

# Obey all the Commands

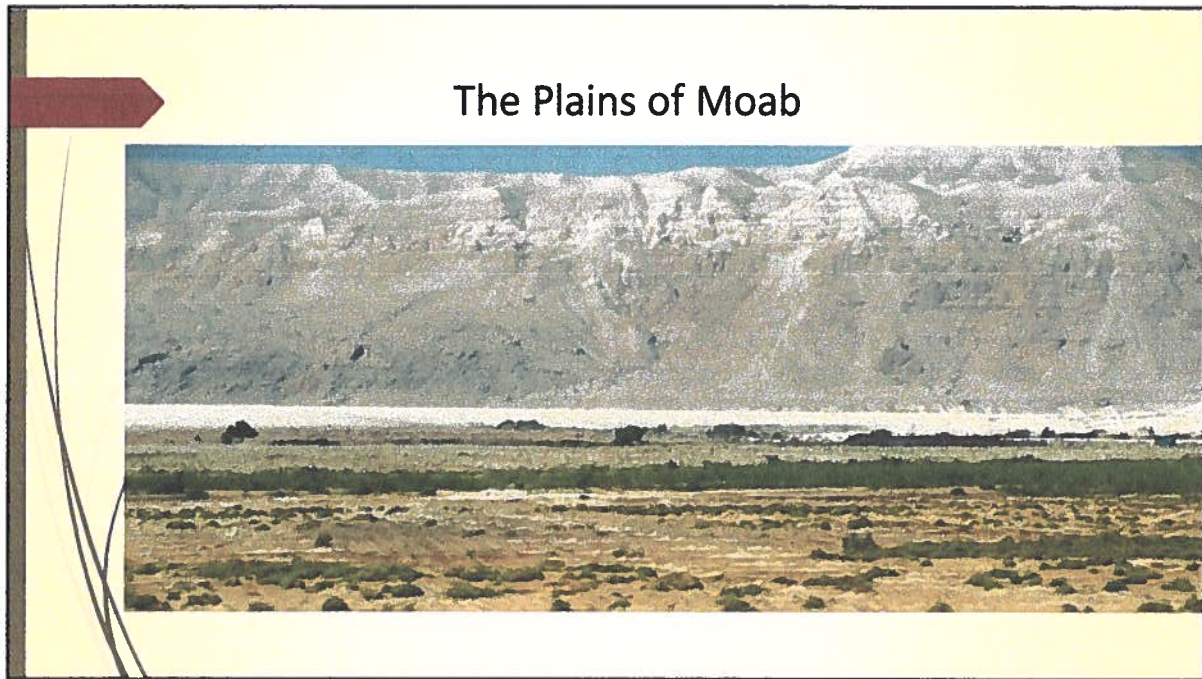
Matt 28:19-20

<sup>19</sup> Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- Last Nov on a Sunday, the elders talked about our need to obey all the commands. *Todd spoke about how he had spent a lot of time reading the red letters words of Jesus*
  - We continue to see this as a priority for HPC
  - Over the past month or so that I have been thinking about this sermon, I have switched several times in the outline.
  - During a recent devotional time, my reading lead me the book of Deut. Deut is basically a long sermon from Moses as the children of Israel prepares to enter the promised land
- I promise you my sermon will not be as long as Moses!*

The recommended readings for next 2 weeks.

Deut 6-11 and 27-30



The OT says the children of Israel are camped in the Plains of Moab before they enter the promised land.

Imagine yourself & your family standing in what is now present day Jordan as you listen to this ~~last~~ <sup>last</sup> sermon from Moses,

— Moses takes this time to instruct the people about how they should live as God's people,

— The people are called to live in a covenant relationship with, with obedience & love for God at the center.

→ We too have been called into relationship with God thru<sub>2</sub> Jesus but under a new covenant. — Sense the awe/specialness  
— What can we learn? We are chosen!

## Grace not Goodness

■ Deut 9:1 and 5-6 "Listen, O Israel! Today you are about to cross the Jordan River to take over the land belonging to nations much greater and more powerful than you.

