

NWC Questions

for Personal Study and Small Groups 8/5/12

Deut. 27 & 28: *The Valley of Decision*

Focus: *To call the church to choose to obey God, seeking His blessing on their life (rather than his cursing/discipline for their disobedience).*

Read Deut. 27. 1-10. Why do you think Moses had them build the stone "wall" and the altar on the mountain? How would those symbols affect God's people?

Read Deut. 27.11-14 and Josh. 8.30-35. What is the point of this ceremony involving the mountains of blessing and cursing? Why do you think the altar was on Mt. Ebal and not on Mt. Gerizim? How does this point to us to Christ?

Deut. 27.13, 14 and 28.1-2; 15 makes both the blessings (and the curses) dependent upon what? Does this mean that the blessings are not of grace, but are works based? How can the idea of grace and obedience work together in the promise of these blessings?

Read Deut. 28.1-14 and compare and contrast it with these NT passages about blessing: Matt. 5.3-11; 1 Pet. 3.14; 4.14. How is the blessing God promises us today different? the same? How is obedience rewarded by God today? What are the great incentives to obey God today? (see John 14.21-24; 1 Jn. 2.3-6 for starters)

Bottom line: What is our great incentive for obeying God? and what does the valley of decision look like for you? where is obedience hard for you right now?

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