

## Morning Worship

June 2, 2019

Pastor — Allan Lane

Organ ---

Worship Leader — Romey Keith Davis

Piano — Alva Lou Schottel

**As you enter for worship, please silence your cell phones.**

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

Welcome and Fellowship

Allan/People

Scripture Reading

Romey Keith Davis

Hymn # 586

*We've a Story to Tell*

Romey/People

Worship Prayer

Allan Lane

Hymn # 581 *We Have Heard the Joyful Sound* Romey/People

Offering Prayer

LeRoy Bush

Tithes and Offerings

People

Offering Music

Alva Lou Schottel

Hymn # 533

*He Lives*

Romey/People

Hymn # 534

*Only Believe*

Romey/People

Special Music

Children's Worship

(No Children's Worship Today)

Message

Allan Lane

Hymn # 315

*Room at the Cross*

Romey/People

Prayer Concerns

Allan/People

Closing Hymn # 386 *The Family of God* Romey/People

## Believing in God

Deuteronomy 6:4-15

Well, last week I told you that I was working on a sermon series that focused on "Why Jesus Is My Hero." And you're going to get that one, but not yet. Two weeks ago we looked at why what we believe matters. We began with the Bible. Well, we're going to follow through with that and continue asking the question, "Does it matter what we believe?" As you can imagine in my years of some type of ministry there've been occasions to hear several things that deal with what people believe. Perhaps you've heard some of the same things. For example, I've even heard that, "It doesn't matter what you believe, just as long as you believe." The folks who make those kinds of statements haven't given a great deal of thought as to the implications of such an attitude. Suppose you declare that you do not believe in the "law of gravity" and that you are very adamant in your belief and that you are willing to "shout it from the roof top."

There is just one small inconvenient truth: if you should slip and fall off that same roof top you will hit the ground so hard that it will "knock your socks off." Another

thing that must be taken into account is that the Bible makes it plain that "believing" is not enough if you are just acknowledging an intellectual assent or agreement to a group of facts. In James treatise on the relationship between faith and works he writes about this (James 2:19). The point is that it does matter what you believe and that you put what you believe into practice.

The context of today's text in Deuteronomy is critically important to our understanding about God. The Israelites had been in Egypt for almost 430 years when they left headed to the Promised Land and they had been exposed to the polytheism of their Egyptian neighbors all of that time. This is important to remember because this exposure and the familiarity of the Israelites with these gods had a profound influence on them so it is in this cultural and spiritual context that we have this declaration.

Moses begins this teaching in Deuteronomy 1:5 when the children of Israel are on the East side of Jordan in the land of Moab and he is reminding them of who God is and what He requires. In Deuteronomy 6:4 the burden of the law commences, which is not a new law added to the Ten Commandments, but simply the development and unfolding of the covenant laws and rights enclosed as a germ in the Decalogue, simply an exposition of the law. Moses' instruction proved that it matters what we believe without question in:

## **1. The Singularity of God.**

### **a. The Uniqueness of His Existence.**

Moses, who is the author of the Pentateuch, starts Genesis with the following statement that is the foundation for everything else we know about God "...In the beginning, God..." He is the only un-created being in the entire universe. He has always existed from eternity. He is literally the self-existent, eternal one which is a translation of the name Jehovah. It is to Him alone that the name Jehovah rightfully belongs, because He is the one absolute God.

### **b. The Unity of His Existence.**

The Hebrew word for "one" is a compound unity and not a simple unity. The English language does not express this truth very well. There are several persons in this one God. We learn from our text is that Jehovah, this eternal self-existent God is also referred to by Moses as Elohiym which is a plural name that emphasizes the superlative nature of God, that He is mighty, exceeding great or the supreme God. It is often used to describe God as the creator.

On our recent travels, Ellen and I were listening to the radio and I believe it was a sermon on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm from Dr. Adrian Rogers where he reminded us about who God is.

Jehovah-Raah is 'the Lord my shepherd'.

Jehovah-Jireh is 'the Lord that sees and provides'.

