

## *Deuteronomy Chapter 12*

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V: 1 These are the things that we shall do, this is the plan. The New King James Version translates this verse as “*you shall be careful to observe...*” We have to be “careful”, it takes care, effort, diligence.

- Obedience is not an accident, and it is a life long pursuit.

V: 2-3 Destroy everything associated with pagan worship, eliminate all other forms of worship, no allowance for competing gods.

**Ephesians 4:27** “Neither give place to the devil.”

- Utterly destroy, overthrow, break, burn, hew down, destroy even their names.
- They are not even to be spoken of.
- God says destroy all these things, you are not them to be involved in these sorts of things.
- This is also a picture of dealing with sin, violently and thoroughly.

**Romans 13:14** “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lust thereof.”

- If need be deal violently with those things that cause us to sin!

V: 4 Not so with the Lord, but just the opposite.

- Instead of destroying and tearing down, we are to reverence, value, honor our God, we are to esteem Him and His ways.
- We are to build up and strengthen the things pertaining to the Worship of the true and living God.

V: 5-7 But the place that God chooses, there you shall bring your sacrifices and offerings.

- After they entered into the promised land God chose Shiloh as the place to offer sacrifices up to Him, later this was moved to Gilgal, then later still to Jerusalem.
- God is the one who dictates how we are to worship Him – and we don’t need any object or symbol for that.

**John 4:24** “God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”

- Burnt offerings of consecration / dedication to the Lord, their tithes – the firstlings, the first fruits of their increase.
- At the place of the Lord's choosing you shall have fellowship with Him.
- This is one of the hints throughout the Old Testament that God wants to have a personal relationship with us, He desires real fellowship with us!

V: 8 We don't determine what is right or wrong, God does that. We're called to live by His rules, not our own.

**Judges 17:6** "In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes."

- Moral relativism, humanism, post-modernism. If it feels good, then do it.
- The pagan cultures were doing whatever was right in their own eyes, God is saying don't operate that way.

V: 9-12 The children of Israel hadn't yet entered into the rest the God had promised them in the promise land.

- They actually never did enter into that rest; they always had struggles – never taking all the land, never receiving all that God had for them.

**Hebrews 4:1-3** "1Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into His rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. 2For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: (in the wilderness) but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. 3For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, as I have sworn in My wrath, if they shall enter into My rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world."

- We can only rest as we enter in, to the finished work of Jesus Christ, begin to relate to God through grace and not through works.
- As long as we try to relate to God in works, we'll never rest.

V: 13-14 There is a prescribed way of worshipping God, not just any way that they would choose or any place they chose, but where God establishes.

- Our obedience is an act of love, and it is an act of worship.

V: 15-16 They could eat meat, hunt and so on, if it was just that. Have as many BBQ's as you want, but if it was to be an act of worship or sacrifice then it had to be done in very specific ways.

- Again the admonition about not consuming blood.

**Leviticus 17:11** “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.”

V: 17-18 They were not to consume their tithes or their various offering in their homes.

- They were to bring their tithes to the Tabernacle, and their offerings to enjoy with the Lord

V: 19 Take heed, be careful not to neglect the Levites.

- Part of the offerings were consumed on the altar, other parts were given to the priests, for the Levites and their families.
- In essence don't neglect God, and don't neglect the Levites, those that serve God.

V: 20-28 When God blesses you, when He enlarges your borders – when He prospers you, hey have a steak!

- Repeating the instruction from previous verses in this chapter with one addition:
- Again the admonition about blood, because blood is special:

**1 Peter 1:18-19** “<sup>18</sup>Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

- We aren't saved from our sins by the life of Christ or the example of Christ, but by the sacrificial death of Christ, by His shed blood.

**Ephesians 1:7** “In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

V: 25 & 28 “... that it may go well with thee, and with your children after you...”

V: 29-30 Be careful not to be ensnared in their practices and ways of life.

