

## **BE PASSIONATE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. In today's lesson, the theme of exclusive worship and service to God is revisited and amplified.
2. Moses reminds us that God is the only true God, and is worthy of a love that involves our heart, soul and strength. He then sets forth guidelines for expressing that kind of love, which will encompass our entire life. In other words, he is demanding that we become **PASSIONATE** in our relationship to God.
3. What are some areas in which people today are very passionate about?
4. In the verses preceding our lesson passage, Moses had reminded the Israelites of their responsibility of living their lives on the basis of these instructions (commandments, statutes and ordinances) which came directly from God.

#### **I. LOVE THAT SHOWS PRIORITY. Deut. 6:4-9.**

- A. Our God is One God, and the Only God. They did not understand the concept of the Triune God, but it is implicit in the Old Testament "Jehovah." (As in Gen. 1-3)
- B. Because He is the One and Only God, He demands our absolute love and service. This means, according to these verses, that God occupies the principle place in our thoughts and actions every day of our lives. This is the only way we will be successful in instilling this same love for God in our children. ("Our lives speak so loud that they can't hear what we say" is often a reality.)
- C. The New Testament reveals that Jews took this command literally, and wore phylacteries on their foreheads and left arm which contained the words of Ex. 13:1-16 and Deut. 6:4-9 and 11:13-21. Jesus reprimanded them for simple outward show without a true heart-felt devotion.

#### **II. DEVOTION THAT NEVER FORGETS. Deut. 6:10-14.**

- A. We talked last week about the changes that would be experienced by these folks as they settled in Canaan. Among those changes would be a completely different life-style. No longer would they be nomadic shepherds living in tents. They would settle into houses and become farmers.
- B. In the midst of this drastic change, and the fact that it all became theirs as a gift from God, Moses challenges them to remain faithful to their God. He goes all the way back to the slavery in Egypt to make his point: don't allow this new-found prosperity to make you forget God. Rather, "fear God, worship Him and take your oaths in His Name." Solomon declared that "the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom," and that admonition is repeated throughout the Scriptures.
- C. In the remaining verses of chapter 6, Moses declares that to fail in this area would be to "tempt God" as they did at Massah, because God is a jealous God.

### **III. GRACE THAT'S UNDESERVED. Deut. 7:6-9.**

- A. Of course, ALL Grace is undeserved. Otherwise it wouldn't be Grace, would it?
- B. What Moses is telling them is, that everything they will possess, and every victory they achieve, will be the result of God's provision, and not their own strength.
- C. Even so, Christians today owe all that they are and all that they have to God and His Amazing Grace! We have nothing that we did not receive, Paul states. And, just as Moses refers to Israel as a "holy people belonging to the Lord," Peter declares that we are "living stones, being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood.....a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people." And Paul states that we are "not your own, you are bought with a price."
- D. We are further admonished by Peter that we should not use this position of privilege as "cloak of unrighteousness" but "by doing good, you may silence the evildoer."

### **CONCLUSION:**

Let us remember that our God is absolutely faithful in all that He says and does, and all He asks of us is that same faithfulness. Remember that Jesus said that all the law and prophets hinge upon these 2 great commandments: Love God with all your heart, soul and strength; and love your neighbor as yourself." Be passionate in your expression of your love for God and in your service to Him!