■ <sup>5</sup> It is not because you are so good or have such integrity that you are about to occupy their land. The LORD your God will drive these nations out ahead of you only because of their wickedness, and to fulfill the oath he swore to your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. <sup>6</sup> You must recognize that the LORD your God is not giving you this good land because you are good, for you are not—you are a stubborn people.

Moses has lead the people & their descendants now for 40 years. He has seen their stubborn hearts and their sinfulness.

→ God is going to honor a promise he made to Abraham/Issac & Jacob.

→ The promised land was not going to be theirs because of their goodness, but because of God's grace.

## Grace not Goodness

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Eph 2:8-9 <sup>8</sup> God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. <sup>9</sup> Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. <sup>10</sup> For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

Much the same for us as we look at what Paul says in Eph 2,

- Saved by God's grace.
- We cannot take credit, *It is not a reward\* for good things done.*
- No one can boast,

- As we talk about obedience this morning, understand that it flows from a heart that understands God's grace, that understands the incredible love of God.
- Obedience will never earn us salvation, but disobedience can cause us to lose our salvation,

## Called to love God and obey with all our heart

► Deut 10:12-13 <sup>12</sup>“And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you? He requires only that you fear the LORD your God, and live in a way that pleases him, and love him and serve him with all your heart and soul. <sup>13</sup>And you must always obey the LORD’s commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good.

► Deut 11:1 “You must love the LORD your God and always obey his requirements, decrees, regulations, and commands.

### Response expected to God's Grace

- ① Fear the Lord your God
- ② Live in a way that pleases Him
- ③ Love & serve Him with all your heart & soul.
- ④ Always obey all the commands,

→ We cannot obey God part-time or ~~only~~ only when we find it convenient.

→ It cannot be a half-hearted response to what God has done for us.

## Called to love God and obey with all our heart

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Déut 11:1 “You must love the LORD your God and always obey his requirements, decrees, regulations, and commands.

John 14:15 <sup>15</sup>If you love me, obey my commandments.

1 John 2:3-6 <sup>3</sup>And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments. <sup>4</sup>If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. <sup>5</sup>But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. <sup>6</sup>Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

Jesus says in John 14:15 - If you love ~~me~~, obey my commands.

→ Do you love Jesus? → Does it show in the way you live?  
10 commandments what we don't do, rather it is about living a life that seeks to please God.

→ John says that to claim we know God and not obey his commands shows that we are a liar and the truth does not live in us. *each day*

→ vs 6 - Do you make it your objective <sup>each day</sup> to live like Jesus did?

\* Hard stuff to hear, but needed  
\* Hard stuff to do, but no excuse to not try.

## Incredible Blessings come with Obedience

Deut 11:8-15 <sup>8</sup>“Therefore, be careful to obey every command I am giving you today, so you may have strength to go in and take over the land you are about to enter. <sup>9</sup>If you obey, you will enjoy a long life in the land the LORD swore to give to your ancestors and to you, their descendants—a land flowing with milk and honey! <sup>10</sup>For the land you are about to enter and take over is not like the land of Egypt from which you came, where you planted your seed and made irrigation ditches with your foot as in a vegetable garden. <sup>11</sup>Rather, the land you will soon take over is a land of hills and valleys with plenty of rain— <sup>12</sup>a land that the LORD your God cares for. He watches over it through each season of the year!

<sup>13</sup>“If you carefully obey the commands I am giving you today, and if you love the LORD your God and serve him with all your heart and soul, <sup>14</sup>then he will send the rains in their proper seasons—the early and late rains—so you can bring in your harvests of grain, new wine, and olive oil. <sup>15</sup>He will give you lush pastureland for your livestock, and you yourselves will have all you want to eat.

### Blessings for those who obey

① Strength to go in and take the land.  
(vs 8)

② vs 9 — long life

③ vs 12 — God will be watching over your land

④ vs 13 — God will send the needed rains

⑤ vs 15 → God will provide so that you will have

all you want to eat.

Just a few of the tangible promises for those who obey.

Does God do the same for us today?

YES and more.

Not about the prosperity gospel - that is focused on getting rich. In fact, by serving God we may be blessed with incredible financial resources. The Q then becomes - am I using them for His glory.

