

Family Survival 101
The Choice Every Family Will Face
Deuteronomy 30:11-20

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Dr. Steve Horn

Text Introduction: We have said that Deuteronomy means “second law.” The main purpose of Deuteronomy is to give the law to the generation that is now ready to enter the Promised Land.

Deuteronomy can be organized around Moses’ three farewell sermons: 1-4; 5-26; and 29-30. The emphasis of these sermons is to “follow the terms of this covenant, so that you may prosper in everything that you do.” (Deuteronomy 29:9) This is not a covenant just for them, but for all who follow after them. (Deuteronomy 29:15)

We have used these sermons in Deuteronomy to help us to see some principles to build strong families. This morning, we conclude with taking a look at the concluding message from Moses. It revisits some of the themes that we have explored, but this time in a climaxing kind of way that urges for response and action.

Text: ¹¹ "This command that I give you today is certainly not too difficult or beyond your reach. ¹² It is not in heaven, so that you have to ask, 'Who will go up to heaven, get it for us, and proclaim it to us so that we may follow it?' ¹³ And it is not across the sea, so that you have to ask, 'Who will cross the sea, get it for us, and proclaim it to us so that we may follow it?' ¹⁴ But the message is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, so that you may follow it. ¹⁵ See, today I have set before you life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ For I am commanding you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commands, statutes, and ordinances, so that you may live and multiply, and the LORD your God may bless you in the land you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not listen and you are led astray to bow down to other gods and worship them, ¹⁸ I tell you today that you will certainly perish and will not live long in the land you are entering to possess across the Jordan. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ love the LORD your God, obey Him, and remain faithful to Him. For He is your life, and He will prolong your life in the land the LORD swore to give to your fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

Introduction:

How many choices do you make in any one given day? Simple stuff—what to wear, what to eat, what will you do all come with choices. Life is a series of choices.

We have been thinking about the family.

It comes down to choice. Before we get in to this text, I want to make several real quick observations about choice as related to our families.

1. You (as an individual) will make spiritual choices.
2. Your individual choices impact others.

3. Ultimately, your children make their own choices. (You cannot make their choices.)
4. Every person is responsible for their own choices.

So, what? That's where this text is so informative.

Choose Life! (Deuteronomy 30:19)

It seems simple, doesn't it? God sets out the blessings and cursings. He sets out life and death. He spells it out in a simple command (verse 16.) Finally, Moses gives the grand exhortation: choose life. Isn't that positive?

- We must assume the responsibility for the choice.
The Bible is filled with the idea of personal freedom. In the Garden of Eden, God set forth a choice to Adam and Eve. Nothing has ever changed that. We must keep the Sovereignty of God and the free choice of humanity in perfect balance. You must assume the responsibility of your own individual choice to follow Him. Your children must as well. Every family member must make their own choice.
- We must accept the requirements of the choice. (Worship and Walk)
 - There is the requirement to worship only God.
 - There is the requirement to walk with God (obey Him).
- We must acknowledge the results of not making the choice.
 - Difficult life—Proverbs 8:35-36 says, "For the one who finds me (wisdom) finds life and obtains favor from the Lord, but the one who sins against me harms himself; all who hate me love death." Proverbs 13:15 says, "the way of the treacherous is hard." (NASB)
- We may anticipate the rewards of making the right choice.
The promise of the reward should guide our choice.

Jesus promises eternal life to all who choose Him. (John 3:16)

Be Strong and Courageous! (Deuteronomy 31:7)

How? Verse 8 gives the answer. First, the Lord himself goes before you and will be with you. Second, He will never leave you or forsake you. These are good reasons today for us to be strong and courageous.

You cannot make your children commit to Christ or to the ways of Christ, but you can commit yourself to Christ. You can commit to not being the stumbling block.