5. When the children asked about the “statutes and laws,” God told them to go back and tell them about God’s redemption (vv. 21-23), and God’s revelation (vv. 24-25). How can you apply this principle when people asked you about the “rules” in your life?

6. Pray that God will help you to abandon the love that you keep back for yourself, and give it all to Him. Ask Him to help you to be a person who is so saturated with God’s Word that your friends and neighbors are confronted with the truth every time they are with you. Guard yourself against allowing materialism to cause you to forget God.

Day 2

Read Deuteronomy 7:1-26

1. In verses 1-2, Moses commands the people to utterly destroy all the Canaanite men, women, and children. Does this seem extreme to you? From verses 3-5 and Deuteronomy 20:17, 18, why did God see this as necessary?

2. The Israelites were called "a holy people to the Lord your God" (v. 6). What does it mean to be holy?

3. Why did God elect (choose) Israel to be His people? Is this unfair to the other nations?

4. If you have Christ as your Savior, you too have been chosen by God to be holy. Read Ephesians 2:1-10. Why did God choose you for salvation? For what purpose are you saved?

5. Read Ephesians 5:1-7. As "saints," how does God command you to act?

6. What was Israel to do when they looked around and saw that the nations around them were greater than they were? Why would this help calm their fears?

7. What makes you the most afraid? Based upon the principles learned in this lesson, how should you deal with these fears?

8. Thank God for His sovereign choice of you. Recognize that He saved you based solely upon His gracious and loving purpose. Pray that God will help you to live in a way that both reflects your position as a saint and expresses your gratitude for His work.

Day 3

Read Deuteronomy 8:1-20

1. From verse 2, what three reasons does God give to explain why He allowed the Israelites to experience trials in the wilderness?

2. Verse 16 says that God led Israel through trials, "to do you good in the end." God allows us to go through trials for the same reason. Read James 1:2-4. What should your response be when you go through trials? What will trials produce in your life?

3. Explain the sentence in verse 3: "Man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord." Who quoted this verse in the New Testament? On what occasion?

4. Israel may come to the point where they say, "My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth" (v. 17). For this reason God reminds them that they must remember "it is He who gives you power to get wealth" (v. 18). How do these verses affect the way you view your material positions? If you have a job that allows you to pay for things with your own money that you have earned, do these verses apply? How?

3. What 5 requirements did God expect Israel to obey in order for them to demonstrate their love for God? Beside each of these, write down how you could demonstrate your love for God more in this area.

10:16 Circumcise ...your heart. Physical Circumcision signified on the outside what was supposed to be true on the inside. The Hebrews were God's unique people who must have the sin of their hearts cut away so that they could be clean before God.

4. God's love extends to the fatherless, the widows, and strangers (travelers, homeless). What does this tell you about God's character? How will your understanding of God's character affect how you view these people?
5. From chapter 11, what was the difference between the land of Egypt and the land which God was about to give them?

6. What tangible blessings would Israel receive if they obeyed God?

7. While many of our rewards are eternal, God does daily bless His children who walk in obedience to Him. Read Ephesians 1:3-14. Write down some tangible blessings you will receive as an obedient believer. Keep in mind that they are not always represented materially.

8. Thank God for the blessings that He has given you. Pray that God would forgive you for not demonstrating your love for Him by walking in obedience. Pray that God will help you to be like Him and show compassion on those who are poor and defenseless. If you know someone who fits into this category, pray for them, write them a note of encouragement, and think of ways you can help them.