

Listen!
Deuteronomy 6:1–9

February 13, 2005

SERMON NOTES

A. Introduction

1. Sh^{em}ma Yisrael – O Israel! Hear!
 - a. Psalm 54:2; asking God to “hear” in prayer, we want Him to ...
 - b. when God tells us to “hear,” He wants us to ...
 - c. 2 Timothy 3:16–17; wrong and right uses of God’s Word ...

2. Apostle Paul’s Creed (for your future study): Titus 2:11–14

B. “The LORD is our God, the LORD is One!” Deuteronomy 6:4b

1. the prerequisite to serving God by obedience
 - a. John 17:3; is first of all ...
 - b. John 14:6, Acts 4:12, 1 Timothy 2:5; and to recognized that...
2. in order to aid recognition
 - a. Moses reminded Israel that (countless references through the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy!) ...
 - b. We need to be reminded that (Ephesians 2:8-10, 2 Corinthians 1:20, 2 Peter 1:3) ...
3. the Hebrew words for “One”
 - a. “yachidh” as in Genesis 22:2, means ...
 - b. “’echadh” as in Gen 2:24, Num 13:23, Ezra 2:64 & here means

4. some names of God given in the Old Testament
 - a. Jehovah-Nissi ... the Lord our B_____ Exodus 17:15
 - b. Jehovah-Shalom ... the Lord is (our) P_____ Judges 6:24
 - c. Jehovah-Tsidkenu ... the Lord our R_____ Jer 23:6
 - d. El Elyon ... the Most H_____ God Genesis 14:18
 - e. El Qanna’ or El Qanno’ ... God the J_____ Exodus 34:14 (also see Exodus 20:5, Joshua 24:19, Nahum 1:2); this word J_____ also bears the meaning Z_____; so this speaks of all that God has done for us, giving incentive to obey ...

C. The Love Command Deuteronomy 6:5

1. underlie Jesus words in John 13:35, chapters 14–16
2. behind Paul’s prayer, Ephesians 3:14–21
3. foundational to P_____ Christianity, James and 1 John as summed up in 1 John 4:20–21
4. love due to the Lord Jesus Christ for He is G_____ John 1:12–18
5. God deserves this love by His P_____ love for us, Romans 5:8, 1 John 4:10

D. Grab Hold of God’s Will for You and for Yours . . Deuteronomy 6:6–9

1. “in your heart” – it is to affect my ...
2. “house, sit, lie down, rise up” – best way of teaching my children is
3. “frontlet between your eyes” – means for me God’s word is to be
4. “doorposts, gates” – is that my home should be

E. Conclusion: how will I requite Jesus love of John 10:10, 18?

A. Introduction

1. There was a radio station in New York, FM-106 —{2}.
 - a. that ran a contest in the late 'nineties where their audience was asked to set their clock radios to this station and "Just for fun, when you wake up to the sound of FM-106, call and tell us the first words you spoke when you rolled out of bed. If you're the third caller, you'll win \$106." This became quite popular, with many amusing responses:
 - (A) a groggy voice saying, "Do I smell coffee burning?"
 - (B) a sleepy clerical worker: "Oh no, I'm late for work."
 - (C) a woman, "Honey, did I put out the dog last night?" followed by an overheard growl "No, you didn't."
 - b. One morning, however, the third caller said something unusual. The station phone rang. "Good morning, this is FM-106. You're on the air. What did you say when you rolled out of bed this morning?"
 - (A) a Bronx accent asked, "You want to know my first words in the morning?"
 - (B) the bubbly DJ said, "Yes, sir! Tell us what you said."
 - (C) the Bronx voice responded, "Shema' Yisrael ... Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might."
 - (D) ... embarrassed silence; then the DJ's voice, "Sorry, wrong number," and cut to a commercial.
2. Shema' Yisrael ... O Israel, Hear; Harken; Pay Attention To; Obey ... how much is wrapped up in that word "listen" as is quickly seen in the illustration of the mother giving instructions to her child and ending with "... now do you hear me?" which is followed by the child's muttered response, "I hear you, but I'm not listening."
 - a. the word is used in prayer to God, as in Psalm 54:2 where David pleads, "Hear my prayer, O God; Give ear to the words of my mouth." — David is not just interested in that the sound of his voice reaches God, but that God will do something about it; God will act
 - b. so it is also when God's words are addressed to His people — God's Word
 - (A) presents us with truth not merely

