

BLESSINGS AND CURSINGS: BOTH REQUIRED (DEUTERONOMY 27-30)



Moses delivers his final sermon to the Israelites and calls the people to formally agree with God's call to obedience of His Law. What began in Exodus 19-24 becomes finalized now. Blessings without Cursings equals Status Quo. Following God requires rising above Status Quo in order to pursue excellence.

1. God's Law is Clear and Commanding (Deuteronomy 27:1-14)

- The Law is written on stones to show its permanence and rigidity. God's holiness is not open for discussion or division.
- Their obedience is causing their entrance into the Land and settling their position as people of the LORD

2. God Blesses and Curses based on obedience (Deuteronomy 27:15-28:68)

- God requires knowing His Law AND doing His Law
- God promises blessings for loving obedience, not obligation
- God warns of cursing for disobedience; Law with no consequences is merely suggestion

3. God's Law is Personal (Deuteronomy 29-30)

- Each person must examine his/her own heart: personal accountability
- We will never understand all that God knows, but we are only responsible for what He has revealed
- Repentance is always the path back to the LORD
- Choose life: YOU have the power to choose

The Mosaic Covenant: Law written on stone, blessings/cursings tied to land, external obedience emphasized, and a sacrificial system. The New Covenant (Jesus): Law written on hearts, spiritual blessings in Jesus, Spirit-empowered obedience, and once-for-all sacrifice through Jesus.

Choose Life!

1. Why was the Law written publicly on stones (Deuteronomy 27:2-3)? How does that compare to it being written on our hearts (2 Corinthians 3:3)? What roles do commitment, public confession, and standards play in following God's commands?
2. How do the curses of Deuteronomy 27-28 reveal God's concern for hidden sins? Read Psalm 19:12; Luke 12:2-3 and explain how they impact God's judgement of our heart's rebellion. What are some ways that we commit secret rebellion against God's Law?
3. Why are blessings and curses both necessary in a covenant relationship? Read Proverbs 3:11-12; Hebrews 12:6 and explain how they relate to covenant relationship. Do you serve God more from fear of being punished or desire for blessing? Is it more of love of Jesus or love of self? Explain.
4. How does Deuteronomy 30:6 anticipate the New Covenant? Read Jeremiah 31:33; Ezekiel 36:26; Romans 2:29 and explain the understanding of the New Covenant. How does Jesus fulfill the Law and make a New Covenant? How does the heart affect the New Covenant? How does the Old Covenant (Law) relate to the New Covenant (Grace)?
5. In what ways did Israel's history confirm the truth of Deuteronomy 28? Read 2 Kings 17; 25; Daniel 9:11-14 and explain how they illustrate God's blessing/cursing. What can the Church learn from Israel's relationship with God's Law?
6. How does Christ fulfill the curse of the Law without abolishing God's moral standard? Read Galatians 3:10-13; Matthew 5:17-20 and explain how they explain grace with law. Should grace motivate us towards holiness or excuse our decline from it?
7. What does "choose life" (Deuteronomy 30:19) look like for believers today? Read John 10:10; Romans 6:16; Colossians 3:1-10. What choices have you made today to walk in obedience to Jesus? Is the phrase "I can't help myself" or "The devil made me do it" truthful? Explain.

For deeper study and understanding, read Galatians 3:10; James 2:10; Romans 3:31; Matthew 10:32; 1 Timothy 6:12; Psalm 1:1-3; Matthew 6:33; Ephesians 1:3; Hebrews 12:5-11; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Romans 2:29; Galatians 3:13; John 14:15; Romans 8:1.

January: **Deuteronomy - Covenant Renewal**

Memory Verse: Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Date	Sermon Text	1	2	3	4	5	6
Jan. 4	Deut. 1-4	Deut. 1:1-33	Deut. 1:34-47	Deut. 2:1-25	Deut. 2:26-37	Deut. 3	Deut. 4
Jan. 11	Deut. 5-26	Deut. 5-8	Deut. 9-12	Deut. 13-16	Deut. 17-20	Deut. 21-23	Deut. 24-26
Jan. 18	Deut. 27-30	Deut. 27:1-8	Deut. 27:9-26	Deut. 28:1-14	Deut. 28:15-68	Deut. 29	Deut. 30
Jan. 25	Deut. 31-34	Deut. 31:1-13	Deut. 31:14-30	Deut. 32:1-14	Deut. 32:15-52	Deut. 33	Deut. 34