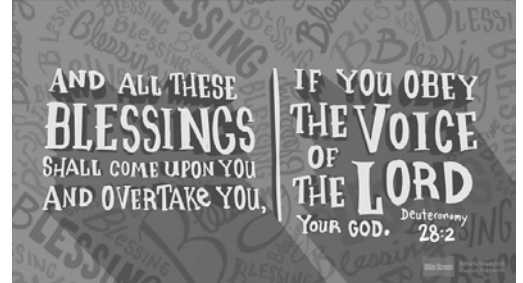


"God's Treasured Possession!"

The Book of Deuteronomy - Old Israel and New Israel = The Church

Date: 4-30-17 Study: #25 Text: Chapter 28:1-34

Lesson 25 for us: "If you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God"



(1) "And if you faithfully obey **the voice of the Lord your God**, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, **the Lord your God** will set you high above all the nations of the earth. (2) And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you **obey the voice of the Lord your God**. (3) Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. (4) Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. (5) Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. (6) Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

(7) "**The Lord** will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you. They shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways. (8) **The Lord** will command the blessing on you in your barns and in all that you undertake. And he will bless you in the land that **the Lord your God** is giving you. (9) **The Lord** will establish you as a people holy to himself, as he has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of **the Lord your God** and walk in his ways. (10) And all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by **the name of the Lord**, and they shall be afraid of you.

(11) And **the Lord** will make you abound in prosperity, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your livestock and in the fruit of your ground, within the land that **the Lord** swore to your fathers to give you. (12) **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.

(13) And **the Lord** will make you the head and not the tail, and you shall only go up and not down, if you obey the commandments of **the Lord your God**, which I command you today, being careful to do them, (14) and if you do not turn aside from any of the words that I command you today, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

(15) "But if you will not obey **the voice of the Lord your God** or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you. (16) Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the field. (17) Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. (18) Cursed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. (19) Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out. (20) "**The Lord** will send on you curses, confusion, and frustration in all that you undertake to do, until you are destroyed and perish quickly on account of the evil of your deeds, because you have forsaken me. (21) **The Lord** will make the pestilence stick to you until he has consumed you off the land that you are entering to take possession of it. (22) **The Lord** will strike you with wasting disease and with fever, inflammation and fiery heat, and with drought and with blight and with mildew. They shall pursue you until you perish. (23) And the heavens over your head shall be bronze, and the earth under you shall be iron. (24) **The Lord** will make the rain of your land powder. From heaven dust shall come down on you until you are destroyed.

(25) "**The Lord** will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them. And you shall be a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth. (26) And your dead body shall be food for all birds of the air and for the beasts of the earth, and there shall be no one to frighten them away. (27) **The Lord** will strike you with the boils of Egypt, and with tumors and scabs and itch, of which you cannot be healed. (28) The Lord will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of mind, (29) and you shall grope at noonday, as the blind grope in darkness, and you shall not prosper in your ways. And you shall be only oppressed and robbed continually, and there shall be no one to help you.

(30) You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall ravish her. You shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it. You shall plant a vineyard, but you shall not enjoy its fruit. (31) Your ox shall be slaughtered before your eyes, but you shall not eat any of it. Your donkey shall be seized before your face, but shall not be restored to you. Your sheep shall be given to your enemies, but there shall be no one to help you. (32) Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, while your eyes look on and fail with longing for them all day long, but you shall be helpless. (33) A nation that you have not known shall eat up the fruit of your ground and of all your labors, and you shall be only oppressed and crushed continually, (34) so that you are driven mad by the sights that your eyes see.

B. Study Notes:

1. The parallel listing of both curses and blessings is similar to the distinction between the law and the gospel. One brings death and punishment, the other brings life and reward.

(Mt 5:1-12; 25:34-45; Rom 1:17-32; Gal 3:10-14)

2. The heavens are the storehouse of God from which come his bountiful blessings upon us,

(Job 38:22; Ps 107:23-43; 135:7; Jonah 1:4; Jer 10:13; 51:16)

3. The connection between justification and sanctification is seen here. The bad tree bears bad fruit and the good tree bears good fruit. Rewards are by God's grace and punishment comes from God's wrath. The Last Day will reveal the two types of people who have existed, believers and unbelievers.

4. GOOD WORKS – Part IV. Apology to the Augsburg Confession

⁷ First of all, there is in this article no disagreement among us concerning the following points: That it is God's will, ordinance, and command that believers walk in good works; that only those are truly good works which God himself prescribes and commands in his Word, and not those that an individual may devise according to his own opinion or that are based on human traditions; that truly good works are not done by a person's own natural powers but only after a person has been reconciled to God through faith and renewed through the Holy Spirit, or, as St. Paul says, "has been created in Christ Jesus for good works."

⁸ Neither is there a controversy among us as to how and why the good works of believers are pleasing and acceptable to God, even though they are still impure and imperfect in this flesh of ours. We agree that this is so for the sake of the Lord Christ through faith, because the person is acceptable to God. For works which belong to the maintenance of outward discipline and which unbelievers and the unconverted are also able and require to perform, are indeed praiseworthy in the sight of the world, and even God will reward them with temporal blessings in this world, but since they do not flow from true faith, they are sinful (that is, spattered with sins in the sight of God), and God regards them as sin and as impure because of our corrupted nature and because the person is not reconciled with God. A bad tree cannot bear good fruit, and "Whatsoever does not proceed from faith is sin" (Rom. 14:23). The person must first be pleasing to God—and that alone for Christ's sake—before that person's works are pleasing.

⁹ **Hence faith alone is the mother and source of the truly good and God-pleasing works that God will reward both in this and in the next world. For this reason St. Paul calls them fruits of faith or of the Spirit."**

C. LIFE APPLICATION:

1. "If you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth."
How is this fulfilled today in the Church – the called believers and saints –
who are redeemed by Christ and walk by faith?
2. "If you will not obey the voice of the Lord your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you."
How is this fulfilled today for the unbelieving world – the sinners -
who do not believe they are redeemed by Christ and walk with no faith?