

Joshua 8:30-35

Outline for Congregation

Why should we carefully listen to the word of God and do it?

1. Because we all have a responsibility to God

- God's covenants with Adam and with Noah are for all humanity
- In Joshua, the Canaanites suffer for the ways they have lived

2. Because God would protect us

- covenants with Abraham and Moses – God's people have a particular duty to listen carefully
- vv30-31 – they worship as God commands them
- v34 – there are consequences for not keeping what God makes known (Achan in Joshua 7)
- Psalm 119 – longing for greater knowledge of what God has commanded

3. Because God would bless us

- v33 – “to bless the people of Israel”
- the law is written on stones (v32) and read for all to hear (vv34-35)
- God's covenant with David and the anticipated “new covenant” (the law would be written on the heart)
- Galatians 3:12-14 (Jesus bears the curse) and 6:1-10 (we still live diligently but it looks different under the new covenant)

Questions for reflection this week

1. Where do you struggle to learn of God's ways and practice them in your life? Is it difficult to understand what they are? Do you disagree with what you learn? Do you lack the discipline to be careful to do it?
2. How can you address the struggles considered above? How can the people of Emmanuel pray with you and talk through things with you to help you?
3. Do you find that you “reap what you sow” (Galatians 6:7)? If you are careful to follow Jesus, does it usually work out for the best? When you stray, do you find there are negative consequences?
4. Roman's 5:18 “as one trespass [Adam's] led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness [Jesus'] leads to justification and life for all men.” Does the promise of forgiveness under the new covenant help you to experience the blessing of the new covenant?