## Incredible Blessings come with Obedience

► Matt 6:31-33 <sup>31</sup> "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' <sup>32</sup> These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. <sup>33</sup> Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

► 2 Peter 1:2-3 <sup>3</sup> By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. <sup>4</sup> And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.

① God has promised to take care of all our physical needs as we put the Kingdom first.

→ Putting the Kingdom first in our lives is to seek to please God and to obey Him.

② But even more important, God has given us everything we need to lead a godly life.

→ We have the opportunity in this life to share in ~~the~~ His divine nature & ~~to~~ escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.  
\* What a tremendous promise.



## We are guided by God

■ Deut 27:1-4 Then Moses and the leaders of Israel gave this charge to the people: "Obey all these commands that I am giving you today. <sup>2</sup> When you cross the Jordan River and enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, set up some large stones and coat them with plaster. <sup>3</sup> Write this whole body of instruction on them when you cross the river to enter the land the LORD your God is giving you—a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

■ Deut 30:11-14 <sup>11</sup> "This command I am giving you today is not too difficult for you, and it is not beyond your reach. <sup>12</sup> It is not kept in heaven, so distant that you must ask, 'Who will go up to heaven and bring it down so we can hear it and obey?' <sup>13</sup> It is not kept beyond the sea, so far away that you must ask, 'Who will cross the sea to bring it to us so we can hear it and obey?' <sup>14</sup> No, the message is very close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart so that you can obey it.

As you stand the Plains of Moab, how do you remember all that God wanted you to do?

- ① They were <sup>to</sup> erect a large ~~billboard~~ "billboard" once they crossed over with the commands written on them.   
 *Take stone, put plaster over them, & write all the words*
- ② The commands are not difficult or beyond ~~your~~ <sup>their</sup> reach.
- ③ The message is close  
→ on their lips  
→ on their hearts → So they can Obey

## We are guided by God

■ 2 Timothy 3:16-17 <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. <sup>17</sup> God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.

■ Hebrews 4:12 <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

■ Romans 7:6 <sup>6</sup> But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.

We too are guided by God and not left alone.

- ① We are left with inspired scripture.
- ② The word of God is alive & powerful.
- ③ We have ~~something~~ a power source they did not have, we have God's spirit living in us.

→ New approach to obeying

- Not an accounting book

- Rather a love letter from God.

Are you spending time in God's word?  
→ Are you obeying the things you read.

Being around obeying believers  
does not transfer to ~~you~~ you or me.  
We will be accountable.

We are guided by God – A Warning

**CAUTION**  
**WATCH YOUR STEP**

**WARNING**  
**WATCH YOUR HEAD**

**DANGER**

Deut 29:19-20 <sup>19</sup>“Those who hear the warnings of this curse should not congratulate themselves, thinking, ‘I am safe, even though I am following the desires of my own stubborn heart.’ This would lead to utter ruin! <sup>20</sup>The LORD will never pardon such people.

Before we leave Deut, I want us to look at this warning from Moses. → Worked in a chemical plant.

Imagine someone standing in the Plains of Moab thinking to themselves

- I can do what I want not what God wants.
- I will get rain because all my neighbors are following God
- My crops & wine & olive oil & flocks will be good because I am in the midst of people who are obeying
- Will lead to ruin & not being pardoned [God cannot be mocked].<sup>11</sup>

## God Opens Doors

Revelation 3:7-9 <sup>7</sup>“Write this letter to the angel of the church in Philadelphia.

This is the message from the one who is holy and true,  
the one who has the key of David.

What he opens, no one can close;  
and what he closes, no one can open:

<sup>8</sup>“I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can close. You have little strength, yet you obeyed my word and did not deny me. <sup>9</sup>Look, I will force those who belong to Satan’s synagogue—those liars who say they are Jews but are not—to come and bow down at your feet. They will acknowledge that you are the ones I love.

I want to close with this passage from Revelations 3.

- Doors of opportunity are opened for us if we are obedient to God,
- Not based on resources/what a great building we have — none of that.

Think of <sup>it</sup> this way — why would God put opportunities <sup>before</sup> us if we are not obeying Him? Why would he want to bring people to a group of Christians who are not obeying? We have no witness.