



# The Law and a Gospel Response

Deuteronomy 30:1-20

## **Deuteronomy 30:1-4**

And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God has driven you, and return to the LORD your God, you and your children, and obey his voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul, then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you. If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there the LORD your God will gather you, and from there he will take you.

## Deuteronomy 30:5-7

And the LORD your God will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it. And he will make you more prosperous and numerous than your fathers.

And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. And the LORD your God will put all these curses on your foes and enemies who persecuted you.

## Deuteronomy 30:8-10

And you shall again obey the voice of the LORD and keep all his commandments that I command you today. The LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all the work of your hand, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your cattle and in the fruit of your ground. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, as he took delight in your fathers, when you obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that are written in this Book of the Law, when you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

## Deuteronomy 30:11-14

For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, “Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?” Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, “Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?” But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

## Deuteronomy 30:15-18

See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil.

If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish.

You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess.

## **Deuteronomy 30:19-20**

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse.

Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

## Main Point

Though God's Law is easy and near to us, the human heart is rebellious and stubborn and will lead us to destruction unless we repent and believe *by grace*.



# Was there grace and gospel in the Law?

**Hebrews 4:2**

For indeed we have had good news  
preached to us, just as they also;  
but the word they heard did not profit them,  
because it was not united by faith in those who heard.

# Was there grace and gospel in the Law?

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in those who heard.



# **Law and a Gospel Response**

## The ease and nearness of God's Law

## **Deuteronomy 30:11**

For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off.

It is not in heaven, that you should say,  
“Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us,  
that we may hear it and do it?”

Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say,  
“Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us,  
that we may hear it and do it?”

But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.



# **The Ease and Nearness**

God's Law is not too hard for you.

**Deuteronomy 30:11**

For this commandment that I command  
you today is not too hard for you.

Deuteronomy 30:11

For **this commandment** that I command  
you today **is not too hard for you.**

# Huh??

Deuteronomy 30:11

For **this commandment** that I command  
you today **is not too hard for you.**

It is true that we cannot keep the Law, but ***it is not true*** that we cannot keep the laws.

Can you think of a command of God that is too hard for you to keep?

**Consider...**

**“You shall not murder.”**

**Is it too hard for you to keep from striking or stabbing your neighbor?**

**Is it too hard for you to change your attitude toward your neighbor?**

# Consider...

“You shall not commit adultery,  
and you shall not steal.”

**Is it too hard for you to leave your  
neighbor’s wife and stuff alone?**

**Is it too hard for you to be content  
with what God has given you?**

# Nor is the Law too hard to understand.

## Deuteronomy 30:11

See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish.



The Law is not rocket science in its operations and consequences.

# Life vs. Death

Deuteronomy 30:11

See, I have set before you today **life and death** good, and evil.

If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish.

# Good vs. Evil

Deuteronomy 30:11

See, I have set before you today life and **good**, death **and evil**.

If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish.

# Obedience vs. Rebellion

**Deuteronomy 30:11**

See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil.

If you **obey** the commandments of the LORD your God that

I command you today, by loving the LORD your God,  
by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments  
and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply,  
and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are  
entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away,

and you **will not hear**, but are drawn away to worship

other gods and serve them, I declare to you today,  
that you shall surely perish.

# Love vs. Rejection

**Deuteronomy 30:11**

See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil.

If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that

I command you today, by **loving the LORD** your God,

by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments  
and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply,  
and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are

entering to take possession of it. But if **your heart turns away,**

and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship  
other gods and serve them, I declare to you today,  
that you shall surely perish.

# Blessing vs. Curse

**Deuteronomy 30:11**

See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil.

If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that

I command you today, by loving the LORD your God,

by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments

and his statutes and his rules, then **you shall live** and multiply,

and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. But if your heart turns away,

and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today,

that **you shall surely perish.**

# The Ease and Nearness

God's Law is not too hard for you.

God's Law is not far off from you.

## Deuteronomy 30:11-12

For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, **neither is it far off.**

It is not in heaven, that you should say,  
“Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us,  
that we may hear it and do it?”

It is not ethereal or mysterious  
requiring some special insight or guru.



### **Deuteronomy 30:13-14**

Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say,  
“Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us,  
that we may hear it and do it?”

**It is not found in some distant land  
or by some deep philosophy.**

“But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth  
and in your heart, so that you can do it.”

Deuteronomy 30:15

**Look, I have set before you today**

life and good, death and evil...

**Look, it's right here, right now!**

What if you don't believe this?

You will weaken your resistance to sin if you buy into the notion that obedience is too hard for you.



# Law and a Gospel Response

The ease and nearness of God's Law

The root and result of the people's problem

# The Root and Result

The *root* of the problem is the heart.

# Moses' emphasis is on the heart!

“...obey his voice...with all your **heart**”

“God will circumcise your **heart** and the **heart** of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your **heart**...”

