

## Life-Study of Deuteronomy Summary - Messages 11–15

### God's Choice – The Definite Ground for the Worship of God

The rehearsal of the law in Deut. 12 is very definite in emphasizing the requirement that **we take God's choice in the matter of a worship centre**. Moses was definite in this matter because it was related to the keeping of the oneness of God's people. In the type in Deut. 12, the children of Israel were required to come to a particular geographical location. This means that in the Old Testament the chosen ground was an actual physical place. **Today, the proper ground for the worship of God is in our spirit**. God's habitation, His dwelling place, is in our spirit. As long as we are in our spirit, we are in the right place for the worship of God.

In the Lord's recovery, we have one name and one Spirit. **We all meet in the name of Jesus Christ, and we all meet in the mingled spirit—in the regenerated human spirit indwelt by the Holy Spirit**. We gather together in this spirit. Furthermore, in our meeting we should not leave the cross, which is typified by the altar in front of the tabernacle. At the entrance of the church there is the cross, and in order to meet as the church we must experience the cross.

### The Rehearsal of the Law – Concerning Apostasy

In the Old Testament, apostasy denotes the **giving up of God and the turning away from God to idols**. In the New Testament, apostasy denotes the **denial of Christ's deity**; it refers to not believing that Christ is God incarnated to be a man.

The book of Romans presents a complete picture of God's salvation, a picture that comprises both the Christian and the church life. The last three chapters are on the local church life. In chapters 14 and 15, Paul speaks concerning receiving the believers. Those who are weak in faith we should receive without passing judgment on reasonings. **We should receive the believers not according to the way of eating or the keeping of days but according to Christ, who is the unique centre and the all-embracing One**.

Regarding apostasy and division, the Old Testament and the New Testament are the same. The New Testament term for apostasy is *heresy*. **In both the Old Testament and the New Testament, God does not tolerate apostasy or heresy**. The Lord will also not tolerate division because it destroys His people as His expression. The crucial matter is that we should not tolerate what the Lord does not tolerate. Instead of sympathizing with those who make divisions and causes of falling, we are charged by Paul to turn away from them.

### The Rehearsal of the Law – The Holy Diet and the Aid to the Needy

As God's holy people, we need to take care concerning not only division and apostasy but also concerning the kind of people we contact. **As we contact people, we need to be careful, for in our contact with others we may receive what they are, what they have, and what they know**. Therefore, in contacting others we need to be discerning regarding who is unclean and who is clean.

Today we should also care for the needy ones among us. **If we, for the sake of God, take care of the need ones, God will surely bless our labour and undertakings**. Apparently we are giving; actually we are receiving. In caring for the needs of the saints, it is best that we prepare for this by having a budget. This means that in a regular way we should lay something aside to use in taking care of needy saints.

The statutes and judgments concerning aid to the needy indicate that God is living and real. In all that we do in the matters of lending and harvesting, we should remember God's need with respect to the needy ones. If we remember this need, then secretly God will remember us and bless us in all our undertakings, in all our business. **Not only will we be blessed, but the body of God's people will be under His blessing**. As a result, instead of scarcity, there will constantly be surplus upon surplus. This continual surplus will show forth the riches of God

(Life-Study of Deuteronomy – Messages 11-15).