

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

The word of God for this Trinity Sunday is found in the book of Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

So far our text. Dear fellow redeemed.

Do you love perfectly? Do you love anyone or anything completely?

As for myself I know the answer is a resounding NO! Just moments ago we made confession of our natural lack of love when we said together, “...we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed.”

To break things down to the simplest understanding, sin is a lack of love. **“...he who loves another has fulfilled the law...love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfillment of the law.”**

(Romans 13:8,10) If love fulfills the law then any breaking of the law is sin and by doing so we show a lack of love.

Every single one of us here today wants to be loved. When it is shown to us in a constant and continual way it makes us want to reciprocate the love we have been shown.

Who has loved us more than God? No one! The love of God cannot be compared to anyone or anything else. **“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”** (Romans 5:8) Therefore our theme for today is, **“God alone deserves our love.”**

Our text for today records Moses speaking to the children of Israel. In addressing the people the way he did Moses was reminding them of a very special situation. He was reminding them that they were the chosen people of God. It was something that they and we need constant reminding of. Not we in a way that equates us to being a part of the children of Israel. But in the way that we have the same connection to God as they did; in the faith given to us by God in the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ. The children of Israel were looking forward to the Christ, we look back.

In speaking to the children of Israel about love Moses rightfully speaks of the Lord. Moses says **“The Lord our God.”** To the children of Israel as the chosen people and to us **“...just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.”** (Ephesians 1:4)

And Moses continues to speak of the Lord in a very specific way; as being one. **“God alone deserves our love.”** In this statement Moses speaks of a truth that we all need to remember. God is one. God is the only God.

The children of Israel throughout their years often struggled with loving the Lord as the only God. They often fell prey to remembering the God’s of Egypt. While Moses himself was on the mountain speaking with God the children of Israel became tired of waiting. They made a golden calf for themselves so they could worship. They often fell prey to the worship of Baal and they would put their children to death in the name of Baal. They fell prey to the gods in the land of in which they were commanded to kill the land in which they were to inherit. A command given so that they might be safeguarded from this very problem.

And we ourselves can fall prey in much the same as the children of Israel did. We are also surrounded by the temptations of other so-called religions and gods. Our flesh is weak and naturally gravitates towards other teachings.

The admonition that the Lord gave to Moses to give to all His children is rightfully headed then. To remember that the Lord alone is God and that **“God alone deserves our love.”**

This is actually shown by the fact that the name Jehovah is used. He is the absolute God. The one who by the election of the children of Israel and through our election in Christ made Himself known to the children of Israel and to us through the Scriptures.

The manner in which we show that **“God alone deserves our love”** are found in these words of Moses. **“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”** Here Moses speaks of three different things. In the end though, what Moses is saying is that we should love the Lord above all else with our entire person.

We shall love the Lord with all our heart. In the Jewish understanding this usage was to explain the seat of emotion. We certainly don’t want to say that our faith is an emotion, faith is belief. But the outcome of this faith can and will have an emotional response. It is a heart of gratitude and thanksgiving because we being completely undeserving of God’s love have been shown it anyway. The mercies of God being shown to us in the Savior hanging upon the tree and being forsaken when it should’ve been us who were deserving of being forsaken by God.

We shall love the Lord with all our soul. This is describing the desire to have our will and personality be focused on the Lord. Our will and personality is contrary to God by nature. But when He came to you in your baptism and through the hearing of the word He caused a change to take place in you. The Holy Spirit came into your heart giving you the ability to actually do what the Lord asks of all of us here.

We shall love the Lord with all our might. And finally Moses reminds the children of Israel and us that we should show God love in our might. That is to say with our outgoings and all our energies. You show this when you sign up for the cleaning and care of the church property. You show it by volunteering to help with Traveling Vacation Bible School. You show it by the work you do to supply for your families to

the glory of God. You show it therefore in all ways when in, **"...whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."** (1 Cor. 10:31)

So then, how do we perform such a task as believing that **"God alone deserves our love."**? Not in regards to the simple outward doings of such things that are described as love, but in a way that is pleasing and truly loving to the Lord Jehovah? The Lord supplies us with the answer.

"You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

It is by staying "them" as our text says. It is by staying in the word that the Lord Himself has given us. Without the word we will not know the truth. The Lord knew that the children of Israel needed this admonition because the Lord knows the nature of our hearts. He is omniscient and can see into the heart of man. But the Lord also knows that He would send His Spirit through the word and shows the importance of our constancy in the word.

We shall teach them diligently to your children. We show that **"God alone deserves our love"** in following His command to teach children. We according to His word baptize them and preach the word of God to them **"But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."** (Matt. 19:14)

One very important thing to remember about being in the word is revealed to us in our text. We are told that we should all be in the word in our homes, in our day from morning till night is important to remember. Church services and Bible classes are only meant to augment your study of the word. The Lord through Moses reminds us of the importance of being in the word continuously. By doing so we are better equipped with the whole armor of God and can fight away temptations and preach the word of God with more confidence.

In binding them as a sign on our hands we show the way in which we love the Lord with our might. The hand is a picture of power. It is the means by which much of what we do gets accomplished. When the hand of a believer goes out for the sake of the Kingdom of God it shows that we believe that **"God alone deserves our love."** **"But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."** (Joshua 24:15)

Be in the words of Jehovah so that you're properly equipped. Find in the word the fact that you're a sinner yet the Lord through His Son Jesus Christ has died for you.

That being said I pray that the love you have been shown causes you out of a grateful and thankful heart to want to serve the Lord willingly. Day and night and in whatever you do. And in so doing you show that, **"God alone deserves our love."** Amen.