

“Forsaking All Others”
Deuteronomy 11: 8-12
June 8, 2014

Loving God Coventally Requires The Circumcision Of Your Heart And Not Exclusively Your Flesh, (vs. 16)

To Remain In God’s Covenant Begins With Forsaking All Other Objects Of Affection, (vs. 13 – 17)

Grace... Gifting... Growth... Guarantee

Message Emphasis: There is a great misunderstanding of what it means to be God’s covenant people. Many see their relationship with God only as an accessory; something to be added to their life, something to validate who they are, something to better them in their existence. Their affections toward God only go as far as what He can do for them. We must understand that to love God means that we are added to Him; He is not added to us and accordingly, our affections toward God must be exclusive of all other rivals.

In light of God’s faithfulness to Israel and of Israel’s own tendency to idolatry, Joshua’s advice to his people is simple: “ ‘Take careful heed to yourselves.’ ” They should stand guard over their souls, looking always for one key factor: love for God... the context of each of these passages has to do not with some warm feeling toward God but with obedience to His law. In short, loving God involves doing what He commands. Therefore, Joshua is telling the Israelites to take the measure of their willingness to obey God’s law. They should ask themselves whether they delight to obey Him or whether His commands seem burdensome. If the latter, they may be susceptible to the ways of the Canaanites or may have slipped into them already... Take heed to yourself today: What is your attitude toward God’s commands? Do you delight to obey Him? Is it sometimes a struggle? Or do you despise His directives? Our attitudes may fluctuate, but we are required to “love” God (willingly obey Him). ~~ Tabletalk Magazine, June 2001

1) Forsaking All Others Is A Sign Of Covenantal Fidelity, (vs. 13 – 15)

God cannot be 1st on the list; He is the list!

- Forsaking all other commitments of obedience

What are my allegiances?

And if you will indeed obey (Act.Inf) my commandments that I command (Act.Part) you today,

Neil Marten, a member of the British Parliament, was once giving a group of his constituents a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament. During the course of the visit, the group happened to meet Lord Hailsham, then lord chancellor, wearing all the regalia of his office. Hailsham recognized Marten among the group and cried, "Neil!" Not daring to question or disobey the "command," the entire band of visitors promptly fell to their knees!

- Forsaking all other commitments of love

What do I love more than God?

to love (Act.Inf) the LORD your God, and

- Forsaking all other commitments of service

What do I give my time to?

to serve (Act.Inf) him with all your heart and with all your soul,

My child arrived just the other day He came to the world in the usual way But there were planes to catch and there were bills to pay He learned to walk while I was away And he was talking 'fore I knew it and as he grew He'd say, "I'm gonna be like you, dad You know, I'm gonna be like you" And the cat's in the cradle and the silver spoon Little boy blue and the man in the moon "When you coming home, dad?" "I don't know when We'll get together then, son, you know we'll have a good time then" ~~ Harry Chapin - Cat's In The Cradle

- The gracious results of covenantal fidelity

- *God’s gracious sustaining of life - he will give the rain for your land in its season,*

Life is a season, trust what is next

- *God’s gracious sustaining of a productive life - the early rain and the later rain,*

We are ONLY able because God...

- *God’s gracious sustaining of an abundant life – that you may gather in your grain and your wine and your oil.*

- *God’s gracious sustaining of provision for those who depend on you*

How is your family affected by your fidelity?

And he will give grass in your fields for your livestock, and you shall eat and be full.

“The LORD will open to you his good treasury, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hands. And you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.” (Deuteronomy 28:12, ESV)

2) Failure To Forsake All Others Only Ends In Alienation, (vs. 16 – 17)

- Don’t be deceived, it easy to be deceived

Deception many times is a slow process

Take care (Impv) lest your heart be deceived (Impf), “He cuts down cedars, or he chooses a cypress tree or an oak and lets it grow strong among the trees of the forest. He plants a cedar and the rain nourishes it. Then it becomes fuel for a man. He takes a part of it and warms himself; he kindles a fire and bakes bread. Also he makes a god and worships it; he makes it an idol and falls down before it.” (Isaiah 44:14-17, ESV)

A school teacher lost her life savings in a business scheme that had been elaborately explained by a swindler. When her investment disappeared and her dream was shattered, she went to the Better Business Bureau. "Why on earth didn't you come to us first?" the official asked. "Didn't you know about the Better Business Bureau?" "Oh, yes," said the lady sadly. "I've always known about you. But I didn't come because I was afraid you'd tell me not to do it." The folly of human nature is that even though we know where the answers lie--God's Word--we don't turn there for fear of what it will say. ~~ Jerry Lambert.

- Deception leads to an entirely wrong focus

No one thinks he is worshiping wrongly – that is being deceived

and you turn aside and serve other gods and worship them; “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? “I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.” (Jeremiah 17:9-10, ESV)

- Loving others will bring alienation with God

then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you,

- *God’s provision will evaporate*

and he will shut up the heavens, so that there will be (Impf) no rain, and the land will yield (Impf) no fruit,

- *Those who have no part with God will not survive*

and you will perish quickly off the good land that the LORD is giving (Act.Part) you.

*****How Do I Enter Into A Covenant Relationship With God? ****

Message Directive: Look to Christ for the salvation of your soul ONLY in Christ will you find the grace to forsake all others.

6. To Remain In God's Covenant Requires A Change Of Identity; Not Just One's Own Ability, (vs. 18 - 25)
7. To Remain In God's Covenant Necessitates Acceptance Of God Regulative Teaching, (vs. 26 - 32)
8. To Remain In God's Covenant Ensures God's Gracious Fellowship With His People, (vs. 12: 1 - 7)

9. To Remain In God's Covenant Begins With Embracing Your God As The Entirety Of Your Life, (vs. 8 - 14)
10. To Remain In God's Covenant Requires A Change Of Focus In Worship; Not Just Keeping Rules, (vs. 15 - 19)
11. To Remain In God's Covenant Necessitates Acceptance Of God's Choice Of Holiness, (vs. 20 - 28)
12. To Remain In God's Covenant Ensures God's Active Purity Among His People, (vs. 29 - 32)

13. To Remain In God's Covenant Begins With Loving God Exclusively; Treating All Others With Impunity, (13: 1 - 5)
14. To Remain In God's Covenant Requires A Change Of Genuine Love; Not Just Tolerance, (vs. 6 - 11)
15. To Remain In God's Covenant Necessitates Acceptance Of God's Standard Of Purity, (vs. 12 - 18)
16. To Remain In God's Covenant Ensures God's Eternal Possession Of His People, (vs. 14: 1 - 2)