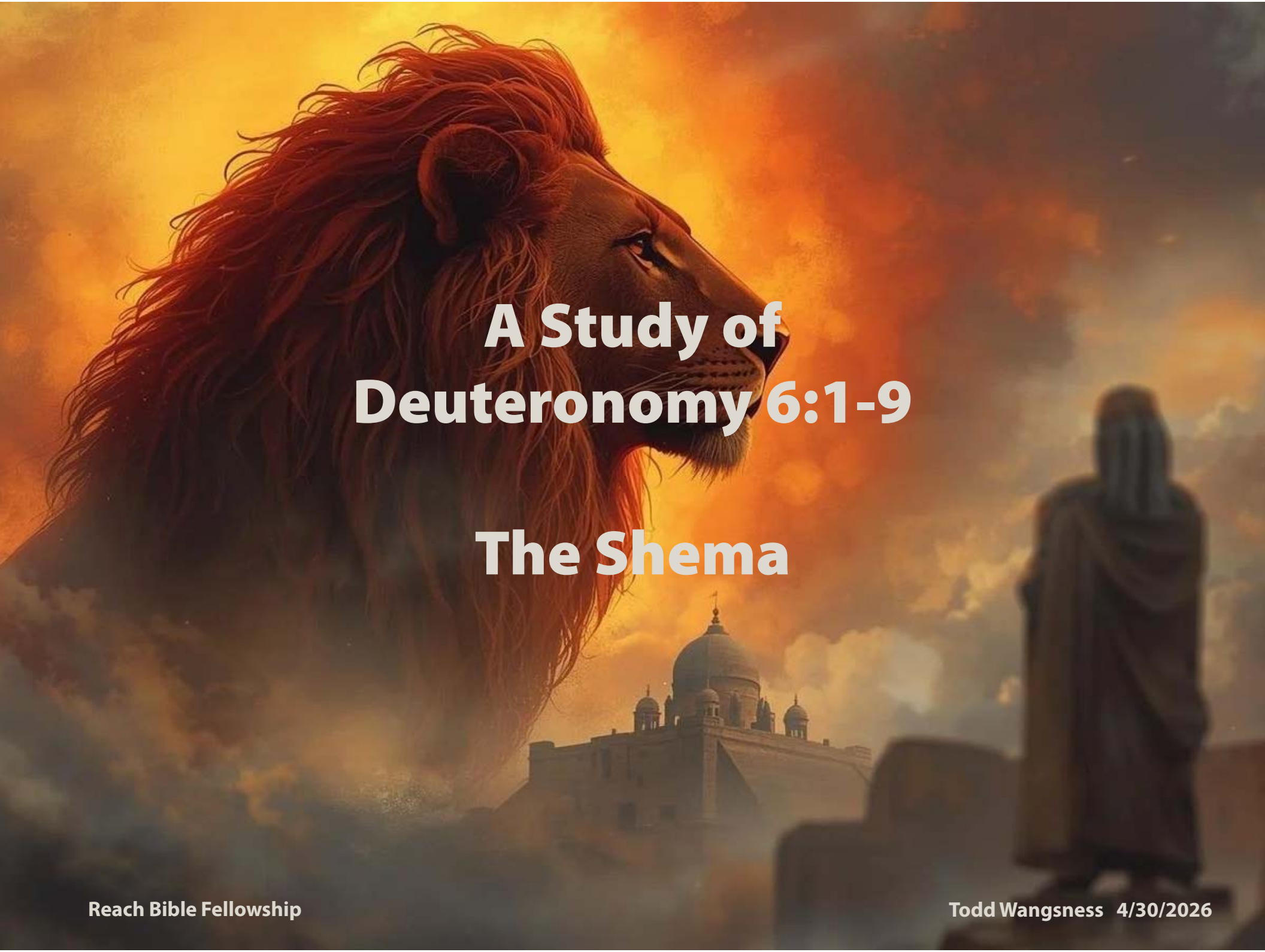


A Study of Deuteronomy 6:1-9

The Shema

Reach Bible Fellowship

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Deut 6:1-9 “The Shema”