- (1) so that it can be an interesting point of discussion
- (2) nor as a way of proving that we are right
- (3) nor to tickle our intellectual ears
- (B) but it presents it so that the truth may change our lives
 - (1) that we know God more intimately
 - (2) and that we will follow Him more closely
 - (3) and that we will love Him more fully
- (C) 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NAS): 16 "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 that the man of God may be adequate, equipped ..."
 - (1) ... to win the latest trivia challenge? — No!
 - (2) ... for fine points of theological argument? — No!
 - (3) ... to point out other's shortcomings? — No!
 - (4) "... for every good work." — yes, it is the intention of God's word that we live godly lives, lives that are pleasing to Him
 - (5) that is the climax of that neat little confession of faith, the Apostle Paul's creed, that is found in his letter to Titus 2: 11–14 ... note that reference, Titus 2: 11–14, and take some time reading through it, considering it, and applying it.

3. but now, let us look at just a couple of the instructions that were given to God's people, Israel, and which I believe, for the reasons just given, apply today to God's people, the church; so let us LISTEN!

B. First, verse 4b, "The Lord is our God, the Lord is One!"

1. now the first thing to which we absolutely must pay attention, that we must understand, that we must make part of our lives, is just Who God is; we must know Him to Whom to know is life eternal, know Him as our own personal Saviour; John 17:3 (NAS): "And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent." — Listen,
 - a. John 14:6 (NAS): Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me."
 - b. Acts 4:12 (NAS): "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name {than Jesus} under

heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.”

- c. 1 Timothy 2:5 (NAS): “For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,”
- d. do you begin to see a theme here? God stands alone! There is none like Him!
- e. the God of the Old Testament and the God of the New is the same God, and exclusivity is the key-note of God

2. and here we have a prerequisite to everything that follows

- a. Moses’ audience, and it is Moses who was speaking these words to the children of Israel, and in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, time and time again they had been reminded:
 - (A) it is the Lord Who brought you out of the bondage of the land of Egypt
 - (B) it is the Lord Who with a mighty and outstretched hand has redeemed you
 - (C) it is the Lord Who has fought your battles over all of your enemies
 - (D) it is the Lord Who has led you, and protected you, and given you food to eat, and provided you with water to drink, and has dwelt in your midst
 - (E) it is the Lord Who has chosen you to be His own special people, a nation for Himself
 - (F) it is the Lord Who will take you into the land that He promised to your forefathers Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
 - (G) so your every action is to take into account what the Lord has already done for you, His people
- b. and, likewise, the message that is to follow is only for those who have been regenerated — born again from above — by the Holy Spirit of God; and they are reminded
 - (A) it is God through Christ Who has brought you out of the bondage of sin
 - (B) it is God through Christ Who with mighty power has redeemed you on the cross of Calvary
 - (C) it is God through Christ Who has chosen you to be a people special to Himself
 - (D) it is God through Christ by Whom “all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” (2 Corinthians 1:20 NKJV)
 - (E) it is God through Christ Who, “as His divine power has given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that has called us to glory and virtue:” (2 Peter 1:3 NKJV)
- c. so all that follows is predicated upon what God has already done in the salvation that is provided by the

death of Jesus Christ upon the cross for our sin, and in our sorrow for that sin and our accepting God's offer of salvation from it

d. therefore, we are not talking here about observing God's commands so that we may gain salvation; what we're saying is that observing God's command provides our family and our community with an environment that is conducive to the gospel and to faith

3. but for a moment, let us come back to "God is One", that God stands alone, that there is none like Him

a. Hebrew has two different words that mean "One"—^{3}.