**Psalm 1:1** “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”

- Don't join the losing team, don't jump on a sinking ship... don't be stupid.
- Be careful what you expose yourself to, don't inquire too deeply.
- Some people spend too much time learning about the false ways instead of focusing on the truth.

**John 8:31-32** <sup>31</sup>... if ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; <sup>32</sup>and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

**Romans 16:19** "... but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil."

- Schools and seminaries that offer comparative religion classes I believe do so in contradiction to God's word.

V: 31 Don't worship Me the way you worship them!

- They do abominable things and call it worship! They destroy life and call it worship!

**Isaiah 5:20** "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter."

- Sacrificing their children in the name of worship – murder!
- Jesus said that Satan was a liar, and a murderer from the beginning.
- People are still killing their children – abortion is murder, they are doing it as an act of worship to the god of sex, and pleasure, and convenience, to the god of wealth.

**1 Corinthians 10:20** "But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and would not that ye should have fellowship with devils."

- The motivating force behind idolatry is demonic, hence the cruelty and degradation involved.

V: 32 Be obedient to God's word, don't add to it, don't take away from it.

**Deuteronomy 4:2** "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you."

**Revelation 22:18-19**

“<sup>18</sup>For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: <sup>19</sup>And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

## *Deuteronomy Chapter 13*

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V: 1-3 If there be a prophet so called that comes performing signs or wonders, and they say to follow after other gods and serve them.

- You shall not hearken unto the prophet; God is simply testing you, proving you.

**Galatians 1:8**

“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.”

**2 Corinthians 11:13-14**

“<sup>13</sup>For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. <sup>14</sup>And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”

**2 Thessalonians 2:8-10**

“<sup>8</sup>And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming: <sup>9</sup>Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, <sup>10</sup>and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”

- Our litmus, the plumb line is the word of God:

**Acts 17:11**

“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”

- A true prophet of God will lead you to rely completely and totally upon Jesus for your hope of salvation.
- A true prophet of God will not contradict God’s word.

V: 4 Same plan, same instructions – different day.

**Micah 6:8**

“He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.”

- Walk after the Lord, fear Him, keep His commandments, obey His voice, serve Him, cleave unto Him!

V: 5 That prophet that would lead you away from God, kill him!

- Put away that evil from amongst you.
- We can't kill all the false prophets today; but we are instructed on how to deal with them:

**2 John 10-11** <sup>9</sup>Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. <sup>10</sup>If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: <sup>11</sup>For he that biddeth him God speed is a partaker of his evil deeds."

- Talk to the JW's, Mormon's etc on the front porch if need be, but don't invite them into your house – they will not be won over contrary to God's word!
- People, social engineers, the media say that capital punishment is not a deterrent, the Bible differs on this – and the Bible is always right.
- They've studied recidivism rates in prisons and discovered much to their chagrin that there is no such thing as re-habilitation.
- On the other hand as an example, in Singapore where you would figure there would be a significant drug problem in their culture there isn't one at all.
- When the police there find you in possession of narcotics they take you aside and shoot you on the spot, the evidence is there and they take lawful and decisive action.
- Drug dealers all over the world know this and they steer clear of Singapore – it would appear that capital punishment does in fact work. When a punishment is severe, when it is carried out swiftly it is a great deterrent.

Put them out from among you:

**1 Corinthians 5:13** "But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person."

V: 6-11 Here's the list of exceptions: there are none! (King Solomon...)

**Matthew 10:37** "He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me."

- They are to be dealt with and exposed!

**1 Timothy 5:20** "Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear."

V: 12-17 If a prophet, or a family member, or a whole city goes the way of Belial you shall smite them with the edge of the sword, sparing none, taking nothing.

- The issue isn't social conscious, the issue is the survival of the nation.

**Proverbs 14:34** "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people."

**Romans 6:23** "The wages of sin is death..."

- This includes the prophet so called, the individual, and the nation that forsakes God.

V: 18 Listen to, for the voice of the Lord. Keep His commandments, do them, do what is right in His eyes!

**Isaiah 30:21** "And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, this is the way, walk ye in it, when you turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left."