

Deuteronomy Chapter 32:46-47

A.W. Tozier “*The first step down for a church is to loose their high view of God.*”

- How does a church or a person loose their “high view” of God? The first step is to not believe His word.
- Moses knows that the children of Israel are headed towards apostasy, disobedience, and eventually to idol worship. Moses also knows that this will eventually bring God’s righteous judgment upon them.
- Moses knows that the only way they’ll avoid this is to be committed to the keeping of God’s word.

Matthew 5:6 “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”

V: 46-47 “⁴⁶And he said unto them, set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do all the words of this law. ⁴⁷For it is not a vain thing for you; because it is your life: and through this thing ye shall prolong your days in the land, whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.”

- From first to last, through every part of this book, we find Moses urging the children of Israel to the implicit, unwavering, heart felt obedience to God’s word.

Deuteronomy 6:5 “And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”

- In this lies the secret of life, to prosperity, peace, progress, to everything – simply be obedient to God’s word.
- Everything that is precious to the children of Israel is dependant upon their obedience to God’s word.
- Moses is speaking these things the same day that he would be called to the top of Mt. Nebo and die. This is not casual advice.
- Set your heart, take a stand, make a commitment! By the grace of God, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Deuteronomy 30:10 “... thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this book of the law, and if thou turn unto the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.”

- The Psalmist declared:

Psalm 16:8 “I have set the Lord always before me: because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.”

- Moses is describing a commitment that is all encompassing.

Deuteronomy 30:20 “That thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey His voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto Him: for He is thy life, and the length of thy days...”

- Old Testament law vs: New Testament, because of the blood of Jesus, by the grace of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Paul declared:

Acts 20:24 “But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.”

- These weren't idle or philosophical words from Paul, he knew that he was facing imprisonment and probable death.
- Paul was one of those uncompromising, in your face, irritating kind of Christians that had set his heart to follow the Lord no matter what – and to be obedient to God's word.

What are the things that “move” us away from Church, Bible study, devotion, and fellowship?

1. Is it recreation, sports, family, or other relationships?
2. What are those things that we esteem of greater value than being obedient to God's word?
3. What is it that takes precedent in our lives to having fellowship and communion with our Lord and with the saints?

Jesus said:

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.”

Jesus put it another way in Luke's Gospel:

Luke 14:26 “If any man come to Me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.”

- It is all about making priorities, the proper order of things in our lives.

It's about priorities:

Matthew 6:33 “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Job said:

Job 23:12 “Neither have I gone back from the commandment of His lips; I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food.”

- Job couldn't say something like that unless he had set his heart to be obedient to God's word.
- Obedience is not an accident or an un-intentional outcome, so often sin is the effect of which is / was un-intentional. Obedience is intentional, purposed after.
- Commitment, to Jesus, commitment to God's word.

Colossians 3:2 “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”

2 Timothy 2:15 “Study / be diligent to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

- This verse describes intent, purpose, and motive: to be pleasing to God.

2 Timothy 3:16 ¹⁶“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

- We live in an age of general apostasy, in an age where many are falling away from the faith.

Listen to what C.H. Mackintosh wrote

“The Word of God is not loved and studied, either privately or publicly. Trashy literature is devoured in private, and music, ritualistic services, and imposing ceremonies are eagerly sought after in public. Thousands will flock to hear music, and pay for admission, but how few care for a meeting to read the Holy Scriptures!

These are facts, and facts are powerful arguments. We cannot get over them. There is a growing thirst for religious excitement, and a growing distaste for the calm study of Holy Scripture and the spiritual exercises of the Christian assembly. It is perfectly useless to deny it. We cannot shut our eyes to it. The evidence of it meets us on every hand.

Thank God, there are a few, here and there, who really love the Word of God, and delight to meet, in holy fellowship, for the study of its precious truths. May the Lord increase the number of such, and bless them, till traveling days are done.”

- Mackintosh wrote this over 100 years ago, and he was echoing scripture:

1 Timothy 4:1-2 “¹Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times, some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; ²speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.”

2 Timothy 4:3-4 “³For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; ⁴and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”

- God’s word is our only guard against apostasy, our only guard against false teaching.

John 8:31-32 “³¹... if ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; ³²and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Psalm 119:165 “Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall cause them to stumble.”

- Again Moses is exhorting the children of Israel, and us as well:

V: 46 “⁴⁶And he said unto them, set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do all the words of this law.

- Barnabas went to the church in Antioch, seeing the grace of God in their midst he encouraged them:

Acts 11:23 “... that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.”

- Job had set his heart upon the word of God.

Job 13:15 “Thou He slay me, yet will I trust in Him...”

Isaiah 26:3 “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth I thee.”

Joshua took a stand:

Joshua 24:15 “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

1 Kings 2:2-3 “²I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man; ³and keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in His ways, to keep His states, and His commandments, and His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that thou mayest prosper in all that thou doest, and whithersoever thou turnest thyself.”

Holy Bible, Book Devine by John Burton, Sr.

Holy Bible, book divine – Precious treasure, thou art mine;
Mine to tell me whence I came; Mine to teach me what I am.

Mine to chide me when I rove, Mine to shew a Savior's love;
Mine art thou to guide my feet; Mine to judge, condemn, acquit.

Mine to comfort in distress, If the Holy Spirit bless;
Mine to shew by living faith, Man can triumph over death.

Mine to tell of joys to come, And the rebel sinner's doom;
Holy Bible, book divine, Precious treasure, thou art mine.

- The Psalmist says it this way....

Psalm 19:7-11 “⁷The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. ⁸The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. ⁹The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than hone and the honeycomb. ¹¹Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.”

V: 46-47 “⁴⁶And he said unto them, set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do all the words of this law. ⁴⁷For it is not a vain thing for you; because it is your life: and through this thing ye shall prolong your days in the land, whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.”

- The Lord is looking for a commitment from us, not just a casual relationship.
- Honestly, if it's casual, then we'll end up being a casualty.
- We can't make this commitment with the Lord until we've made the first commitment to even enter into a relationship with Him.
- We need first to take stock of our lives and admit that we're sinners and that we're already condemned to hell apart from Jesus.

John 3:36 “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

Matthew 11:28-30 “²⁸Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.”

- How do we come to Jesus?
- As we are.
- Humbly, admitting that we're sinners, asking Him to come into our hearts, asking Him to be our Lord, and our Savior.

Romans 10:13 “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”