(A) yachidh; for example, a few weeks back we read about Abraham and Isaac from Genesis 22:2 where it says, "Take now your son, your only (yachidh) son..." and so elsewhere: this word means unity in singularity; it is absolute one, just as we use in arithmetic

(B) 'echadh: this is found, for example, in Genesis 1:5 "And God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one ('echadh) day." one day with two parts; we read too

(1) in Genesis 2:24, in Adam and Eve in marriage becoming one ('echadh) flesh

(2) in Numbers 13:23, when the spies cut down "one ('echadh) cluster of grapes"

(3) in Ezra 2:64, "The whole assembly together (or, as one, ie., 'echadh) was 42,360,"

(4) so this word means unity in complexity, and it is this word that is used in Deuteronomy 6:4

b. so, while God possesses a "unity of simplicity," that is, no internal conflict exists among His attributes, this word, 'echadh, "unity in complexity," means Deuteronomy 6:4 does not preclude this One God from revealing Himself in three distinct Persons: Father, Son, Holy Spirit

4. But God's oneness, His Complex Unity, His Uniqueness, bears with it another message or lesson to us

a. you probably know some of the names of God, such as

(A) Jehovah-Nissi — the Lord, our Banner

(B) Jehovah-Shalom — the Lord, our Peace

(C) Jehovah-Tsidkenu — the Lord, our Righteousness

(D) El Elyon — the mighty God

b. well here is another that is found throughout the Old Testament; in Hebrew it is El Qanna' or El Qanno', God, the Jealous, as we read in Exodus 34:14 (NAS): "for you shall not worship any other god, for the

Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God" (also see Exodus 20:5, Joshua 24:19, Nahum 1:2 for other examples)

- c. that word Jealous also bears the meaning Zealous
 - (A) with God, you cannot separate the two
 - (B) God points out, and we have briefly recounted,
 - (1) to His people, Israel, all that He has done for them
 - (2) to His people, the church, all He has done for us
 - (3) if, then, He has been zealous in doing all these mighty things for His people
 - (4) is it not His prerogative to be jealous of us that we should be likewise zealous for Him
 - (C) that we should obey ... and how?

C. The Love Command. verse 5 (NAS): "And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

1. these words

- a. lie not far under the surface of Jesus' words in John 13:35 and chapters 14–16, eg., John 14:15 (NAS) wherein Jesus says, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments."
- b. are behind Paul's prayer in, let's read, Ephesians 3:14–21
- c. are foundational to the teaching of practical Christianity as in the books of James and 1 John; eg., 1 John 4:20–21 (NAS): 20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. 21 And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also."

2. "What's the Problem?" –{4}.

- a. A few years ago a man gave his wife a new Cadillac Catera for her birthday.
- b. For weeks she babied and pampered that car;
 - (A) washing and waxing it every couple of days.
 - (B) cleaning it inside and out, every day.
 - (C) the windows looked like crystal.
 - (D) it smelt new, sprayed with "new car" fragrance

- c. So, what's the problem?
 - (A) her husband was feeling neglected
 - (B) he gave her this present out of love
 - (C) she seemed more interested in the gift than the giver
- d. God has been rehearsing that it was He, the One and Only God, who has blessed His people, and now He warns them not to love the Gifts and neglect the Giver
- e. the Christian should heed the same warning, to love God, the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit for all that He has done for us through the son; as we read from John 1 (NIV)
 - (A) verse 12: "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—"
 - (B) verse 14: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."
 - (C) verse 16: "From the fulness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another."
 - (D) Verse 18: "No-one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known."

