

Love the LORD your God (Deuteronomy 6:1-25)

Small Group Study, week commencing 4th March 2024

For starters

What is the point of the 25-minute message slot in a Sunday service? How important do you think it is? Why do you think it is important (or not)?

Introduction

The word Deuteronomy comes from a Greek word which means 'second law'. The people of Israel have wandered around in the desert for 40 years and once again they find themselves on the borders of the Promised Land, so Moses repeats the law given to the previous generation, albeit with some changes and some new emphases. Our passage for study follows the restatement of the Ten Commandments.

Study

1. Read [Deuteronomy 6:1-3](#). **What reasons does Moses give the people for teaching them the law?**

Keeping the law would be the route to long life (2), prosperity (3, "so that it may go well with you") and fruitfulness (3).

2. Think about the reasons there are for keeping Jesus' commands (e.g. [John 15:9-17](#))? **How are they similar to the reasons Moses gave for keeping the Old Testament law? How are they different?**

The popular phrase "We are not under law but under grace" is often misused to suggest that Christians have no obligation to follow commands. In fact, there are frequent references to commands in the New Testament (see [1 Corinthians 7:19](#); [9:14](#); [14:37](#) for three examples from just one letter). However, material long life, prosperity and fruitfulness are not promised to the follower of Jesus as they were to the Jewish nation, although the spiritual equivalents are (see, for example, [John 15:8](#)).



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3. Read [Deuteronomy 6:4-9](#). If verses 1-3 are about the reasons for obedience, verses 4-9 are about the source of obedience. It's not just about the letter of the law but about the spirit of it ("on your hearts", verse 6). **How were the Israelites expected to make the law part of their everyday lives? How might these instructions apply to us today?**

4. Read [Deuteronomy 6:10-19](#). God's grace is evident in these verses. They didn't earn the land, cities, houses, wells, vineyards, olive groves ... they were all a gift from God. **What response to this grace was expected of them?**

They were commanded not to forget (12), to practice exclusive loyalty (13,14), and to live lives of obedience (16-18).

5. **We are not given land, cities, or houses when we become followers of Jesus. What are we given? How in practice can we ensure that we remember these things regularly?**

6. Read [Deuteronomy 6:20-25](#). In these words, Moses anticipates the generational challenge. One generation might be puzzled by the practices of a previous generation, and that previous generation might not know why they do what they do! By passing on these words Moses ensures that the background to the law and the reasons for continuing to keep it were understood and preserved.

Are there any church practices that puzzle you, or things that individual Christians do that cause you to scratch your head?

7. Moses gave parents a one-minute answer to their children's question about their beliefs and practices. **What is your one-minute answer to the person who asks you why you are a follower of Jesus?**



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Pray

In Deuteronomy 6 Moses teaches the people the law, but he also teaches them to teach each other. Pray for the teaching ministry at CBC across the ages, pray for your own day-to-day conversations about and obedience to God's Word, and give thanks for what he has done.