

Do What You Have to Do
Fairview Church of God
January 12, 2008

Deuteronomy 12:

- 10 "But when you cross over the Jordan and dwell in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to inherit, and He gives you rest from all your enemies round about, so that you dwell in safety,
 - this could be dually referencing this Kingdom of God as well as the Israelites entry into
- 11 "then there will be the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide. There you shall bring all that I command you: your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, and all your choice offerings which you vow to the LORD.
- 12 "And you shall rejoice before the LORD your God, you and your sons and your daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levite who is within your gates, since he has no portion nor inheritance with you.
- 13 "Take heed to yourself that you do not offer your burnt offerings in every place that you see;
- 14 "but in the place which the LORD chooses, in one of your tribes, there you shall offer your burnt offerings, and there you shall do all that I command you.
- 15 "However, you may slaughter and eat meat within all your gates, whatever your heart desires, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you; the unclean and the clean may eat of it, of the gazelle and the deer alike.
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- 18 "But you must eat them before the LORD your God in the place which the LORD your God chooses, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant, and the Levite who is within your gates; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God in all to which you put your hands.
 - The location is important
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- 20 "When the LORD your God enlarges your border as He has promised you, and you say, 'Let me eat meat,' because you long to eat meat, you may eat as much meat as your heart desires.
- 21 "If the place where the LORD your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, then you may slaughter from your herd and from your flock which the LORD has given you, just as I have commanded you, and you may eat within your gates as much as your heart desires.
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- 28 "Observe and obey all these words which I command you, that it may go well with you and your children after you forever, when you do what is good and right in the sight of the LORD your God.
 - There's the "catch" – we have to do something!
- 29 "When the LORD your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land,

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- 30 "take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from before you, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, 'How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise.'
 - And we have to avoid doing some things
- 31 "You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.
- 32 "Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.

These verses were brought to my mind yesterday during a movie – “The Great Debaters”. Nita said it was the best movie she has seen in a long time. She says that about most things that involve Denzel Washington☺.

The movie is based on a true story about small Wiley College and their debate team of 1935. (...based on an article about the [Wiley College debate](#) team by Tony Scherman written for [American Legacy](#) for its '97 Spring issue.) The team went on to beat the US Champion Debate team, but was not allowed to call themselves “victors” since blacks were not truly considered to belong to the debate society until after WWII. It is definitely one of the most intense shows I have seen in a long time.

One of the early and often repeated phrases used, by one of the debate team fathers, was “Do what you have to do, so that you can do what you want to do”.

Isn't it interesting that God put His promise of the Kingdom, of the Promised Land, to the Israelites in those exact same terms?

- 15 "However, you may slaughter and eat meat within all your gates, *whatever your heart desires*, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you; the unclean and the clean may eat of it, of the gazelle and the deer alike.
- 20 "When the LORD your God enlarges your border as He has promised you, and you say, 'Let me eat meat,' because you long to eat meat, *you may eat as much meat as your heart desires*.
- 21 "If the place where the LORD your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, then you may slaughter from your herd and from your flock which the LORD has given you, just as I have commanded you, and *you may eat within your gates as much as your heart desires*.
- 28 "Observe and obey all these words which I command you, that it may go well with you and your children after you forever, when you do what is good and right in the sight of the LORD your God.
- 31 "You shall not worship the LORD your God in that way; for every abomination to the LORD which He hates they have done to their gods; for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods.

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- 32 "Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.

“Do what you have to do so you can do what you want to do”. In order to do what our heart desires, we need to do what God commands us to do.

Let’s look at some more verses to confirm this theme is consistent throughout the Bible.

Deuteronomy 14:

- 22 "You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year.
- 23 "And you shall eat before the LORD your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always.
- 24 "But if the journey is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, or if the place where the LORD your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, when the LORD your God has blessed you,
- 25 "then you shall exchange it for money, take the money in your hand, and go to the place which the LORD your God chooses.
- 26 "And you shall spend that money for whatever your heart desires: for oxen or sheep, for wine or similar drink, for whatever your heart desires; you shall eat there before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your household.

Do you find it interesting that the Feast of Tabernacles instructions include your heart’s desires? One of the symbolisms of the Feast is of the Kingdom of God. Why would it not be true that God would want us to not only enjoy the Feast with whatever our heart desires, but that He would actually be teaching us to desire the best!

Psalms 10:

- 17 LORD, You have heard the desire of the humble; You will prepare their heart; You will cause Your ear to hear,
- 18 To do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, That the man of the earth may oppress no more.
 - David tells us that God hears the desire of the poor on this earth
 - The poor and oppressed want a better life!
 - They will have it in the Kingdom

Psalms 20:

- 1 May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble; May the name of the God of Jacob defend you;
- 2 May He send you help from the sanctuary, And strengthen you out of Zion;
- 3 May He remember all your offerings, And accept your burnt sacrifice. Selah

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- 4 May He grant you according to your heart's desire, And fulfill all your purpose.
 - David prayed that God would grant our heart's desire!
- 5 We will rejoice in your salvation, And in the name of our God we will set up our banners! May the LORD fulfill all your petitions.
- 6 Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven With the saving strength of His right hand.
- 7 Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God.
- 8 They have bowed down and fallen; But we have risen and stand upright.
- 9 Save, LORD! May the King answer us when we call.

Psalms 34:

- 11 Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
- 12 Who is the man who desires life, And loves many days, that he may see good?
- 13 Keep your tongue from evil, And your lips from speaking deceit.
- 14 Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.
 - “Do what you have to do, so you can do what you want to do”

Psalms 37:

- 1 Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.
- 2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, And wither as the green herb.
- 3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.
- 4 Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.
- 5 Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.
 - “Do what you have to do, so you can do what you want to do”
- 6 He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday.

Jesus carries the same theme into the New Testament when He talked about what men desire.

Matthew 16:

- 24 ¶ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."
 - “Do what you have to do, so you can do what you want to do”
- 25 "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."
 - Jesus cautions us to be careful what we desire

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- If we try to obtain what we desire without doing what we “have to do”, we will lose what we desire
- What we “have to do” is obey God’s ways
- 26 "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"
- 27 "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."
 - Mark and Luke report the same message

John 15:

- 7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

1 Corinthians 12:

- 31 But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

1 Corinthians 14:

- 1 Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14:

- 39 Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues.

1 Timothy 2:

- 1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,
- 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.
- 3 *For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,*
- *4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*
 - “Do what you have to do, so you can do what you want to do”
- 5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,
- 6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,
- 7 for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle--I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying--a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.
- 8 I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;

Hebrew 11:

- 1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
- 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony.

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- 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.
- 4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.
- 5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.
- 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.
- 7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.
- 8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.
- 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;
- 10 **for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.**
 - The Kingdom of God
- 11 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.
- 12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude--innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.
- 13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.
- 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland.
- 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.
- 16 **But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.**
 - The faithful from Adam forward have not yet received their promise of the Kingdom of God
 - They died not having received the promise
 - They knew the better country would be made by God in Heaven
 - And it will be brought with Jesus at His 2nd coming

1 Peter 2:

- 1 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking,

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- 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,
- 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.
 - We need to study so that we can understand what “we need to do”

Revelation 21:

- 1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.
- 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
 - **Hebrews 11:10** for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.
 - **John 14:3** "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.
- 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.
- 4 "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Revelation 22:

- 17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.
 - Whoever desires!
 - It is a free gift to everyone who desires it
- 18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;
 - But those who desire it have to obey it
- 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.
 - “Do what you have to do, so you can do what you want to do”