- 3. the Christian then, no less than the children of Israel as they were about to enter the land of promise, have this impetus to "love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind and strength"
 - a. Romans 5:8 (NAS): "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."
 - b. 1 John 4:10 (NAS): "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

D. Grab Hold of God's Will for You and for Yours, verses 6–9 (NKJV)

- 1. 6 And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.
 - a. these verses contain so much that they will have to be left to you to consider more fully, or perhaps,

- be the theme for another day; but a few, brief comments are in order
- b. we think of the heart mainly as being our emotions, but in the Bible, it has a much wider connotation: it includes not only our feelings, but our intellect and our will — this is why the New Testament adds the word mind to the love commandment; so, let us note first, that God's will is to take hold of every part of your life
 - c. next, learn that the place where you teach others best will not be found in your standing in front of them in a Sunday School class, or the like; not in a formal setting, but rather in the everyday things of life: it will be what your children see in you of your daily relationship to God — as you sit, as you walk, as you lie down, as you get up — that will best teach them about God
 - d. then there are those frontlet — in Lord Jesus' day these had become phylacteries, small boxes containing four key portions of Scripture, ^{—{5}} in a box worn on the forehead; but that kind of literal application was then, I believe, quite a recent innovation, for only 2–3 centuries before, this was translated as God's commands being **"immovable, unshaken, firm, enduring before your eyes,"** ^{—{6}}. — God wants His word to be something always fixed in the spiritual sight of His people
 - e. when Carlos and Nicole are visiting from door to door, they will see from time to time a Mazzuzah, a small box containing a scroll of Scripture, marking out that house; Christians, too, not by a sign on their house but by their lives should be marked out in the community as being of the people of God

E. Conclusion

1. Unrequited Love ^{—{7}}.

- a. This is the story of two teenagers, Felipe and Donna. They dated for a while, then Donna's ardour cooled. But Felipe never stopped loving Donna.
- b. One day, Donna doubled over in pain. Doctors discovered that Donna was dying of a degenerative heart disease and desperately needed a heart transplant. Felipe heard about Donna's condition and told his mother, "I'm going to die and I'm going to give my heart to my girlfriend."
- c. Mother didn't think too much of this until 3 weeks later, Felipe woke up, complaining of pain on the left side of his head. In a few short hours, at the hospital they discovered that a blood vessel in his brain had burst — and he died.
- d. At his family's request, donations were made of his organs, and — according to Felipe's wishes — his heart for Donna. So, Donna received Felipe's heart!

2. Christ went even further
 - a. He gave His life — freely, willingly, lovingly — that we might have life as a result
 - b. John 10: 10, 18a (NKJV) 10 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. ... 18a No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself"
 - c. will God's love in Christ be unrequited in you? ... how will you respond to His love this morning? ... by love in return through accepting His precious gift and seeking to serve Him? ... or by continuing to follow in your own desires?
 - d. Listen! The choice is yours.

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Various English versions of the Holy Bible are used in this sermon. Some (for example, the AV, ASV, and NAS) seek to be strictly translations, while others (and especially PHIL) contain paraphrasing which involves a certain amount of subjective interpretation. Nevertheless, there is little material difference in meaning among these. Some prove slightly clearer on some verses than others. Looking at more than one version sometimes sheds additional light on any particular verse. Explanatory additions to the Bible text are shown in [square brackets]. The versions are identified as:

ASV	American Standard Version of 1901
AV	Authorized (King James) Version
NAS	New American Standard version © 1975 The Lockman Foundation
NIV	New International Version © 1984 by the International Bible Society
NKJV	New King James Version © 1979 Thomas Nelson Inc., Publishers
PHIL	New Testament Translation © 1972 by J. B. Phillips
RSV	Revised Standard Version © 1946, 1952 by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.
WEY	The New Testament in Modern Speech © 1902, 1912 R. F. Weymouth

Further sermons and illustrations may be found at the web-site, www.holwick.com. Materials in this sermon from Rev. David Holwick's database are identified by “Kerux” followed by a sermon or illustration number.

2. Adapted from “What You Say When You Roll Out Of Bed” by William G. Carter (Rev. Brett Blair's Illustrations), Kerux illustration #16779
3. From, “A Single Resolution from a Single Confession” by Rev. Chris Vogel, Kerux sermon #7176
4. “What's the Problem” provided by Abe Kudra; Kerux illustration as yet unnumbered.
5. Deuteronomy 11:13–22, 6:4–9, Exodus 13:11-16, 13:1–10 in that order.
6. Septuagint for Deuteronomy 6:8
7. “Living Education” by Rev. Stephen Muncherian, Kerux sermon #19258