

Thursday, November 5, 2020
Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

**"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your might.
And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.
You shall teach them diligently to your children,
and shall talk of them when you sit in your house,
and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.
You shall bind them as a sign on your hand,
and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.
You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."**

Deuteronomy 6: 4-9

Not too many people are adverse to a little religion in their life. Just ask those who go to church every Christmas and Easter. They will tell you that a little religion in life is good. But I doubt they would have fared very well as an Old Testament Israelite. God had some pretty high expectations of His people. In fact, if you read the verse above, it sounds almost as if God wanted His people to be "obsessed" with Him. "Talk about Me to your kids. Talk about me in your house and as you travel around. I want to be on your mind when you go to sleep at night and when you wake up in the morning. Put up signs on your house that say that you are my followers."

Sound obsessive? We can't act like we don't know what it means to be obsessed with something. Bodybuilders are obsessed with building muscles. They dedicate almost every detail of their lives to it. Some people are obsessed with making money. Some are obsessed with a hobby. Addicts are obsessed with whatever they are addicted to.

As human beings, we KNOW obsession! God is just telling us that the best thing to be obsessed with is Him! Everything about God is healthy and good for us. We can never "over-do" it with God. We might be able to "over-do" it with church involvement, but that is not the same as "over-doing" it with God. The human life is the best life when we love God with all our heart and soul and might. God is already loving us with all that He is. Jesus experienced hell in our place! Does that count as being obsessed with someone?

Maybe instead of using the word "obsession" to describe what it means to love God with all that we have and are, we should use the word "passion." God wants us to be as passionate about Him as He is about us. He is a good God! The Bible says, "Taste and see that the Lord is good." Study His Word. Pray a lot. Find people to talk about Him with (i.e. a Bible Study group).

I think one of the reasons that God wants us to be focused on Him is so that we will not be overly focused on the struggles and worries of this life. We will learn to compare our struggles with God and come to realize that there is no comparison. God wins ... every time!

God's Peace!
Pastor Jim