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 Overview

- **Verses 1-3: The Command to Obey for Blessing**
  - Moses presents the commandments as a unified body of instruction ("this is the commandment"). The goal is multi-generational: fear (reverent awe and obedience) of the Lord, leading to prolonged life, prosperity, and fruitfulness in the land.
- **Verses 4-5: The Core Declaration (The Shema)**
  - The theological heart of the passage. "The LORD is one" (Hebrew: YHWH echad) affirms monotheism—the exclusive worship of the one true God (Yahweh), in contrast to the polytheism of surrounding nations. It can also carry the sense of "the LORD alone" or undivided loyalty. The command to love God is total: with heart (inner being, will, emotions), soul (life force, whole person), and strength (might, resources, actions).
- **Verses 6-9: Internalizing and Transmitting the Commands**
  - Faith must be internalized first ("on your hearts") before it can be taught. It requires diligent, everyday instruction — conversations in all settings of life (home, travel, bedtime, morning).

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Notable Quotes About Deuteronomy 6:1-9

"To love God with all the heart means that the affections must all be set upon Him... with all the soul — that is, the life, the very essence of our being must be poured out in love to Him. With all the mind — the understanding, the thoughts, the reason must all be engaged in loving Him. With all the strength — all the powers and faculties of the body and of the mind must be employed in His service."

- **Charles Spurgeon**

"Our Lord declared this to be the sum of the Law and the Prophets. Now, love is both a principle and an emotion; it is something both felt and willed. It is capable of almost infinite degrees. ... And God is never satisfied with anything less than all: 'all thy heart . . . all thy soul . . . all thy might.' ... No, it is impossible to worship God without loving Him. What does God require from us in worship? God requires all of our heart, soul, and might in worship."

- **A. W. Tozer**

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The Command to Obey for Blessing

Deu 6:1 ***"Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess,***

- ***"Commandment":*** **Heb '*mitzvah*'.**
  - **A command, order, or charge; a directive from God. Often used as an umbrella term for the whole body of law.**
  - **Broad, authoritative instructions. Can encompass the other two.**
  - **Examples: Love God, honor parents, keep the Sabbath.**
- ***"Statutes":*** **Heb '*chukkim*'.**
  - **Decrees, prescribed rules, or "engraved" laws (from root meaning "*to inscribe*" or "*to decree*").**
  - **These are "boundary markers" whose reason may not be obvious (e.g., dietary laws/kosher rules, laws of ritual purity, prohibition on mixing wool and linen). Obeyed because God commanded them.**
- ***"Judgments":*** **Heb '*mishpatim*'.**
  - **Judicial decisions, verdicts, or "right-rulings." From the root *shapat* (to judge).**
  - **Rational/moral laws whose purpose is usually clear and self-evident. They govern justice, civil and criminal matters between people (e.g., laws against murder, theft, fraud, rules for fair business, restitution, treatment of strangers/widows/orphans).**

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Deu 6:2 *That you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.*

- **Purpose of keeping the laws:** *"that your days may be prolonged"*
  - *Deu 30:19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; 20 that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days …*

- **Blessings and Cursings Chapter:** *Deu 28* **Homework: Read this chapter!!!**
  - **Blessings for Obedience:** *Deu 28:1-14*
  - **Cursings on Disobedience:** *Deu 28:15-68*

Deut 6:1-9 "The Shema"

Deu 6:3 ***Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you—'a land flowing with milk and honey.'***

- ***"Hear, O Israel"*****: "Shema Yisrael"**

- ***"Shema":*** **Hebrew: to hear, listen to, obey, give regard to.**
  - **Hebrew uses the same word for "hear" as "obey"**

- **Moses re-emphasizes the crucial importance to obey, "that it may be well with you"**
  - **As he continues to do in this passage – as well as the rest of Deuteronomy**
  - ***Exo 24:3 So Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words which the LORD has said we will do."***

Deut 6:1-9 “The Shema”

The Shema Part I

Deu 6:4 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!

