

Friday, May 18, 2018

**Revealed**

Deuteronomy 28-29

*"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law."*

Deuteronomy 29:29

The covenant is being renewed. As I read these two chapters, I am overwhelmed with the contrast between the consequences of obedience and those of disobedience. God makes it clear that there are severe consequences that await those who will disobey. It is a graphic depiction of the vile things that will occur to those who turn from God. God tells them to keep themselves clear from any other god. His heart is not to bring the curses rebellion will demand. His heart and passion is to bring blessing upon His chosen ones. He longs to shower them with all good things (see James 1:17). But His holiness will not allow Him to bless the unholy. His righteousness will require discipline. Future generations will reap the fulfillment of the curses. Even in what seems to be an exhaustive account of the curses and blessings, there are still secret things that belong to the LORD. His ways are higher than our ways (Isaiah 58:9). But—there are so many things that He has revealed about who He is and what He requires. The things He has revealed to the Israelites belong to them forever so that they can follow and avoid the curses. I see in this that the revealed things in Scripture belong to us. They are, in many ways, a gift for us, to hold us and our children.

*Dear LORD, thank You for the gift of the things revealed. Help me follow well. Amen.*

Saturday, May 19, 2018

**Forsake**

Deuteronomy 30-31

*"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."*

Deuteronomy 31:6

And now Moses tells the Israelites that the time has come for there to be a new leader. Moses will not be leading any more. He is not able to lead them. God has determined that. In a living example, the Israelites see that disobedience has irrevocable consequences. Moses brings forth Joshua and the LORD commissions him as the new leader of the people of God. In the midst of this, Moses calms the hearts of the people by reminding them that, while he may be the one they saw as leading them, it was really God who had been with them, leading every step of the way. They do not need to be afraid, because God, who has been with them, will stay with them and will never leave them. But there is more said in this verse. It also says that He will not forsake them. This is harder to understand. In these chapters, it seems pretty clear that there will be curses—it is almost a guarantee that Israel will rebel. When they do, the curses will come. Moses is reminding them that, even in the cursing, God will not forsake them. That is, He will not abandon or renounce them as His own people—even when they repeatedly break His heart by rejecting Him and His perfect plan. What peace it brings me to know that because I am a child of God through the saving work of Jesus, He will never leave me nor forsake me, even when I break His heart.

*Dear Father, how I love You. You are indeed my life. Keep me from being afraid of the tempest around me. Help me stand firm in my love for You. Amen.*

May 14 - 19, 2018



by Senior Pastor Chuck Cervenka  
a daily devotional of Calvary Community Church

Monday, May 14, 2018

**When**

Deuteronomy 20-21

*“When you go to war against your enemies and see horses and chariots and an army greater than yours, do not be afraid of them, because the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt will be with you... For the LORD your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory.”* Deuteronomy 20:1, 4

*“When you go to war... ”* It is inevitable for the Israelites. They will be going to war to take possession of the land that has been promised. They will be going to war against enemies that will have armies that appear to be of greater strength than their own. Israel will appear to be the underdog. But they are not. God is the One who will fight for them against their enemies. David writes, years later, in Psalm 20:7, *“Some trust in chariots and some trust in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.”* Moses reminds the people of Israel that the battle is won, because the battle is the LORD’s. But they needed to depend on Him and not on themselves. In their own power, they would be defeated. With God, they would be victorious! I must understand and apply this yet again to my life. I will go to war against the sin that wages battle against my soul (1 Peter 2:11). I must constantly remember that the One who rescued me from sin will also fight for me against my desire to sin. I must trust in His strength within me to give me the power to stand against my enemies—the sinful desires within me.

*Dear God, please let me see all the ways that You are fighting for me. When the enemy looks so powerful, let me not be defeated by my fear; help me see Your strength. Amen.*

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

**Vow**

Deuteronomy 22-23

*“Whatever your lips utter you must be sure to do, because you made your vow freely to the LORD your God with your own mouth.”* Deuteronomy 23:23

It is interesting that in the paragraph on vows, in which this verse is found, Scripture discourages vowing (verse 22). The reason is that God takes the vows very seriously. The rabbis fully endorsed the biblical command for a man to honor his word. Jesus taught that we should let our “yes” be “yes” and our “no” be “no” (Matt. 5:37).

This causes me to pause and consider the different ways that I make vows to the LORD and the integrity of my word. For me to be a man of integrity, my “yes” must be “yes” and my “no” must be “no.” It is easy to fall into the trap of rationalizing changes that need to happen in “promises” I have made. I need to be very careful in this area so that people can trust in what I say. It is an issue of honesty and deceit is the language of Satan. Also, I think of the times that the songs I sing are vows to the LORD. The lines in the songs can become just words that I sing, but God hears them as vows. When I sing words of absolute surrender and total devotion to God, He hears these as vows. I am making these vows freely with my own mouth, uttering them with my own lips. I must be sure to do them. If it is not my desire to fulfill the vow, I am better to stand silently.

*Dear LORD, how many times have I offered vows to You mindlessly, without any intention of fulfilling them? In many ways, I offer them so I can feel better about myself. Please forgive me for these times and lead me to have a heart that longs to fulfill the vows I make to You. Amen.*

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

**Remember**

Deuteronomy 24-25

*Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there. That is why I command you to do this.* Deuteronomy 24:18

Five times in Deuteronomy, Moses reminds the Israelites to remember that they were slaves in Egypt and that this is why God commands these things (5:15, 15:15, 16:12, 24:18, 22). This is the next generation. They were children in Egypt or not yet born when the nation was redeemed. So, how could they remember? The only way they could remember is by being told and reminded. God does that often. Passover is an annual reminder. Sabbath is a weekly reminder (5:15)!! The very worship they brought to the LORD contained reminders of His redemption. When they understood that they were redeemed not because they were so good but because of God’s love for them, then they would follow His commands to reveal that same love to others. They would keep His commands out of love for Him. How quickly I can forget the magnificence of my redemption. How quickly I can consider myself as having been set free for me. This verse reminds me that God has redeemed me for Himself and for His purposes. I have been bought with a price and I am not my own (1 Cor. 6:19-20). Only as I remember carefully and prayerfully His redemption of me from my helplessness, can I extend the grace and mercy to others that God has extended to me in all its fullness.

*Dear God, help me remember my redemption and then help me live out of the freedom that has been given to me by extending that same grace to those around me. Amen.*

Thursday, May 17, 2018

**Worship**

Deuteronomy 26-27

*“You have declared this day that the LORD is your God and that you will walk in his ways, that you will keep his decrees, commands and laws, and that you will obey him. And the LORD has declared this day that you are his people, his treasured possession as he promised, and that you are to keep all his commands. He has declared that he will set you in praise, fame and honor high above all the nations he has made and that you will be a people holy to the LORD your God, as he promised.”*

Deuteronomy 26:17-19

Here is a picture of worship. Once again, the people are declaring their allegiance to God and, once again, He affirms His love for His treasured possession. This is as it should be. In this moment, there is a special commitment being made by the people of Israel. I believe that it is sincere and true. There is great love for God and great resolve to live for Him and follow His commands, so as to be a people holy and set apart for Him. As I come to worship God, I must remember that it begins with Him. My obedience to Him is what lets the world see that I have been set apart by Him for Him. All I have is His and He is mine. Amen.

*O Lord, if only my declarations were as flawless as Yours are. Help the words of my mouth to declare the depth of my heart. I worship You, O LORD, my God. Amen.*