

Bible Study, Series 2, Following Christ, Week 7

Personal Study

Day: 1

Read: Deuteronomy 6: 1-9 and 20-25

1. Take note of where this reading comes from. It follows straight after God gave His commandments in chapter 5. So it is important to realize that what everything here are about the place of the commandments in the life of a believer.
2. How does verse 1-3 draw the blessings of a life of obedience? Give a definition of a God fearing person in the light of verse 1-2.
3. Verse 4-5: What is the message highlighted by these two verses?
4. Mention the different areas in our life where the law of God should influence us - verse 6-9. The Jews took these instructions literally and applied them as such, it should actually rather be seen as figuratively and not literally as they saw it. What is supposed to be the meaning in our lives?
5. Verse 20-25: Why did God demand obedience from them and why can He rightfully demand it from us. Read Exodus 20: 2 as well.
6. Verse 25 describes the rightfulness coming from the law. Thank goodness for Philippians 3: 8-9!

Day: 2

Read: Joshua 1: 1-9

1. How many promises from God are there in this piece we've read today?
2. In verse 5 God says He will and in verse 6 He says you will. God's promises do not take away your responsibility.
3. Verse 7 - 8: In these two verses we are told to give minute attention to living according to the law. Give a definition of being meticulous according to the verses. If the Bible commands us to live meticulously why are there people that are saying we should be more liberal? Have a look at what the promises are for those who live their lives as God wants them to!
4. What is the secret for strength, courage, obedience and success that verse 8 gives us? Where, do you think, lays the main reason for the stress, hurry, fear, uncertainty and disobedience in our lives? Have a look at Psalm 1:2-3 and Matthew 6:6.
5. Verse 9 gives the "why" and the "how" of all spiritual work: "He ordered me" and He (that ordered me) is with me" What more can one ask or need?

Day: 3

Read: 1 Samuel 15: 1-23

1. The Holy Ban of verse 3 was God's punishment for the most outrageous sin possible. Saul and his men are used as the charged with the responsibility of carrying out God's punishment. That is the reason for the accusation in verse 11a and Samuel's anger over Saul's neglect in verse 11b.
2. Verse 9 and 14-15: Why do you think they kept the banned goods? Are they telling the truth when they are making excuses for themselves? Have a look at verse 19 as well and also think of Joshua 7: 1 and 21. Also have a look at verse 12! Saul is taking his hypocrisy even further and making it worse. The animal sounds give his hypocrisy away. Read Matthew 10: 26 and 1 Corinthians 4: 4-5 and say what it is that we are learning here.
3. Verse 21 -23: What is the important message of this piece as it is summarized in these verses?

Day: 4

Read: Matthew 7: 21-29

1. Verse 21: What is the principle that Jesus is stating here, very clearly? Say it in your own words.
2. Verse 22: What is the big mistake many people make? What is the condition they use to claim access to the kingdom of God?
3. Verse 23: Read 2 Timothy 2: 19 as well. Here two basic requirements for discipleship and access to the Kingdom are stated, what are they?
4. Verse 24-27: We can name this parable the parable of two building contractors. What does it mean to build on the rock? Why can't anybody afford it to build on the "sand?"
5. What does it mean when storms are mentioned? Especially if you think in context of the whole piece that we have read?

Day: 5

Read: James 1: 19-27

1. Verse 19-20: The words "Post this at all the intersections" binds these two verses to verse 18. "Showing us off as the crown of all his creatures." (Verse 18) and "dear friends" (verse 19) has to live like that. How do they have to live?
2. Verse 21-22: (One can say :) states the church going person's life before church, in the church and after church. How is it drawn and described? When and how does church going people deceive themselves? (Keep in mind what Matthew 7: 21 told us yesterday.)
3. Verse 23-25: The "glance" here means a quick glance in the passing without really studying it with attention. "And sticks with it" means studying it with concentration and attention. What does it say to us about reading the Bible and going to church? Take special note of "and sticks with it" (verse 25.) What is the message here?

4. Verse 26-27: Here is warned against self-deception. It gives a test for authenticity. What are the measures that are given? How do you recognize real religion?

Day: 6

Read: John 14: 12-24

1. Verse 12-14 gives us exceptional promises about prayer and verse 16-18 the most beautiful promise about the coming of the Holy Spirit. In between, placed very strategically, is verse 15. Have a look at Acts 5: 32. Say in your own words what verse 15 means, exactly, and why it is placed where it is - is obedience really that important?
2. Verse 19 - 20 speaks about the close relationship between God and His followers. On that follows verse 21 that stresses the importance of obedience. What secret about obedience do we find in these verses and what is the fruit guaranteed by it?
3. Verse 22-24 draws the awful disaster of disobedience. Say what a person, according to these words, stands to lose?
4. If you listen to these words, why is it that persistent disobedience is so detrimental and unforgivable? Do take special note of verse 15, 21 and 23. What light does it shine on Judas' life and tragic end? (Take verse 22 into account as well) Why did it end in his betrayal of Jesus?

Group Bible Study:

Read: John 8: 12 and 28-36 and John 15:9-16

John 8: 12: Have a look at John 3: 19-21. Here is the basic choice everyone has to make: the choice between the light and the darkness. Jesus gives His followers the following assurance "No one who follows me stumbles around in the darkness. I provide plenty of light to live in" Why does everybody not make use of it? The answer is in John 3: 19. Verse 28: "raise" in the gospel of John this points to the cross. Have a look at John 3: 14-15.

Verse 31: "If you stick with this, living out what I tell you" Life with it and obey it. It is therefore impossible to be a follower of Christ without obedience. Between discipleship and obedience there is the closest tie possible.

Verse 33: The Jews believed their salvation was guaranteed because they came from Abraham, in other words because they were Jews. All non-Jews were lost in their eyes.

John 15: 12-13: If one read this with Matthew 22: 39 and Romans 13: 8-10 one can say obedience is love in action.

Verse 14-15: What is the difference between a slave and a friend?

1. What does "stumbles around in the darkness" mean? (John 8: 12) Have a look at 1 John 1: 5-7 and Ephesians 5: 8-13. In the light of this, give a definition of a Christian, especially as from John 8: 12.
2. What especially important lesson do we learn from John 8: 29 and John 15: 10? Have a look at Joshua 1: 8-9 as well.

3. After reading John 8: 32-36 again, what would you say if true freedom? Have a look at 1 Peter 2: 16 and Galatians 5: 13-15. What is the difference between immorality and freedom? And what is the difference between liberalism and freedom?
4. What are the secrets of true happiness given to us in John 8: 36 en John 15: 10-11?
5. What does John 15: 14-16 teach us about being a Christian and following Christ?
6. According to John 8: 29 Jesus did everything that pleased God and we are supposed to follow him in it as well. How does a Christian know what will please God, especially when it comes to uncertainties not given specific instructions for in the Bible?