- **The Shema consists of three Torah sections:**
  1. **Deu 6:4-9 The core declaration of God's oneness and the commandment to love God fully**
  2. **Deu 11:13-21 A continuation emphasizing obedience to God's commandments, the consequences of faithfulness or disobedience (blessings or curses tied to the land)**
  3. **Num 15:37-41 Command to make tassels to remember the commandments and as a reminder that the Lord brought them out of Egypt**

Deut 6:1-9 "The Shema"

Old Testament Proofs of the Son (Second Person of the Trinity)

- **Genesis 1:26**: ***"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.'"*** **(Plural "us/our" within the one God of creation.)**
- **Psalms 2:7**: ***"I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, 'You are my Son; today I have begotten you.'"*** **(The Father addresses the Son; applied to Jesus in the NT, e.g., Acts 13:33.)**
- **Psalm 45:6–7**: ***"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness; you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."*** **(The Father directly addresses the Son/King as "O God" [Elohim], while distinguishing "your God" who anoints Him. Quoted in Hebrews 1:8–9 as the Father speaking to the Son.)**
- **Psalms 110:1**: ***"The Lord says to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.'"*** **(Two distinct "Lords"; Jesus quotes this in Mark 12:35–37 to affirm His identity.)**
- **Isaiah 9:6**: ***"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."***
- **Isaiah 48:16**: ***"'Come near to me, hear this: from the beginning I have not spoken in secret, from the time that it came to be I have been there.' And now the Lord God has sent me, and his Spirit."*** **(The speaker—understood as the Son—distinguishes Himself from the Lord God [Father] and the Spirit.)**

Deut 6:1-9 “The Shema”

New Testament Proofs of the Son (Second Person of the Trinity)

- **John 1:1, 14**: ***“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. … And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”*** **(The Word = Jesus, eternal and divine.)**
- **John 10:30**: ***“I and the Father are one.”*** **(Jesus’ claim to unity with the Father, leading to accusations of blasphemy for making Himself God.)**
- **John 8:58**: ***“Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.’”*** **(Echoing God’s name in Exodus 3:14.)**
- **Colossians 2:9**: ***“For in him [Christ] the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily.”***
- **Hebrews 1:8 (quoting Psalm 45:6*): “But of the Son he says, ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.’”* (God the Father calls the Son “God.”)**
- **Matthew 3:16–17**: **At Jesus’ baptism: the Spirit descends on the Son while the Father speaks from heaven *(“This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased”)*. (All three Persons present and distinct.)**

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Old Testament Proofs of the Holy Spirit (Third Person of the Trinity)

- **Genesis 1:2**: ***"The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."*** **(Active in creation alongside God.)**
- **Psalm 51:11**: ***"Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me."*** **(Personal relationship implied.)**
- **Isaiah 63:10**: ***"But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy."*** **(The Spirit can be grieved, showing personhood.)**
- **Isaiah 48:16**: ***"Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; From the time that it was, I was there. And now the Lord GOD and His Spirit Have sent Me."*** **Distinguishes the Spirit from the Lord God and the sent One (Son).**

Deut 6:1-9 “The Shema”

New Testament Proofs of the Holy Spirit (Third Person of the Trinity)

- **Matthew 28:19**: *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name [singular] of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”* **(All three Persons share one divine name.)**
- **Acts 5:3–4**: *“But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit … You have not lied to man but to God.’”* **(Lying to the Spirit = lying to God.)**
- **1 Corinthians 3:16**: *“Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?”* **(The Spirit’s indwelling makes believers God’s temple.)**
- **John 14:16–17, 26**: *Jesus says: “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper [the Holy Spirit] … the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things.”* **(“Another” of the same kind as Jesus; distinct from Father and Son.)**
- **2 Corinthians 13:14**: *“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”* **(All three Persons invoked equally in blessing.)**

Deut 6:1-9 "The Shema"

Deu 6:5 ***You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.***

- **"Heart": Hebrew *lēvāv***
  - **The inner core of a person**
  - **The command center that includes:**
    - **Will and decisions**
    - **Desires and affections**
    - **Thoughts, perceptions, and understanding**

- **"Soul": Hebrew *nephesh***
  - **One's whole living substance or inner being**

- **"Strength": Hebrew *me'ōḏ***
  - **The might, force, and abundance of one's being, i.e., everything at one's disposal**
  - **Me'od is usually an adverb meaning "very," "exceedingly," or "greatly" (it appears that way 298 times in the Old Testament)**

Deut 6:1-9 "The Shema"

Deu 6:6-9 ***"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.***

- **Moses is making the case that we're not just to "talk the talk", but "walk the walk"!**
  - **The words God has placed within our heart are to be manifest in public display, as well as our private thoughts and actions**
  - **We are to be *saturated* with the things of God**
- **He is also emphasizing that we as parents – in particular – the fathers are to teach and disciple our children**
  - **Preach the gospel to our families, day in … day out! Use words if necessary!**
- **The admonition to bind them as visible reminders is a metaphor for keeping God's Word constantly in view … allowing it to shape our actions (hand) and thoughts (eyes/forehead) to the world and in our home**

