

Sermon Text Discussion 4/17/2016

Exodus 21-23:9: "The Law of Christ and the Christian Life" by Drew Hunter

Overview

Having revealed Himself to the Israelites as the Lord of all, God lays out for His people what it will look like to honor Him in daily living. In these chapters, the God of Israel establishes guidelines for a life of flourishing under the covenant made with Israel. After considering the giving of the law in this text, we are able to see seven insights:

- 1) The Law is not our covenant
- 2) The Law is our Scripture
- 3) The Law encourages intelligent obedience
- 4) The Law promotes cultural flourishing
- 5) The Law reveals God's priorities
- 6) The Law motivates by grace
- 7) The Law is fulfilled in Christ

As we see from the principles from the law given in these chapters, God is seeking to restore us to humane living. By giving us new hearts and the Holy Spirit, He is working to sanctify us so that we may live a life of flourishing.

Quotations

"The law of Moses permitted some things which it did not wholly approve of. God took account of human hardness of heart.' ... The important thing... is not to criticize the Hebrew law for failing to eradicate all social evils, but rather to observe the ways it tried to mitigate their worse effects by attending to the needs of the most vulnerable party in any situation." -Christopher Wright, *Jesus and the Old Testament*, 215

"Most Americans believe that their major problem is something that has happened to them, and that their solution is to be found within. In other words, they believe that they have an alien problem that is to be resolved with an inner solution. What they gospel says, however, is that we have an inner problem that demands an alien solution—a righteousness that is not our own." -Al Mohler

Understanding & Application

- 1) Are the laws in this text given as timeless, eternal principles that are meant to be followed to the letter both now and forever? Would your answer change if the text was the ten commandments? If not, then what guidance do we have about how to understand and apply these laws today?
- 2) How does the Law encourage intelligent obedience?
- 3) How do both the old and new covenants express God's character and will? In what ways are they similar? In what ways are they different?
- 4) What are some obvious ways that the nation of Israel would have been flourishing if it were living under God's Law?
- 5) It becomes clear in the reading of this text that the Law motivates by grace, not fear. Relate that thought to the treatment of sojourners. In what ways were you a sojourner? How are you treating those in your life who are sojourners in the faith?