

Lesson XI.

LOVING AND OBEYING GOD

September 14, 1902

Deuteronomy 30: 11-20. Commit to memory vs. 15, 16. Read Deut., chs. 30, 31;

Rom. 10: 1-15.

11 For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not¹ hidden from thee, neither is it far off.

12 It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?

13 Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it?

14 But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it?

15 See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;

16 In that I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply; and that the Lord thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.

17 But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shall be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them;

18 I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish; and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it.

19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose, life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

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: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

Revised Version—1 Too hard for; 2 And make us to hear it, that we may do it; 3 That; 4 May; 5 Goest in; 6 And thou; 7 Omit that; 8 Go in; 9 Witness against you this day; 10 Thee; 11 The blessing and the curse; 12 Thou mayest live, thou and thy seed; 13 To love; 14 To obey.

EXPLANATION

Connection—The third and farewell address of Moses, of which this lesson forms a part, includes chs. 29, 30.

11-13. **This commandment**; the moral and



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ceremonial law—the law of duty and of worship—but especially the former, Ex. 20: 1-17. **Not hidden from thee.** The meaning of the commands was plain, and there was therefore no excuse for disobedience. **Neither is it afar off.** It was with them on tables of stone (Ex. 32: 16), and in the written book of the law, Ex. 24: 7. **It is not in heaven**; but close at hand. **That thou shouldest say**; offer the excuse of ignorance for disobedience. **Neither**

is it beyond the sea; in some foreign country beyond the sea and, therefore, beyond their knowledge. In other words: God did not expect impossibilities, but had made the way to a knowledge of Himself both plain and easy. Paul quotes this passage to show that God, through Christ, has made the way of salvation plain to faith and obedience, Rom. 10: 6-9.

14. **The word is very nigh unto thee.** It was in their very midst, Ex. 20: 18, 19. **In thy mouth.** They knew the very words of the law and could talk about them, ch. 6: 7. **In thine heart.** They could meditate upon them, Ps. 1: 2.

15, 16. **I have set before thee, etc.** They had their choice, Josh. 24: 15. **To love the Lord.** To love Him and to serve Him is the way of life, Matt. 22: 36-39. **Commandments**—are rules to be obeyed; **statutes**—laws laid down; **judgments**—commands with punishment attached. God would be merciful to mistakes and failures, if they would but do their best to serve Him, Hos. 14: 4.

17, 18. **If thine heart turn away**; from God to the worship of idols. **Ye shall surely perish.** Sin works out its own punishment, Prov. 11: 21. **Ye shall not prolong your days.** They would be driven out, like the wicked Canaanites. "The fact is that decay and destruction from moral causes are going on before us in countries like Turkey and Morocco, where social righteousness is all but unknown, and private morality is low. The whole of Mesopotamia shows that misgovernment can change a garden into a desert."

19, 20. **I call heaven and earth**; an appeal to God and man that he had set the way of life and of death fairly before them. **That thou mayest love . . . obey . . . cleave.** Love, faith (cleaving), and obedience always go together. **He is thy life.** To love and obey God is to live the highest life. **The length of thy days.** Other things being equal, long life rewards purity, love and faith. **Sware unto thy fathers.** See Gen. 12: 7; 26: 3; 28: 13. **To give them.** Canaan, like salvation, was the gift of God.