

Here are a few thoughts on today's class.

The chapter starts with the urgent assertion: Observe the commands! It then explains this in terms of

- consequences
- benefits
- liabilities

These are the results of how the matter is done.

What of this?

There is an unfortunate reality namely all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. This is not surprising given the weakness of human nature. However, despite this fault, perhaps because of it, the Israelites were to undertake this task. Unfortunately, it also led to a literal application of said laws.

In Jesus's day he criticised the Priests and Levites for not applying the spirit of the laws instead of the literality. Again, they used the tenets of the law as a controlling mechanism, as opposed to a godly guidance to a higher manifestation of Divine character.

This is shown in the scriptures by a few examples. David was renowned - not just a good man but as a man whose heart was like unto the Lord. By this trait though he failed, he was still an example to look up to. God Himself spoke that the nation of Israel should have been renowned as the people of God and amongst whom God dwelt. Verse 5 in this chapter lists the quote Jesus used to rebuff and counter one of his temptations. This shows the value all need to place upon the Word and thereby on the promises made by God. Jesus also used language similar to here in Deuteronomy in John 10: Ye are my friends if you keep my

commandments. In fact, we are frequently given reminders to heed the word of God, it should be a lamp unto our feet, a light to guide our paths, a place of safety in the storms of life. We must remember, that to observe the commandments- it is a full time job, requiring ongoing effort and not something to be done on a here and there basis.

However, we should ask what is a commandment? In it's simplest form it is an order. Similar to that used in the armed services in drills: stand at attention, at ease , march, march in step , quick step, prepare, present arms etc. However, it is more so – why? because these examples just reinforce how any command can be just a convention - a deed done as a routine without a second thought - a base action: all of which could be good but often can be done - to coin a phrase - like water off a duck's back. A set of mindless actions done by any, without any understanding required; and thereby show how in Jesus's day, as elsewhere a form of control - an outward show - rather than a grounded mindset.

A sense of ORDER - not an instruction - so much as a process or environment, which as mentioned earlier, is to assist a place of security for our often storms of life. I speak as one who needs such shelter but admit it is not always taken.

However the scripture does declare out of weakness cometh strength. God is glorified by those in weakness. Romans1 the weakness of God is stronger than the wisdom of men.

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