

# Deuteronomy

## Loving Obedience to a Loving God

### Sunday, May 1, 2016

#### Deuteronomy 4:1-24

##### I. Introduction

Last week, we talked about being an overcomer and how to fight the battles with the Lord.

##### II. Standing on the Word (v.1-5)

v.1 – *“...teaching you and do them that you may live...”*

Here is the formula for success in life - expose yourself to the Word and obey what it says, and God will bless you with success.

James 1:22 – *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”*

We deceive ourselves by thinking we are doing fine because we know the Scriptures when actually we are headed for a crash. Bible knowledge is worthless without obedience.

John 14:21 – *“Jesus says, whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me.”*

v.2 - You don't add or take away from the Word.

##### III. Submitting to the Word (v.6-14)

v.6 – *“Keep them and do them...”*

When we submit to God's Word, there is a wisdom and understanding that we develop as we mature.

*“The true servant of God bows in submission to the Word, acknowledging his or her fallibility and approaching the Scriptures like a child hungry to be fed. This is not bibliolatry, as some claim, it is a humble recognition that the Bible is the Word of God.” Ajith Fernando*

When we submit to God's Word, there is not only a wisdom and understanding issue, but also an evangelistic effect from it.

v.7,8 – *“has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us and what nation is there that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law...”*

v.9 – *“Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life.”*

1 Timothy 4:16 – *“Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.”*

#### **IV. Departing from the Word (v.15-22)**

When we move from the Word, we begin to worship idols and forget God.

v.15 – *“Therefore watch yourselves very carefully.”*

Leaders must consistently warn themselves and others about the dangers of drifting into unfaithfulness.

When we feel weak and vulnerable, we can be tempted to look to something tangible, something we can see or touch (like they did with idols or carved images).

#### **V. Returning to the Word (v.23–24)**

v.23 – *“Take care, lest you forget the covenant of the Lord your God...For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.”*

Moses is asking them not to forget the covenant or they will face the wrath of God. The symbol of “consuming fire” communicates the idea of destructive punishment.

Hebrews 12: 28b,29 – *“...and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.”*

“A Jealous God” – communicates love for his people and commitment.

*“The fire of Yahweh as a jealous God is the fire of an exclusive commitment to his people that demands an exclusive commitment in return... The fire of redeeming love that has brought them out of the fires of bondage.” C. Wright*