Deut 6:1-9 "The Shema"

Deu 6:5 ***You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.***

- **"Heart": Hebrew *lēvāv***
  - **The inner core of a person**
  - **The command center that includes:**
    - **Will and decisions**
    - **Desires and affections**
    - **Thoughts, perceptions, and understanding**
  - ***Pro 4:23 Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.***
  - **Without our will, desires, passions, affections, perceptions, and thoughts rightly aligned, a life of love is impossible**
  - **We are transformed from the inside, with an inner disposition toward God as Savior, Sovereign, and supreme Satisfier**
  - **A right heart produces right actions**
    - **Without it, external obedience becomes legalism or hypocrisy**
  - **In the New Testament, Jesus echoes this when He quotes the Shema and links it to the greatest commandment (*Mat 22:37; Mar 12:30*)**

Deut 6:1-9 "The Shema"

- **"Soul":** Hebrew *nephesh*
  - One's whole living substance or inner being
  - 'Soul' is broader than heart
    - It refers to our whole living being or entire person
    - It includes emotions, personality, physical life, hungers, reactions, speech, actions, and daily conduct
  - Love God with your passions, hungers, perceptions, and thoughts
  - We are to love him with how we talk, and what we do with our hands, and how we utilize our talents, and how we react to challenges
    - Our entire being is to display that we love God
  - Loving God with all your soul means your whole life (not just private feelings) visibly honors Him
  - All our words, habits, relationships, and responses to trials should reflect a 'belonging' to our Lord!

Deut 6:1-9 "The Shema"

- **"Strength":** Hebrew *me'ōḏ*
  - The might, force, and abundance of one's being, i.e., everything at one's disposal
  - Me'od is usually an adverb meaning "very," "exceedingly," or "greatly" (it appears that way 298 times in the Old Testament)
    - Here it functions almost like a noun … "much-ness," force, abundance, or "very-ness"
  - 'Strength' moves outward even further than *heart* and *soul*:
    - From the inner heart → our whole personal being (soul) → to everything at our disposal!
  - It includes physical strength/energy, but also resources, possessions, time, talents, wealth, opportunities … whatever we have "very much" of!

Deut 6:1-9 "The Shema"

- **Together with the repeated "all", loving God with ALL our Heart, Soul, and Strength demand undivided, wholehearted, exhaustive love with no compartments left for idols!!!**
- **Our *LOVE FOR GOD* is not *just* a warm fuzzy emotion!**
  - **It also requires a conscious, purposeful intention and act of the will to *put on righteousness* – all the while *putting off* the things of the flesh**
  - ***Col 3:1-14***
- **But – we need to recognize where our *will* originates after we are believers**
  - ***Phil 2:12b-13 "… work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."***
- ***Rom 6:12-13 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.***
- ***Rom 6:14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.***

Deut 6:1-9 "The Shema"

Questions To Ponder

- **Are we still "commanded" to "keep" the Commandments and Judgments of the Old Covenant?**
  - ***Hebrews 8:7-13 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. 8 Because finding fault with them, He says: "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— 9 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD. 10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 11 None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. 12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."***
  - ***13 In that He says, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.***
- **The New Covenant is by the Law of Faith**
  - ***Rom 3:21-22 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe.***
  - ***Rom 3:27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith.***

Deut 6:1-9 "The Shema"

Questions To Ponder (cont.)

- **Old Covenant commandments/judgments not repeated in the New Covenant**
  - ***Sabbath Day and other Holy Days***
  - ***Tithing:*** **However, generous freewill offerings from the heart are commanded**
  - ***Circumcision***
  - ***Sacrifices***
  - ***Clean / Unclean foods***
  - ***Etc.***
- **Jesus's Sermon on the Mount moves these "Commandments" from outward acts to matters of the heart, i.e., internal, spiritual inclinations/motivations**
  - **For example, idol worship is no longer a physical act of bowing down to an idol, but *anything* that takes our eyes from Jesus**
  - ***1 Joh 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.***

Deut 6:1-9 “The Shema”

The Shema

Deu 6:4-5 ***“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is One! 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.***

The Believer’s Anthem!

Gal 2:20 ***I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.***