

Weekly Devotions: GOD IS SOVEREIGN 20

How Much do You Love the Lord?

A mark of true faith is a sincere love for God; loving Him for who He is, not what we can get from Him. So how deep, how wide, how high and how strong is your love for the Almighty God who loves us unconditionally and even sent His Son to die for our sins? What does it mean for us to love our Lord in a world where many things or many 'gods' compete for first place in our heart?

The Shema, which was part of the Jewish daily prayers declares; "The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might" (Deut. 6: 4-5).

Moses used these words to prepare the Jews for entry into the Promised Land. Once they crossed the river Jordan, they would be immersed in a pagan and idolatrous culture. Moses exhorted them to be faithful and to love the Lord whole-heartedly.

Read Deut. 6: 4-19

Moses told Israel not to forget God's commandments (v.6) and to teach them to the next generation (v. 7). They were to live by God's laws daily (v. 8) and their distinctiveness as God's people must be visible to the pagans (v. 9). Love for God and faith in Him is not a secret, private relationship. Our love for God and His word must be taught to our children and visible to those around us.

Moses also exhorted them not to forget God when they became abundantly blessed (vv. 10-12). They were to live in holy fear of Him, that is, to be reverent and not to take God's love and blessings for granted (v. 13). He warned them to be faithful and not go after other gods (v. 14). They should also not doubt God or put Him to the test (v. 16). They needed to be diligent in obeying His word (v. 17) and to "do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord that it may go well with you" (v. 18).

Questions to ponder

1. Of the list of exhortations Moses gave the Jews to prepare them for life in a pagan culture, which one/s do you need to pay attention to?
2. What will happen when we disobey and turn away from God? What will happen if we live in faithfulness and obedience to His word? How can you ensure that you remain faithful to God and that you will not fall away?
3. List two things that are right before God but offensive to non-believers. If you have to choose between pleasing people or pleasing God what would you do?