

Deuteronomy 12-13 – 18 March 2021

“Near To God In Worship”

Introduction

- *Exo, Lev, Num is what happened
- *Deut is Moses’ heart about what happened
- *Paul tells us in Rom 15:4 & I Cor 10:1-11 that these things are written for OUR learning
- *Some of the greatest overarching principles of the Bible are found in Deuteronomy
- *Deut has brought us thru “How & Where to start applying God’s Word”, “Hearing God’s desire for us to know Him”, & “Learning from past experiences”
- *Now Deut shifts looking forward into the future
- *What Israel will need most in the Promised Land is to stay close to their worthy God
- ***Today, we’ll discuss 3 keys to drawing near to God in worship**

1st Key to drawing near to God in worship is that We Need Truth In Worship (Chap 12:1-12)

Read Chap 12:1-3

1. False god sanctuaries need to be destroyed
 - a. You can't take images & symbols used in other religions and worship God with them
2. But the main point here is that also the idea of worshipping in many places needs to be destroyed
 - a. There is one God & one form of worship

Read Chap 12:4-7

1. God is looking for consistent worship
 - a. Vs 5 - Consistent Gathering
 - b. Vs 6 - Consistent Holiness
 - c. Vs 7 - Consistent Fellowship & Worship
2. Man's problem isn't that he worships too little, but that he worships too much
 - a. Turn to John 4:20-24
 - i. Jews already had the truth part
 - ii. New covenant emphasized the Spiritual part

Read Chap 12:8-9

1. God wants to show them that rest comes not by doing what you think is right, but by what God says is right
2. Where does this rest come from?
 - a. Remember wilderness wandering in a pic of the disobedience, carnal life...without rest.
 - b. The Promised Land is a pic of living in the protected arms of obedience to God
3. Even after they entered the Promised Land, David yet talks about a rest to come. Why?
 - a. B/c the rest of the Promised Land was just a pic of the spiritual rest that Jesus offers
 - b. Read Heb 4:8-10 – Jesus brings spiritual rest from striving to earn salvation with God

Read Chap 12:10-12

1. Take heed to do this and have only 1 place.
2. There is a right way and a wrong way to worship God. When it's right, we will ENJOY it!

2nd Key to drawing near to God in worship is that We Need Power In Worship (Chap 12:13-28)

Read Chap 12:13-16

1. Burnt Offerings - Spiritual offerings have to happen at sanctuary, but regular killing & eating can happen everywhere
2. Can kill animals w/o it being religious practice
3. Vs 16 – Emphasis on not eating the blood
4. Sacrifice & offering to God shows our reliance on being made right with God acquiring His power

Read Chap 12:17-25

1. The Tithe – goes to the Lord as Spiritual not a regular thing.
2. Vs 20 – “Enlarge thy border” – Proper worship of God brings God power on your behalf
3. Vs 23 – The life is in the blood
 - a. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. (*There is power in the blood*)

Read Chap 12:26-28

1. The Vows – are spiritual and go to the sanctuary
2. Vs 27 – Pour out the blood
 - a. The innocent that died for the guilty
 - b. The power of atonement is in the blood
 - c. Jesus poured out His blood
 - i. Read Luke 24:39 – blood isn't there
 - ii. The power that brought Him to life is that of His innocent blood poured out

Conclude Power in worship –

1. Interesting that the Anti-Christ's sidekick the False Prophet is described as one who has power to bring an image or icon to life.
2. Read Rev 13:15
3. But where there is no innocent blood, there is no power to save a soul.

3rd Key to drawing near to God in worship is that We Need Love In Worship (Chap 12:29-13:18)

Read Chap 12:29-32

1. You must destroy their false religious system
2. Their goal is to ensnare you with the lusts of this world
 - a. Prov 7:6-21
 - b. Spiritually this is the same thing the devil is trying to do to you every day.
 - i. And he'll use many different types of people to do it. Take a look at the people in chap 13.

Read Chap 13:1-5

1. If an Israelite becomes a real false prophet, stone him b/c he leads you away from God
2. Notice that the false prophet **ACTUALLY** did do a miracle.
 - a. There are **TWO** sources of the supernatural

Read Chap 13:6-11

1. If an Israelite (your family) entices you to leave God, stone them
2. One of the greatest threats against your Christianity is unbelieving family members.
 - a. B/c of a natural loyalty to family, we can mistakenly place them as more important than even God.
 - b. Read Matt 10:36-37 – Don't mis-prioritize
 - c. Read Luke 18:29-30 – God deserves our love

Read Chap 13:12-18

1. If a city's leaders turn away from God to false gods, destroy the whole thing.
2. Whoever would tear you away for a true worship of our loving God is worthy of destruction

Conclusion

So, how can we be near to God in worship?

1. **We need truth in worship**

- a. There's only 1 right way to worship God
- b. It has to be based on the facts of who He truly is and who we truly are

2. **We need power in worship**

- a. Worship is ineffective & lame if not based on the shed blood of Jesus Christ
- b. Only the blood of the innocent Son of God has the power to bring dead souls to live!

3. **We need love in worship**

- a. The world is lustfully after your heart
 - i. Keep your heart w/ all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life
 - ii. God deserves our love above everyone else