

"God's Treasured Possession!"

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

Date: 5-21-17 Study: #28

choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days.

Text: Chapter 30 - Theme: "Choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days."

(1) "And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where **the Lord your God** has driven you, (2) and return to the **Lord your God**, you and your children, and obey **his voice** in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul, (3) then **the Lord your God** will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples where **the Lord your God** has scattered you.

(4) If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there **the Lord your God** will gather you, and from there he will take you. (5) And **the Lord your God** will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it. And he will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers. (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.

(7) And **the Lord your God** will put all these curses on your foes and enemies who persecuted you. (8) And you shall again obey **the voice of the Lord** and keep all his commandments that I command you today. (9) **The Lord your God** will make you abundantly prosperous in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your cattle and in the fruit of your ground. For **the Lord** will again take delight in prospering you, as he took delight in your fathers, (10) when you obey **the voice of the Lord your God**, to keep his commandments and his statutes that are written in this Book of the Law, when you turn to **the Lord your God** with all your heart and with all your soul.

(11) "For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. (12) It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' (13) Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' (14) But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

(15) "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. (16) If you obey the commandments of **the Lord your God** that I command you today, by loving **the Lord your God**, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and **the Lord your God** will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.

(17) But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, (18) I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess.

(19) I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, (20) loving **the Lord your God**, obeying **his voice** and holding fast to him, for **he is your life and length of days**, that you may dwell in the land that **the Lord** swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them."

B. Study Notes:

1. Vv. 11-14 are quoted by Paul in (**Rom 10:6-10.**) God reveals himself in his Word and that is sufficient.

2. He calls heaven and earth to witness the covenant (**Ps 50:1; Is 1:2**)
3. The Lord is your life and your length of days (**Ps 27:1; 66:9; Prov 3:22; Jn 5:25; 11:25,26; Acts 17:28**)
4. Return to the Lord your God – Obey his voice – Have true faith
(**Neh 1:4-9; Is 55:7; Lam 3:40; Joel 2:12-14; Heb 11:6**)
5. Hearts circumcised to be pure and serve the LORD (**Jer 31:31-34; Rom 2:29; Php 3:3; Col 2:11**)

Luther's Works, Vol. 9, pp. 278-279

“But there is nothing in the heart unless it is written there by the Spirit of God. For the heart contains what I wish, what I love, what I favor, what pleases me. Therefore for the Law to be in the heart is for it to be loved, which is impossible for our powers. Similarly, Ps. 37:31 says: “The Law of his God is in his heart”; and Ps. 1:2: “His delight is in the Law of the Lord.” If, however, the Law is loved in the heart, it is truly fulfilled. The Law demands an inner nature which loves it and has pleasure in it; thus it is satisfied and fulfilled if it is loved. So Moses is now clear: “The Word is in your mouth and in your heart, that you do it,” as though he were to say: “you do not do it unless it is in your mouth and heart.”

But why does he say “in the mouth” before he says, “in the heart,” since it is in the heart before it is in the mouth and is loved before it is taught? He does this to indicate that the manner of fulfilling the commandment of God will be through the Word of the Gospel, which is first preached by the mouth and then believed as a result of hearing. So by this text Moses directs the people to another Word to come, which, when received in the heart, causes His commandment to be loved. It is as if he said: “You will not fulfill My commandment when you hear it, but only if you love it with the heart. This you will not do unless the Word has been preached with the mouth and believed in the heart. So My commandment will become neither too difficult nor too distant...

...Hence Moses and Paul agree in the simple sense in the latter part, since Paul wants these words, “Near is the Word, etc.,” to teach that the heart believes for righteousness through the Word of faith. This Moses wants too when he concludes that his commandment is fulfilled when the Word is in the heart, that is, when it is loved; and that happens through faith.”

C. LIFE APPLICATION:

1. How does the Word come near you through preaching, teaching, baptism, absolution and holy communion?
2. Why must we choose life, so that you and your offspring may live?
3. When do we love the Lord our God, obey his voice and hold fast to him?
4. What does it mean to you that the Lord is your life and length of days?