

What God Requires: Whole-Hearted Obedience

Deuteronomy 10:12-11:32

I. What God Requires: Whole-Hearted Obedience (Deut. 10:12-13)

- A. The main question of Deuteronomy: “What does God require?”
- B. The answer to what God requires (12b-13)
 - 1. **Fear the LORD** (10:20). Reverential awe. Strong desire to please Him and avoid sinning against Him.
 - 2. **Walk in all His ways** (11:22). Not turn to my own way or wander. Course of life is in line with His ways.
 - 3. **Love Him** (11:1, 13, 22). A desire to show loyalty and live for God. Joy being bound up in knowing Him and relating rightly to Him.
 - 4. **Serve the Lord** (10:20, 11:13). Devotion to do what He says. Worship Him in the ways he laid out.
 - 5. **Keep the commandments** (11:1, 8, [obey 13], [do 22], [obey 27], [do all 32])
 - 6. And it is all to be done with a full internal commitment – **the heart** (10:12, 10:16, 11:16, 11:18)
 - a. The internal person
 - b. Desire, affections (loves/hates), will, mind, your “wanter”
- C. “For your good”
- D. God requires whole-hearted obedience from His people, and this is good for them.

II. Keep His Commands Because of Who God Is (Deut. 10:14-22)

- A. God’s Love (10:14-16) – the main reason to keep His law
 - 1. Here is the logic
 - a. **14** God owns all things
 - b. **15 YET** – he set His love on Abraham, Isaac, Jacob...and, through them, Israel.
 - c. **16 THEREFORE** – the right response is to have hearts that are circumcised – i.e., not stubborn but pliable to God¹
 - 2. Love and choosing are unbreakably connected here (see also Deut. 4:37, 7:7-8).
 - 3. “Remove the foreskin of your heart.” They need (spiritual) heart surgery and must look to God.

Deut. 30:6 *And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.*

Colossians 2:11-13 *In him [Christ] also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him . . .*

- B. God’s Uniqueness, Power, and Justice (Deut. 10:17-19)

¹ The stories in chapter 9 show that the previous generation was stubborn (v. 6, 13, 27).

III. Keep His Commands Because of What He Has Done (11:1-7)

- A. They must “*consider*” the lessons of the past.
 - 1. The focus is on what the Lord did (11:3-7)
 - 2. God’s school consisted of the instruction by His redeeming power, trials, and discipline.

- B. Three lessons from the past:
 - 1. Exodus (2b-4) – Deliverance
 - 2. Wilderness (5) – Discipline/trial
 - 3. Rebellion of Nathan and Abiram (6) - Judgment on those who rebelled.

IV. Keep His Commands Because of What He Has Promised (11:8-25)

- A. The land of God’s blessing presence (11:8-12)

- B. The requirement to live in the blessed land (11:13-17)

- C. The requirement applies to each generation (11:18-25, see also Deut. 6)

V. Keep His Commands Because Life and Death Hinge on It: Blessings and Curses (11:26-32)

- A. Blessing and curse
 - 1. V. 27 Keep His commands = blessing (see Num 6 – God will cause His face to shine upon them.)
 - 2. V. 28 Turn aside (rather than keep, obey, love God) = curse, judgement.

- B. There is no neutral position when it comes to our relationship to God.

VI. How Does This Apply to Us (under the New Covenant)?

- A. God still requires whole-hearted obedience.

- B. To have such a heart:
 - 1. Realize you can’t do the needed surgery, and cry out to God for a circumcised heart in Christ.
 - 2. Remember who God is.
 - 3. Remember what God has done.
 - 4. Think about where God is taking you, and let that shape your desires and values now.