

March 24th – What God Deserves & Demands

*“And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes which I command you today for your good?”
(Deut. 10:12-13)*

Critics have often branded Christianity a religion of do’s and don’ts. Some have refused to surrender their lives to Christ because they were afraid of what they’d have to give up. We need to help people understand that Christianity is not about keeping rules. Faith in God is something much deeper, and in today’s verses Moses was attempting to help his kinsman understand what God really requires. Even though it was written to Israel, we have much to learn from these words.

First, God requires that we “fear the Lord your God.” What does that mean? It means that we have an understanding and reverence for God’s holiness. We acknowledge Him as the awesome Creator of the universe, and the Giver & Taker of life. When we have the proper understanding of God’s holiness, we will have no problem “walking in all His ways.” To put it simply, the fear of the Lord not only involves what we feel, but it also determines what we do and who we serve.

God also requires that we “love Him.” Steve Green once sang, “To love the Lord our God, it is the heartbeat of our mission.” In other words, all we do should flow out of our abounding love for God. The first and greatest command is to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30). It’s imperative that we express our love to God, not only with what we say, but much more by what we do – obeying “His statutes” which are “for your good.” God deserves and demands our very best!