



March 5, 2023

FLORENCE BOULEVARD CHURCH OF CHRIST

Lessons For Life: Deuteronomy 6

In the book of Deuteronomy, literally meaning “Second Law”, Moses, through the mind of God, declares once again his exposition of God’s law to a new people. The older people who refused to trust God decided they could not take the enemies of the “Promised Land” & died in the 40 years of Wilderness Wanderings (Numbers 14). Now their children have grown & are on the brink of entering the promised land with Joshua. As this new generation prepares to enter this Promised Land, what do they need to remember? Deuteronomy 6:4-9 tells them what was important then & what is still important for us today.

1. He begins by acknowledging the Supremacy of God in our lives “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one! (v 4) The word *Shema* means to hear & so important were these first words, that in the weekly synagogue worship on Saturdays, they recited these words in two prayers during their service. He then commands that we love God “with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.” Half-hearted allegiance to Almighty God is an insult & God expected them (and us) to love Him with all our heart(mind) & our soul (the total human self). We cannot do this by minimizing the nature of God in our daily lives, our prayers & in our words.

2. This supreme love for God must be passed on to those who we love: Our children & our own family. You shall teach them (the words of love & allegiance to Almighty God) in a diligent & persistent way to your children. This involves time & effort. As the saying goes, “We cannot teach what we do not know & we cannot lead where we do not go.” Children, especially teenagers, have an innate sense of knowing when parents are playing the hypocrite in teaching them what they themselves do not practice. If God is not first & foremost in our lives in practice & lifestyle every day, not just on Sundays, then our children will see the hypocrisy we are practicing.

3. This proclamation of the love of God in our lives is to be taught to our children at all times in their lives. Whereas it is true that “more is caught than taught,” still it takes time to instill in our children supreme love & respect for God. When they are in our home, when they are sitting down, when they are going to bed, when they get up in the morning - these are all opportunities to show & teach them the love for God & His Word. Devotionals, discussions outdoors in nature, even things seen on Television...these are “teachable” moments for little children, as well as teenagers.

In our fast-paced world, our love & devotion for God must come first, regardless of what we have to leave out. We will fail as parents if we do not impart our love for God into our family’s lives. May God help us in this most important endeavor!

Don Williams

Elders
Steve Clark
Jake VanDyke
Ken Vanhorn
Mark Willingham

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Kevin Clemons
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Worship: Sunday 9:00 am & 5:00 pm; Bible Class 10:15 am; Wednesday: 6:30 pm