Jehovah-Rapha is 'the Lord that heals'

Jehovah-Tsidkenu is 'the Lord our righteousness'.

Jehovah-Shalom is 'the Lord my Peace'.

Jehovah-Shammah is 'the Lord is Present'

Jehovah-Nissi is 'the Lord our Banner'

We also learn this from the use of plural pronouns, particularly in the Old Testament, specifically in Genesis 1:26, 11:7, and 3:22. Think about what this means. God is one but He is a "triune being" and He created man in His image and likeness as "triune being" with a body, soul, and spirit. The Bible teaches the doctrine

of the "Trinity," that God is one but a compound "one" and we know Him as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (1 John 5:7).

What we believe about God does matter! There are many erroneous teachings about God in the world today. For example, and I'm not here to put down another's faith, but Mormonism denies the most important commandment. It preaches that the Trinity is three separate gods and any male can become a god. It is a non-Christian polytheistic religion.

And there are other religions that teach things concerning God. If Jehovah is God alone then Allah cannot be God yet Pope Francis and others have declared that the God of the Bible and Allah are one and the same. There are many problems with this view not the least of which is there is no Trinity in Muslim tradition and Jesus was a prophet, but no more divine than other prophets.

Moses also reminds them that the first commandment declares:

## **2. The Sovereignty of God.**

Charles Spurgeon, the 19th century evangelist, writes this about the sovereignty of God. "There is no attribute more comforting to His children than that of God's sovereignty. Under the most adverse circumstances, in the most severe trials, they believe that sovereignty has ordained their afflictions that sovereignty overrules them, and that sovereignty will sanctify them all. There is nothing for which the children ought to more earnestly contend to than the doctrine of their Master over all creation—the Kingship of God over all the works of His own hands—the Throne of God and His right to sit upon that throne...for it is God upon the Throne whom we trust."

### **a. His Power .**

When we speak of God's attributes one of the words that we use is "omnipotence." It's a compound word that means all powerful. This means that God is more powerful than anything else and that nothing else even comes close to His power. God's power is unlimited, unrestricted.

In Luke 1:37, the angel told Mary "For with God nothing shall be impossible." And in Luke 18:27 Jesus said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

One of the things that Moses was explaining to them was not just the error of polytheism but also the error of syncretism, which reduces the one absolute God to a national deity, a Baal (Hosea 2:18). Jehovah is omnipresent. This God is ubiquitous and acts unilaterally. In layman's language this means that all of God is everywhere all the time and that He does not need permission or a "by your leave" from anyone or anything to act on His own.

### **b. His Providence .**

There are a couple of things that we need to understand about the providence of God as it relates to His sovereignty. First, nothing just happens!

The dictionary defines 'accident' as "an unforeseen event or one without apparent cause." Any Christian who understands the sovereignty of God will immediately determine from this definition that there is no such thing as an accident. It's like the cowboy who decided to buy some life insurance. The broker asked him if he had had any accidents in the past year, to which the cowboy replied, "No. But I was kicked by a horse, chased by a raging bull and bitten by a snake – they each laid me up for a while." The agent said, "Weren't those accidents?" To which the stockman replied,

"No, they did it on purpose." You see the stockman realized that there is no such thing as accidents.

Second, we are always making judgments about the situations and circumstances that surround our lives but the truth is we are not qualified to judge whether something is good or bad.

## **HOW DO YOU KNOW?**

There is a Chinese proverb about a Chinaman who had one horse and one son. One day the horse, out of control, wandered away with the boy on its back and they were both lost. The man's neighbors came to console him the next day and they said, "We are so sorry you lost your horse and your son. It is so bad." But the man said, "How do you know that it is bad?" The next day the horse and the boy wandered back home. Trailing behind the horse were 13 wild horses that came right into the corral. The neighbors came to congratulate the man for having his horse and boy back and 13 new wild horses. They said, "That's so good!" The man replied, "How do you know that it is good?" The next day when the boy was trying to break one of the wild horses he was bucked off and broke his leg. His neighbors came and said, "We're so sorry. It is so bad." The man said, "How do you know it's bad?" The next day a warlord came to confiscate all the able-bodied young men for his war but the man's son could not go because of his leg and it was good. Well, you can see where this is going. How do you know?

