

What God Wants From Us

No. 287

Introduction.

I. Years ago Moses recorded these words in Deuteronomy the 10th chapter. (Deut. 10:12-21).

12 "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require from you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the Lord's commandments and His statutes which I am commanding you today for your good? 14 "Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the highest heavens, the earth and all that is in it. 15 "Yet on your fathers did the Lord set His affection to love them, and He chose their descendants after them, even you above all peoples, as it is this day. 16 "Circumcise then your heart, and stiffen your neck no more. 17 "For the Lord your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality, nor take a bribe. 18 "He executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and shows His love for the alien by giving him food and clothing. 19 "So show your love for the alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt. 20 "You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him and cling to Him, and you shall swear by His name. 21 "He is your praise and He is your God, who has done these great and awesome things for you which your eyes have seen.

II. Later these words were recorded in the book of Micah. (Mic. 6:6-8).

6 With what shall I come to the Lord And bow myself before the God on high? Shall I come to Him with burnt offerings, With yearling calves? 7 Does the Lord take delight in thousands of rams, In ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I present my first-born for my rebellious acts, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? 8 He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?

II. In these readings we learn **in a general way** what is required of man.

A. **Sincere people** ask, "What does God want from us?" "How do we please Him?"

B. **Some have sought to discover this** from nature or from the wisdom of men or from their own thinking. These things have no value in telling us what God wants from us.

1. Only God's word tells us what God wants from us.
2. Only God's word teaches us exactly how to please God.

I. **Our Attention** - God wants us attention.

A. **Men are inclined to do their own thing.** They want to do what is right in their own eyes.

B. The Bible says. (Prov. 14:12; Isa. 55:8, 9).

C. **We need to listen to God.**

1. We are to listen and hearken to His every word. (Matt. 4:4).
2. **God speaks to us today through His Son.** (Jn. 6:68; Matt. 17:1-5; 28:18; Heb. 1:2; Lk. 10:16).

II. **Our Love** - God wants our love.

A. That fact has always amazed me.

1. Why would an omnipotent, holy God want a puny, sinful human's love?
2. But though I do not understand it, it is still true.

B. **God wants our undivided, unreserved love!** (Matt.22:37). **Explain** (Circumcision, Sabbath, Tithing)

III. **Our Obedience** - God wants our obedience.

A. God wants us to substantiate [prove] our love for Him.

1. Mere thoughts or good intentions do not prove our love for God.
2. Mere words do not prove our love for God.

B. **God want us to obey Him.** (Eccles. 12:13).

C. The apostle John wrote. (1 Jn. 2:3-5; 5:3; 2 Jn. 6).

IV. **Our Life** - God wants our life.

A. God wants to control our life.

1. He does not want to be a piece of our life, but He wants the whole thing.
2. He does not want a half-hearted commitment, that is, here today and gone tomorrow commitment.
3. He wants to be our meat and drink.
4. He wants to be our everything, our all in all.

B. We should be able to daily say with Jesus. (Jn. 4:34).

C. We should be able to say with Paul. (Gal. 2:20).

D. We should have the attitude expressed in these scriptures. (Col. 3:1, 2, 16, 17).

EPH 4:22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

PHI 3:13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

V. Our Company - God wants our company.

A. God is surrounded by vast beauty and by the angels, but He still wants our company with Him.

1. God created man to honor and glorify Him now and forever.

2. God gave His Son that man might have fellowship with Him and live with Him forever.

B. Once again, I find a certain amazement in this, but the testimony of scripture supports this fact.

C. **Listen to these words comforting words.** (Jn. 3:16; 14:1-3; Rev. 7:11-17).

11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying, ¶ "Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen." 13 And one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and from where have they come?" 14 And I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 "For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne shall spread His tabernacle over them. 16 "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; 17 for the Lamb in the center of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them to springs of the water of life; and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes. "

D. Rev. 14:13; 21:4.

Conclusion.

- I. **This lesson has been very simple.** The thoughts have been simple enough for even a child to understand.
- II. I hope and pray that we will do more than understand them. I hope and pray that we will act on them.
- III. **Today is the day to obey God.** Today is the day to listen to God and turn away from your sins. Today is the day to make the good confession that Jesus is God's Son. Today is the day to be baptized and live a life of obedience and devotion to God. Today is the day to fix your eyes on heaven that one day heaven will be yours. Come to Christ now as we stand and sing!

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