“...when you turn to the LORD your God with all your **heart**”

“It is in your mouth and in your **heart**...”

“But if your **heart** turns away...”

Moses refers to the heart **46x** in this book!

The difficulty of the Law is not *in the Law*;  
the Law is holy, righteous, and good.

**Psalm 19:8**

The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;  
The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

**Romans 7:12**

So then, the Law is holy, and the commandment  
is holy and righteous and good.

The problem lies *in us*—in the rebellion and stubbornness of our hearts.

**Deuteronomy 9:6**

“...for you are a stubborn people.”

**Deuteronomy 9:6**

“I have seen this people, and indeed,  
it is a stubborn people.”

**Deuteronomy 31:27**

“For I know your rebellion and your stubbornness...”



# Remember...

Deuteronomy 10:16

**Circumcise your heart,**  
and stiffen your neck no longer.

**Matthew 15:19**

For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders,  
adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.

The battle to uproot sin must not be waged by seeking to uproot the Law but by owning that your heart is the battleground.

**Jeremiah 17:9**

The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; Who can understand it?

# The Root and Result

The root of the problem is the heart.

The *result* of the problem is destruction.

## **Deuteronomy 30:17-18**

But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear,  
but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them,  
I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish.

# The result is destruction!

## Deuteronomy 30:17-18

But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear,  
but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them,

I declare to you today, that **you shall surely perish.**

Are we any different from them?

**Luke 13:3**

“I tell you, ***no***, but unless you repent,  
you will all likewise perish.”

This perishing is both temporal *and* eternal.

It is both individual *and* corporate.

## **Deuteronomy 30:17-18**

But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish.

**You shall not live long** in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess.





# Law and a Gospel Response

The ease and nearness of God's Law

The root and result of the people's problem

The need and response of God's people

# **The Need and Response**

The need of God's people  
is mercy and grace.

### **Deuteronomy 10:3-4**

...the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you.

If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven,  
from there the LORD your God will gather you,  
and from there he will take you.

# Mercy is needed!

Deuteronomy 10:3-4

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and **have mercy on you**, and he will gather you again from  
all the peoples where the LORD your God has scattered you.

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from there **the LORD** your God **will gather you,**  
and from there he will take you.

## **Deuteronomy 30:6**

And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart  
and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love  
the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul,  
that you may live.

# Mercy and Grace!

Deuteronomy 30:6

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and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love  
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that you may live.



## Ezekiel 11:19-20

And **I will give** them one heart, **and put** a new spirit within them. And **I will take** the heart of stone out of their flesh **and give** them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God.

## Jeremiah 31:33-34

“But this is the covenant which **I will** make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD, “**I will** put My law within them and on their heart **I will** write it; and **I will** be their God, and they shall be My people. They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD, “for **I will** forgive their iniquity, and their sin **I will** remember no more.”

# The Need and Response

The need of God's people is mercy and grace.

The response of God's people  
is repentance and faith.

## **Deuteronomy 30:9-10**

For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you,  
as He took delight in your fathers, when you obey  
the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments  
and His statutes that are written in this Book of the Law,  
when you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul.

# Repentance

## Deuteronomy 30:9-10

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as He took delight in your fathers, when you obey  
the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments  
and His statutes that are written in this Book of the Law,

**when you turn to the LORD your  
God with all your heart  
and with all your soul.**

# Believe!

## Deuteronomy 30:9-10

*Do not say,* “Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?”

*Do not say,* “Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?”

But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

## Romans 10:6-9

**“But the righteousness based on faith speaks as follows:**

*“Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down), or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’”* (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

But what does it say? *“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart”* — that is, the word of faith which we are preaching,

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# Believe the Gospel!

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*“Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’*

*(that is, to bring Christ down), or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’”* (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

But what does it say? *“The word is near you,  
in your mouth and in your heart”*—

**that is, the word of faith** which we are preaching,

that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

But doesn't it seem that repentance and faith  
*precede* the LORD's mercy and grace?

**Deuteronomy 30:9-10**

For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you,  
as he took delight in your fathers,

**when you obey** the voice of the LORD your God,  
to keep his commandments and his statutes that are written in  
this Book of the Law, **when you turn** to the LORD your God  
with all your heart and with all your soul.

Know this...

When you have repented and turned to the Lord, trusting and obeying Him, you will find that you have done so *by God's grace*, if you truly did so.

## **Ephesians 2:4-5**

But God, being rich in mercy,  
because of His great love with which He loved us,  
even when we were dead in our transgressions,  
made us alive together with Christ  
(by grace you have been saved).

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# Conclusions:

Obedience was always a matter of mercy and grace evidenced by repentance and faith.

**Believe!** is the command.

Do not weaken your resistance to sin by believing that obedience is too difficult for you. **Trust in the Lord!**