By faith we take Romans 8:28 at its promise. Simply put, providence encompasses every aspect of the created order. From beginning to end, from heaven to earth, from animate to inanimate, from individuals to nations, from hours to ages, from weeds to wheat, from birth to death, from catastrophe to calm, everything is within the loving presence and involvement of the heavenly Father. In His wisdom, power, righteousness, and love He is hastening slowly to work out His own eternal purposes for His own glory and for our eternal good.

Finally, Moses reminds them of what God deserves:

## **3. The Service of God.**

### **a. Sincerity .**

The demand "with all the heart" excludes all half-heartedness and any and all division of the heart in its love. The heart is mentioned first, as the seat of the emotions generally and of love in particular. He loves God with all his heart, who loves nothing in comparison of him, and nothing but in reference to him: - who is ready to give up, do, or suffer any thing in order to please and glorify him: - who has in his heart neither love nor hatred, hope nor fear, inclination, nor aversion, desire, nor delight, but as they relate to God, and are regulated by him.

### **b. Sacrifice .**

The soul follows the heart as the center of personality in man, to depict the love as pervading the entire self-consciousness. He who loves God with all his soul, or rather, with all his life, who is ready to give up life for his sake - to endure all sorts of torments, and to be deprived of all kinds of comforts, rather than dishonor God: - who employs life with all its comforts, and conveniences, to glorify God in, by, and through all: - to whom life and death are nothing, but as they come from and lead to God, From this Divine principle sprang the blood of the martyrs, which became the seed of

the Church. They overcame through the blood of the Lamb, and loved not their lives unto the death. See Revelation 12:11.

John Piper summed up our problem well with his statement, 'The weakness of our hunger for God is not because he is unsavory, but because we keep ourselves stuffed with other things."

**c. Selflessness .**

He who loves God with all his strength (Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27), who exerts all the powers of his body and soul in the service of God: He is the one who, for the glory of his Maker, spares neither labor nor cost, who sacrifices his time, body, health, ease, for the honor of God his Divine Master. He is the one who employs in his service all his goods, his talents, his power, credit, authority, and influence.

**d. Surrender .**

Our Lord quotes from this same passage and provides an additional qualifier in Matthew 22:37.

**Conclusion:**

My friends, it **does** matter what you believe about God, for what you believe about Him will determine how you worship and serve Him. Some today hold to the popular idea that it doesn't matter what you believe, just as long as you believe while others will say "I believe in god" but unfortunately it is an incorrect or incomplete concept of the God of the Bible. Only when we know the God of the Bible and His Son, Jesus Christ in the free pardon of sin can we truly say that we "know" God.

R. David Reynolds writes: "Live in total dependence, absolute surrender, and complete obedience to God, in service to Him and others because Christ has truly set you free. You are not "free to do what you want any old time," but God's Spirit sets you free from slavery to Satan and to sin in order to love and serve Jesus and to please only Him."

Not sure if you've ever heard of Dorothea Day's poem "My Captain," but there is one stanza from it that says...

"...Beyond this place of sin and tears  
That life with Him! And His aid,  
Despite the menace of the years,  
Keeps, and shall keep me, unafraid.  
I have no fear, though strait the gate,  
He cleared from punishment the scroll.  
Christ is the Master of my fate,  
Christ is the Captain of my soul."

***Do You Truly Know God?***

***Who is God Really?***

A church changed its worship times. A woman asked the pastor "Is our new Worship Service from 11:30 to 12:45 or 11:30 to 1:00?" And before he could answer her, she said, "What I really need to know is what time do you stop talking." To that he replied, "When my stomach starts growling. We finish when I'm hungry."

Well, I'm sure the pastor was only joking with that answer. We all should know that Sunday Worship Service is not about the preacher talking but about worshipping God. Yet, many people have differing motives for coming to church. Some come to church out of

routine; some come to church for friendship; and some come to church simply to learn what the Bible says. Some, believe it or not, are here today for themselves and not for God. In fact, there are some folks who will attend worship today somewhere not even sure there is a God.

