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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Love and Obey God Deut 6:1-9

Lesson Background and Introduction

The book of Deuteronomy records Moses' farewell address to the second generation of Israelites following the exodus from Egypt. Deuteronomy begins with Moses' review of the history of the nation to the present, including the first generation's disobedience. But Moses also reminded the people of God's faithfulness and of the power he had previously demonstrated in helping a portion of the people conquer lands east of the Jordan River (Deuteronomy 2:24-3:11). That same power was to guide the second generation in completing the conquest of the territory west of the Jordan. Those of the second generation, however, were required to avoid the unfaithfulness of their predecessors. Deuteronomy 5 concludes with an exhortation to the people to obey the Lord faithfully and "do not turn aside to the right or to the left" (5:32). The exhortation continues in today's lesson text.

One cannot stress too much the importance of God and His Word. Because of this, Moses made a key address to the Israelites before two important things took place. First, they were about to cross over the Jordan River to inherit the land promised to them by the Lord. Second, Moses would not be going with them due to his disobedience to the explicit command of God. (God had told him a word spoken to the rock would produce water for the people. Moses had struck the rock instead.) With these facts in mind, Moses wanted them to remember a vital lesson. They needed to focus on how extremely important it is to obey the commands of God. There are ramifications if one is disobedient. Later Moses would tell the people that God's Word was their life (cf. Deut. 32:47). How many today really believe the Word is that important? Recent polls of professing Christians reveal a less than acceptable belief in the accuracy of the Bible as well as a decline in the belief that it is relevant for life and issues today. Though we may find it easy to point fingers at the respondents in the poll, we need to examine closely our own belief and actual use of the Word. Many believe the Bible is God's Word but do not live totally by it. Mere lip service is what they offer, coupled with whatever behavior best serves their own plans. When Moses called Israel to hear, they would have understood that it was a call to obey. It was a call to pay close attention so that they could know what the Lord wanted from them. The first truth they were to know concerned the Lord Himself. Their God was not like the gods of Egypt or of any other people. God was one, and in Him was all they needed, quite unlike the false gods of the Egyptians, who had various gods for various needs. Since God was one and not many, He deserved to be the recipient of their complete devotion and love. There was no reason to send part of their love in one direction and part in another. One is reminded of David's plea that God would unite his heart since He alone is God (Ps. 86:11). How many of us have divided loyalties, which results in our devoting less than our full heart to the Lord? The church must always call people back to the Lord and to His Word. There is a constant need for revival among God's people. Satan has a way of making so many things seem far more attractive than the Lord. Temptations to sin come so innocently packaged that many fall because they fail to see the hook within the bait. It takes a concerted effort to remember the Lord for who He is and what He has done and to remember that His Word is truth and needs to be known and obeyed. Christians should look at this week's text and say the word "church" or "Christian" in place of "Israel." Even better, put your own name there. That personalizes the admonition! Any who look at the text and think this is only for Israel are sadly missing the point of what Jesus called the "great commandment" (cf. Matt. 22:36-38). God is to be loved and listened to.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

Love for God will cause you to live for God

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Dear Lord, as we read Your inspired story, may Your Spirit be our teacher. Help us to walk the path of obedience as we hear the voice of Your heart

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

In that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess

(Deut 30:16 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Mar 17, 2016)

Series: Our Love For God

UNIT: God is Worthy of Our Love

NEXT WEEK

Love and Serve God

(Joshua 24:1-3, 13-15, 21-24)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Reasons for Obedience (6:1-3)

To be prepared for the future (1)

- Preparing for treasures in the coming age (1 Tim 6:18-19)
- Preparing to reap the future harvest blessing (Gal 6:8-9)
- Preparing for the future reward (Eph 6:6-8)

For the respect of God (2)

- Respect through love (John 14:15)
- Respect through being a servant (John 12:26)
- Respect through fear of judgment (1 Peter 1:17)

For long life (2)

- Through working out salvation with fear and trembling (Phil 2:12)
- Through living God's word (Deut 5:33)
- Through not forgetting God's word (Prov 3:1-2)

To be successful (3)

- Success through faithful obedience (James 1:25)
- Success through delighting in God's word (Psalm 1:2-3)
- Success through love (Proverbs 8:21)

To have a blessed family (3)

- Blessings for walking in God's ways (Ps 128:1-3)
- Blessings for keeping God's commands (Deut 4:40)

Obedience to God Starts with Love (6:4-5)

Loving God with our hearts (5)

- Loving God reveals itself in doing the things that please Him (1 John 3:21-22)
- Loving God with a heart that is fully committed (1 Kings 8:61)

Loving God with our souls (5)

- Loving with our souls is being steadfast (Joshua 22:5)
- Loving with our souls is knowing that all things will work out for the good (Romans 8:28)
- Loving with our souls is realizing that we are His children (1 John 5:2-3)

Loving God with our might (5)

- Loving with our might is waiting on God to provide power (Jude 1:21)
- Loving God with our might is giving our total self to Him in obedience (Proverbs 23:26)

We Must Learn God's Commands to be Obedient (6:6-9)

Learn obedience in our speech (7)

- Realize that it is what comes out of the mouth that can be unclean (Matt 15:16-20)
- Be slow to speak, and when we do, let it be righteous (James 1:19-21)

Learn obedience in our lifestyle (7)

- Lifestyles that walk in the light (1 John 1:5-7)
- Lifestyles that reflect we are slaves to righteousness (Rom 6:16)

Learn obedience in our end of day reflection (7)

- Through the counsel of God (Ps 16:7)
- Through the remembrance of God's word (Ps 119:55)

Learn obedience in our beginning of day preparation (7)

- Through the proclaiming of God's faithfulness (Ps 92:2)
- Through our morning prayers (Ps 5:3)

Learn obedience in our actions (8)

- If we don't do what we know is right, we sin (James 4:17)
- Obedient actions through training (Heb 5:14)

Learn obedience in our thoughts (8)

- By taking every thought captive to Jesus (2 Cor 10:5)
- By being delighted in God's word (Rom 7:22-23)

Learn obedience in our homes (9)

- Obedience should be the rule of the whole household (Acts 16:31-34)
- Obedient witnessing starts at home (Mark 5:19)

Learn obedience in our dealings with society (9)

- At work, work as for God (Col 3:22-23)
- Live among others so that they cannot say anything against us (1 Peter 3:15-16)