



## Deuteronomy: Choosing to Obey God (or Not)

This week we are looking at the book of Deuteronomy. This book can be described as the “second law.” However, I want to focus on another aspect of the book – the choice of whether to obey God or not. In Chapter 6 verse 4, Moses asserts:

*“Hear, O Israel! The LORD [Yahweh] is our God, the LORD [Yahweh] is one!”*

This emphatic statement confronts us with a choice – accept it or not. In Moses’s conclusion, he entreated the people (Deuteronomy 30:15-18)

*<sup>15</sup> “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, <sup>18</sup> 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.*

God has given us free will, and with that free will comes a responsibility – making a choice. As humans, we often struggle with choices. Sometimes we avoid making choices as long as possible. Even refusing to talk or think about the choice we know we have to make. We are notorious for changing our minds. Choices often make us afraid. But not making a choice is a choice.

Moses goes on to plead,

*<sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> 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.”*

In Matthew 22, we are again faced with following God or not.

*<sup>37</sup> And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

I hope you can see the common theme across the Old and New Testaments. We would love to talk to you about this choice.

-Keith Coble