

Worshiping His Way

I. Slide#1 Intro:

- A. Slide#2 I like Warren Wiersbe's intro (With The Word): Sometimes we think that a **new location** is the **solution** to all our **problems**, so we change jobs or addresses. It is well been said that *a change in geography does not overcome a flaw in character*. The change can bring out the **best** in us, but it might bring out the **worst** in us.
1. Because of the new living conditions coming shortly, Moses now makes **the Law** relevant to the **new generation**.
- B. These statutes & judgements are matters relating to the 1st 2 commandments: “**You shall have no other gods before Me**” & “**You shall not make for yourself a carved image** - any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them.”
- C. Title: *Worshiping His Way*
- D. Outline: Entanglement, Enjoyment, Enlargement, Ensnarement.

II. Slide#3 ENTANGLEMENT (1-4)

- A. Moses warned the new land could be a place of **entanglement** if the people disobeyed God. Today's pluralistic society tends to treat all religious faith's alike, but God demands that we worship and serve him alone.
- B. (2,3) Canaanite religion was a *nature-based fertility religion*.
1. For this reason, Canaanite sites of worship were outdoors, “**on the high mountains & on the hills & under every green tree**” *rather than* inside temples.
 2. Archeologists have found various items of religious paraphernalia associated w/ Canaanite worship, including altars, incense stands, standing stones, a bronze calf, statues of household fertility goddesses, & molds to cast statues or deities.¹
 - a) It permitted human sacrifice and encouraged sexual immorality. As a fertility cult, this form of religion made a ritual of sex activity for which sacred prostitutes were housed at idol shrines.
 - b) **If the laws in this section appear harsh**, they must be seen as expressing the Lord's concern that His people avoid the *infectious disease* of these **perversions**.
- C. There was danger that if these were allowed to survive, the Israelites would **adopt** the degraded worship they fostered. **To embrace this was to contaminate their conscience & soil their souls**.
- D. **In later history**, shrines competitive to the Temple in Jerusalem served to undermine the purity of Israel's faith (1 Kings 12:25-33).

¹ Shepherds Notes, pg.42

1. Slide#4-13 Explain altar in Dan. Explain Paneas/Banias, Caesarea Phillipi.

E. Idolatry today might look like...*trusting people, or possessions or positions to do for me what only God can do.*

1. Slide#14 *Idolatry is worshipping anything that ought to be used, or using anything that ought to be worshipped.* Augustine
2. Though we do not face a pantheon of false gods like the Israelites did, we face Slide#15 pressures from a pantheon of false values: *materialism, love of leisure, sensuality, worship of self, security, and many others.*
3. We must ask? What is the object of our **affections**, our **efforts**, and our **attention**? Where does the majority of our time go? On what do we spend the greatest amount of our resources?

F. (5) The bulk of Deut 12 focuses on the **centralization** of Israel's worship (1st in Shiloh, later to be in the Jer Temple)

1. This was to ensure their separation from Canaanite religious practices & influence. Moses says worship in one place.

III. Slide#16a **ENJOYMENT (5-19)**

A. The land would be a place of **enjoyment** if they follow the Lord, for God would give them safety, rest, and blessing. We **receive** our spiritual inheritance by **Gods grace**, and we **embrace it by faith**; **but** we **enjoy** it *only if* we are **obedient** to **His will**. - See vs.7,12,18.

1. Slide#16b There is strong emphasis in this *chapt* on **happiness** in the practice of religion
2. **At the same time, the idea that we may worship God "any way we like" receives at least two reproofs** (vs.4,8). For worship to be worship it must conform to God's wishes and instructions.

B. (15) The *carb-phobic, meat-only Atkins Diet* got insanely popular in the '90s. [here's your life vs.]

1. **Private vs. public** - The concept is **kill & eat** for **private** consumption anywhere. **But** if its for **worship/sacrifice** it must be as I prescribe, & where I prescribe it.

C. Slide#17 (16) Although we may feel uncomfortable with this topic, the fact is, Christianity is inescapably a **blood-based religion**.