One pastor tells of being approached by one of his neighbors. The neighbor told him he was a Baptist, but not interested in organized religion anymore. The pastor replied, "I'm sorry, you must have been hurt by the church." And sure enough, he had been.

It seems to me there is such a thing as the evolution of an atheist. Atheists are not born; they are made. Most atheists are atheists because of one of three reasons. They are atheists because they've been hurt by a person or persons representing God or some authority figure in their lives; they are atheists because they've been taught or indoctrinated to believe that there is no God, or they are atheists because they are living in a sinful lifestyle and they are too ashamed to approach God.

Human beings who have not been hurt by persons or institutions associated with religion usually don't have a problem believing in God. People who have not been indoctrinated to believe that there is no God usually have no problem believing in God. People who are willing to let go of a sinful lifestyle usually have no problem believing in God. Most people can look at the world in which they live, the creation and themselves, and simply conclude that there must be a Creator. Complex design presupposes an *Intelligent Designer*, namely, God.

The first sentence of the first book in the Bible reads, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1)." The Bible does not spend any time proving there is a God. It assumes that people naturally believe there is a God. The only question is, "What is God like?"

I read about a pastor who went to get his hair cut. His usual stylist wasn't available, so he had to settle for someone he didn't know. What he pictured for his haircut and what the new stylist pictured for his haircut were two different visions. When the stylist got done, he said, "Try this on for a while; I think you'll like it." The pastor wasn't sure how to answer, and since the stylist was already done, the pastor was pretty much stuck with the haircut he had been given. He wasn't going to tip him, but after they had talked awhile, and since the stylist knew he was a pastor, he went ahead and showed his gratitude.

That story illustrates a point. Each one of us has a picture of God that has developed over the years with the help of the media, the church or from life experiences. Whether we like those pictures of God in our minds is irrelevant. What is relevant is what is God really like. And when it comes to describing God, no one has the authority to say, "Try on this picture of God for a while; I think you'll like it." Only God has the right and ability to describe Himself accurately. And He does this in His Word, the Bible. The Bible is our authority for learning what God is like.

Our church's statement of belief, *The Baptists Faith and Message*, comes from the Bible. Here is our statement of belief about God:

*There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.*

You might say, "Why should I care? I just had a horrible week at work, and my anxiety is more real than your description of God. Or, "I'm trying to break a lust habit, an anger habit or an eating habit, and my guilt is more real than your description of God." Or, "I've been my living life without God all these years, and my material success is more real than your description of God."

Why should you care? There are many reasons why knowing what God is like is of absolute importance to our lives. First, the Bible tells us in Genesis 1:26-27 that God made us in His image. That means we will know ourselves better, not by going to a psychologist or by reading books on human potential, but by knowing Who God is. When we learn what God is like, we will also discover what God made us to be like.

Second, what God is like effects how we live our lives. What we believe about God determine how we behave in life. If we are wrong, we will pay the high price of wasting our lives in wrong actions and emotions and missing out on a right relationship with God. If we are right, we will be rewarded with fulfilling lives and right and healthy relationships with God.

John Piper wrote, "What is God looking for in the world? Assistants? No. The gospel is not a help-wanted ad. It is a help-available ad. God is not looking for people to work for Him but people who let Him work mightily in and through them."

God Bless You!  
Bro. Allan ☺

## **Opportunities For Service**

**Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan**  
**Sunday, June 2, 2019**

Sunday School ..... 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: LeRoy Bush, Gary Yarbrough

Ken Nice, Don Sharp

Alternate: Joe Coats

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

### **Monday, June 3**

Food Kitchen.....5:30 pm

Youth Camp begins

### **Wednesday, June 5**

Prayer/Bible Study.....6:30 pm

### **Sunday, June 9, 2019**

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: Larry McKahan, John Lewis,

