

Complete Devotion

Dr. Kenneth Daniels, Superintendent

Love and Devotion

Deut. 6:1-9

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Unifying Principle

In the midst of life's challenges and uncertainties, people search for foundations on which to make decisions. What is a sure foundation? In Deuteronomy, God instructed the Israelites that the basis for meeting all of life's circumstances is to love God absolutely, and Matthew records that Jesus repeated those instructions.

The Foundation for Love and Devotion to God

Deut. 6:1-3

The primary charge of God given to Moses: (1) There are four reasons why the law had preeminence:

- 1) Obedience meant that Israel would live.
- 2) Obedience would protect the people from God's displeasure.
- 3) Israel would be respected as a wise people by other nations when they obeyed God's laws.
- 4) The law of God was unique for its high spiritual quality.
 - a. The commandments will teach you to fear the Lord: (2-3)
 - b. The commandments will prolong your days. The word *fear* means to honor and reverence God to such a point that a person worships him.
 - c. The commandments will cause all things to go well: (3)
 - d. The commandments will make you increase and assure a full, satisfying life.

The Requirement of Love and Devotion

Deut. 6:4-9

The greatest commandment: (4-5)

- a. The Lord our God is One Lord. (4) There is no other. This is a personal relationship between a worshipper and the Lord. It is a daily experience.
- b. Love the Lord your God with your whole being. (5) Love God as your very own God. Christ breaks our being down in three parts: the heart, the soul, and strength.
 - Heart: is the inner part of a person. The heart attaches and focuses our will and devotion.
 - Soul: is the seat of man's breath and life.
 - Strength: means the full strength, all the strength of a person. We are to love God with all our strength-fully, thoroughly, to the point of exhaustion.

The duty of the believer: (6-9)

- a. To place the commandments in your heart. (6) Three important duties are laid upon the believer.
 - 1) The believer is to place the commandments in his heart.
 - 2) The believer is to diligently teach the commandments to his children. (7) Educating children is an absolute necessity.
 - 3) The believer is to use the commandments as a strong witness and testimony before the public. (8-9)
- b. To use them as a witness: (8)
 - 1) Bind them in your hands and foreheads. When an Israelite was out in public, he was to bind the commandments on his hands and forehead.
 - 2) In your home: (9) Write them on your doorposts and on your gates. (9)

Principle: If a person obeys God, he will experience the fullness of life and conquer all the enemies who oppose life, seeking to drag him down into the pit of death.

References: The Communicator's Commentary
Holman OT Commentary