1. NT writers use the word **blood** 3 x's more than the word **cross**; and 5 x's more than the word **death**. **Why?** Because **blood** is critical to life.
2. Slide#18 Listen to this medical explanation: **Our blood pipeline services 100 trillion cells in the human body. An endless supply of oxygen, amino acids, nitrogen, sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, sugars, lipids, cholesterol, and hormones surge past our cells, carried**

on [crimson colored] cell rafts. Blood feeds and sustains every cell in the body with its precious nutrients. Every cell in everybody lives at the mercy of **blood**. (Brand & Yancey 1984, 55)

- D. We normally use **bleach** *not blood* to remove stains.
1. Comedian Jerry Seinfeld said, “TV ads show you how detergents take out **bloodstains**. I think if you’ve got *a bloodstained T-shirt*, maybe **laundry** isn’t your biggest problem”.
 - a) Jerry’s right, our biggest problem is *blood-stained lives*.
- E. **Eat/drink blood** - still today many cultures eat blood. [still warned against in NT instructions to Gentiles]
- F. This goes back to Leviticus *the life of the flesh is in the blood* (17:11) **which** goes back to Gen.9:1-4.
1. The life is in the blood both **physically** & **spiritually**.
 2. **Physically**: Approximately **5 quarts** pumping through our veins; running through **100,000 miles** of blood vessels, every **30 seconds** (enough to travel around the earth 3-4 times); touching every cell; 1st bringing the **nutrients & oxygen** every cell craves for; **then** carrying away all **waste** products on it’s loop. Your heart pumping **1.5 gallons** of blood **every minute** of your life. The **brain** uses your blood to continually monitor **body temperature**. Your **blood pressure** is necessary for the effective pushing of nutrients & oxygen out of the blood & into the cells.
 3. **Slide#19 Spiritually**: Here is the importance of the precious blood of Christ:
 4. *His blood justifies us, redeems us, washes us, sanctifies us, brings us near, & cleanses us.*
 - a) **Justifies** – *having now been justified by His blood*. Rom.5:9
 - b) **Redeems** – *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins*. Eph.1:7
 - c) **Washes** – *To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood*. Rev.1:5
 - d) **Sanctifies** – *That He might sanctify the people with His own blood*. Heb.13:12
 - e) **Brings us Near** – *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the **blood** of Christ*. Eph.2:13
 - f) **Cleanses** - *the **blood** of Jesus Christ His Son **cleanses** us from all sin*. 1 Jn.1:7.
- G. When a sacrifice was offered & its blood was shed, it meant the giving of a life of another. The innocent victim died in the place of the guilty sinner.
1. The only price for sin that God will accept is **blood**, for the blood is the **life** of the creature. **Of course**, the animals shed their blood **involuntarily**, but Jesus gave His life **willingly** for the sins of the world.
- H. **Slide#20** The bible is a book of **blood** - From **Genesis** (where God slew animals to *clothe Adam & Eve*) to **Revelation** (where John called him *The Lamb that was slain*)

1. Some liberal theologians who reject the doctrine of the blood call this the "*Slaughterhouse Religion*".
 2. *A ministry that has not the blood is no ministry at all. Because a ministry that has no blood has no life.*
 - a) "The bloody sacrifice of Calvary is the only hope of sinners."
 - b) It is not Christ the Example; nor Christ the Teacher who saves us; but *Christ the Lamb of God, crucified for the sins of the world, who saves us.*
- I. **Slide#21** We **appropriate**(make one's own) the atonement for salvation.
1. At the end of Jesus ministry He went to enter in to the garden & it says where he passed. *When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out w/His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He & His disciples entered.*Jn.18:1
 - a) **A drain** ran from the temple altar down to the Kidron ravine to take away the **blood** of sacrifice. Since it was the Passover, more than 200,000 lambs would be slain in the next day. When Jesus and His band crossed the Kidron, it was **red with the blood** of the lambs prepared for sacrifice.
 2. **Slide#22** It is truly, "*Nothing but the Blood of Jesus*".
 - a) How black's your guilt? How scarlet your stain? Is there any sin His blood can't clean?

IV. **Slide#23 ENLARGEMENT (20-28)**

- A. The land was to be a place of **enlargement** as the people trusted God to give them victory.
 1. God wants to enlarge our lives; **however**, we must be careful that **enlargement** does not result in **estrangement** from God.

V. **Slide#24 ENSNAREMENT (29-32)**

- A. (30) The danger of *unbridled curiosity* about false religions is indicated. I guess some things are so *morally & spiritually corrosive* that **all contact** with them is best **avoided**.
 1. **Don't even ask** about their religion/gods/ways which they worship *lest* your interest or curiosity be peeked.
- B. (31) **Burn sons & daughters**...hyperbole? - **Nope!** :(
 1. **Slide#25 Moloch/Molech**(Ammonite god) or later **Chemosh**(Moabite god).
 - a) **Explain:** heated up image had arms outstretched, into which they would lay the child.
 2. **Solomon** would build high places on the Mount of Olives in the future. **1Kgs.11:5-9**
 3. **Even 2 of Israel's kings...King Ahaz & King Manasseh** (2Chron.28&33) offered their children.
- C. **Slide#26** Interesting, we know this verse from the **end** of the bible **Rev.22:18,19**. **But** it is also here in the **beginning** of the bible & also in the **middle** of the bible in **Prov.30:6**.