George Burgess, Bill Schottel

Alternate: Ken Nice

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

### **Wednesday, June 12**

Prayer Warriors.....10:00 am

Prayer/Bible Study.....6:30 pm

### **Up-Coming Events .....**

**June 3 — Food Kitchen 5:30 pm**

**June 3-7 — Youth Camp**

**June 8 — Prayer Warriors at 10:00 am**

**June 11-16—SJBA Mission Trip to Yankton, South Dakota**

**Third meeting—May , 7 pm @ Mission Center**

**June 21 & 22 — Intro to Camping for Children grades 1-3**

**July 15-19 — Children's Camp**

### **GROW Team**

Commit to **GROW!** **Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

### **Sunday Night**

Please join us tonight as we begin a new study. Hope to see you here at 6:30 pm.

### **Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study**

We are ready for the next session of our study entitled “Engaging with God” led by Dr. Kie Bowman. The subtitle is “Making Prayer a Priority for the BEST of Your Life.” We always need reminders to pray. Please attend and pray for the direction of our church.

### ***Youth Camp...***

Is this week, June 3-7. Please be praying for our youth (Alli Adkison and Wyking West) and coaches this week.

### **Associational Youth and Adult Mission Trip June 11-16, 2019**

# Food Kitchen

Tomorrow, Monday, June 3

At 5:30 pm

## Children's Camp ...

...forms will be  
available soon.

**Children's Camp is  
July 15-19.**

Campers must have completed the 4th—6th grades.

## Biblical Manhood Conference: Our Higher Calling:

*Biblical Manhood in the Home, Church, and World*

August 17, 2019  
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
*Frederick Boulevard*

*Baptist*

The cost \$20 per person (lunch included).

### For the Record-

#### Attendance: May 26, 2019

Sunday School.....	18
Visitors.....	5
Total.....	23
Contacts Made.....	6
Morning Worship.....	43
Sunday Night.....	N/A
Children's Worship .....	N/A
Wednesday Night .....	??

#### Financial Record:

Weekly Budget .....	\$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ...	\$ 1,195.00
Long Family – April..	\$ 50.00

#### Offering Received by Mail:

#### June Counting Team:

Jordan Lane and ??

**June Van Driver:**

Yogi Swymeller  
Remember to call 232-3747  
before 8 am if you need a ride.

**June Member Birthdays:**

09... Sarah Waters  
13... Desiree McDonald  
14... John Lewis  
19....Jordan Lane  
25... Martha Green  
25... Graham Molloy  
26... Pam Battreal  
29... Ruth Anne Bush

**June Anniversaries****John and Beverly Lewis**

June 11, 1948

**Jo and Elmer Mayse**

June 27, 1981

***Prayer Requests ...***

Youth at Camp  
Mike Green—Knee Surgery recovery  
Lillie Williams—strength & recovery  
Dottie Wildberger—recovery  
Jim Winans—at home  
Gary Hurst—cancer  
Susie Long—Alice Coat's Sister  
Swymeller's Grandsons—kidneys  
Jack and Flo Conard  
Shirley Wilson—strength and recovery  
Sandy and Stanley Wilson  
Ruth Anne Bush—healing  
Sharri Duty  
Linda Huff—PTL! Cancer free!  
Marcia and Don Hart—blessings  
Arlette Duty—strength  
Peggy & Gary Fewins—Peggy's health  
Donna and Bill Dunn—health  
Karissa and Matt Long and family  
Stephanie & Jason Terpack  
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister  
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim  
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son-PTL!  
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter  
Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister  
Doris Richardson      June Fritchle  
The Waters Family      Elmer Mayse  
Betty Campbell      Kevin Duty  
Ann Riddle      Tim Izer

Keon McKahan      Nellie Reynolds  
Jozy Winans      Kenny Duty  
Pat Means      Buddy Means  
Bill & Juanita      Debbie Sands  
Pat Puckett      Curtis Conard  
Brenda Burgess      Roscoe Lane  
Carolyn Houts      Seth Long  
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church  
David and Deborah Grace  
Our Nation and Leaders  
Our Military Service Women and Men  
Terrorism in our world  
**Today's Prayer Requests ...**

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**Our Nation and our Leaders ...**

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**Five More New Families...**

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