

Basic Law

Deuteronomy 10:12-22

INTRODUCTION

- A. If you were to ask someone if he were moral, he would likely answer “Yes.”
 - 1. “I’ve never murdered, never committed adultery. I don’t drink. I pay my taxes. I am a moral person.”
 - 2. That reasoning shows that we consider some moral principles more important than others—“I can tell little white lies and be moral. I can speed and be moral.”
- B. God has a basic moral code.
 - 1. This code is what the law is all about.
 - 2. Moses has just recounted how God gave him the Ten Commandments and then he issues these instructions.

COMMITMENT, vv. 12-15

- A. What does God require of his people but to follow him in five ways, v. 12.
 - 1. That there is an answer to the question, “What does God require?” shows that God has requirements.
 - a. Some want us to believe that God really has no requirements--We can do whatever we choose, because God doesn’t care.
 - b. Yet, God expects certain behaviors from his people--God has requirements.
 - c. God has requirements for you.
 - 2. God requires--
 - a. Fear, v. 12.
 - 1) This refers to the highest reverence.
 - 2) God expects his people to revere him, to look upon him as awesome and holy.
 - 3) This will impact our behavior when we worship.
 - b. Walk in all his ways, v. 12.
 - 1) In Scripture, “walk” often refers to lifestyle.
 - 2) Here, God is telling his people to live their lives according to his ways.
 - 3) We can’t do what we want.
 - a) These are God’s ways.
 - b) We must, therefore, do what God wants.
 - c. Love God, v. 12.
 - 1) Love refers to value; we place value on those things we love.
 - 2) The great commandment is to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mk. 12:29-30).
 - 3) When we love God, we place him first in our lives.
 - d. Serve him with entire heart and soul, v. 12.
 - 1) This refers to serving God in worship and daily living.
 - 2) We must honor God each day we live.
 - e. Keep his commandments and statutes.
 - 1) This refers to the highest level of obedience.
 - 2) Obedience will keep us close to God--Illustration about boy running away from home, *Illustrations for Biblical Preaching*, 253.
 - 3) What God commands is for our own good.
 - a) God isn’t trying to be cruel.
 - b) Parents aren’t trying to be cruel in what they tell their children.
- B. The reason for these requirements, vv. 14-15.
 - 1. The entire creation belongs to God.
 - 2. Yet, God delighted only in the fathers of the Israelites.
 - a. God chose their descendants after them above all people.
 - b. Because God had chosen this people above all other people, he expected them to honor him.
- C. We, too, need to honor God.
 - 1. God deserves to be honored by us--God needs to be first in our lives.
 - 2. He has chosen Christians to receive his blessings.

CIRCUMCISION, vv. 16-19

- A. God tells these Israelites to circumcise their hearts, v. 16.
 - 1. Just as physical circumcision is cutting away the foreskin, spiritual circumcision is cutting away stubbornness.
 - 2. Throughout their history, the Jews have been a stubborn people.
 - a. God had told his people in the wilderness not to gather manna on the Sabbath, yet some attempted to do so anyhow (Ex. 16:26-28).
 - b. The people made a golden calf and worshiped it (Ex. 32).
 - 3. In order to please God, we must get rid of our stubbornness--We can't do things our way.
 - 4. We need to believe and do what God wants.
- B. These people should circumcise their hearts based upon God's character.
 - 1. Based upon God's character, God's people have certain requirements.
 - 2. God is the great God.
 - a. He is God of gods and Lord of lords.
 - 1) These are Hebrew superlatives.
 - 2) Moses doesn't mean to imply there are other gods; rather he is showing how great the true God really is.
 - b. He is mighty and awesome.
 - c. He is fair--he shows no partiality and takes no bribe.
 - d. He cares for those without defense.
 - 1) He cares for the widow and orphan.
 - 2) He loves the stranger and gives him food and clothing.
- C. Since these Hebrews were strangers in Egypt, they should love the stranger.
 - 1. We need to be a benevolent people.
 - 2. God has blessed us and we should bless those without such blessings.

CONSECRATION, vv. 20-22

- A. These people are to fear God.
 - 1. Fearing God does not mean that we need to be afraid of God.
 - 2. Rather this means that we should give the proper respect to God.
 - a. We need to give the proper respect to God.
 - 1) "Conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear (1 Pet. 1:17).
 - 2) "Fear God and give glory to him" (Rev. 14:7).
 - b. Too many times we do not give the proper respect to God.
 - 1) Do you worship as faithfully as you could?
 - 2) Do you concentrate on what's taking place?
- B. These people also are to serve God.
 - 1. This refers to worshiping him.
 - 2. Do you worship as faithfully as you could?
- C. The Hebrews are to hold fast to the LORD--not to swerve from what he has said.
 - 1. We must stay fast; we can't move from what God has said.
 - 2. "Like a tree planted by the waters; I shall not be moved."
- D. They are to take oaths in his name rather than the of some other deity.
- E. God has done wonderful things which their eyes have seen.
 - 1. Their fathers went down into Egypt with seventy persons.
 - 2. The LORD made them as the stars of heaven.
- F. We should honor God for he has done wonderful things.
 - 1. He raised his Son from the dead.
 - 2. He has forgiven our sins.
- G. Are you following God's "Basic Law"?