**Deuteronomy 30 vs 15-20**

These words from Deuteronomy have been chosen for the memory work for our Sunday School and Bible/College class pupils.

We have removed some words to make it easier to learn.

**To set the scene**, the Hebrew People (the Israelites) had been delivered by almighty God from slavery in Egypt 40 years earlier.

They were nearing the end of their wilderness sojourn

before they entered the promised land of Canaan.

These words were delivered to Moses by almighty God, who in His mercy and grace

was offering the people one of two choices.

They could either sincerely worship and obey Him and receive His blessing **or** they could be rebellious and reject Him, and receive His wrath and judgement.

**These words are relevant for us today** because the same Lord calls us to worship and obey Him so that we can receive His blessing. **Blessing in this life and in eternity to come.**

The promised land of Canaan is a picture of Gods eternal Heaven which He has promised to all who sincerely repent of their sin and trust in the death of His Son

the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary.

The Bible tells us that there are only two types of people. Those who look to Him to be their Saviour and Lord and those who choose to live their own way by spurning His gracious offer of forgiveness through the Lord Jesus Christ.

We have in these verses the offer of **life and good**, or of **death and evil**. Extreme opposites.

I am sure that you would all want to choose

life and good and totally reject death and evil.

**But what does choosing life and good really mean?**

God tells us in Psalms 14 and 53,

**“*That there are none that doeth good.”***

No one can be good enough for God

because He is perfect, and we are all sinful.

**2**

I hope that you will all concede, that in looking back over your lives, you will agree with God, that your best has not

been good enough to secure you a place in His holy Heaven.

**Isaiah 64v6, *“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.”***

We cannot earn heaven through our own goodness.

**Surely,** we have all lied, shown hatred at some time.

What about unbelief and our failure to give thanks to God for all His goodness, especially His forgiveness of our many sins. **1 John 1v8-10, *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”***

Our holy God expects us to keep all His commandments,

all the time.

Our failure to do this, bars us from entering Heaven

because no sin can exist there.

**So, we must look somewhere else for the goodness**

**that will please God and allow us into heaven.**

We are thankful that in His grace and mercy

God has provided the goodness we need.

**God the Son,** the second person of the Trinity,

known to us as the Lord Jesus Christ,

came from heaven to this sinful world.

**As a man (Emanuel God with us),** He lived a perfect life, but out of love, He offered himself to be punished for the sin of His People.

He did this by dying on the cross of Calvary,

taking God's holy and eternal wrath for our sin upon Himself.

This substitutionary sacrifice was accepted by God the Father so that Christ’s goodness, His robe of righteousness, could be given to us in exchange for the filthy rags of our sin.

**3**

**Did He die to save you?**

**Have you prayed for forgiveness for your sin?**

Do you believe that the Lord Jesus Christ

died on the cross of Calvary to save you?

Have you experienced a God placed desire

in your heart and soul to live a good life for the Saviour?

The Bible calls this being **Born Again** or **Born from Above**. **This is the unique work of God the Holy Spirit.**

As well as God promising us His goodness,

**He looks for goodness in us.**

Not that we can earn salvation, but that we should have a strong desire to live good lives as a witness to Him.

**Do you talk of His goodness to others?**

As we grow older, we find that physical exercise gets harder.

**But we are never too old for good spiritual exercise.**

We list some of the good things that God expects of us: -

1. Our daily praise and worship of Him,

As our God, our Lord and Saviour.

1. Daily prayer - seeking forgiveness

and His help and guidance.

1. Reading and prayerfully meditating upon His Word.

Being teachable, believing and obeying it.

1. Attending the means of Grace.

Church as often as we can. Ask for a lift if needed.

1. Taking an interest in the witness of the church – outreach visitation, children’s work, conversions, etc.

The Bible tells us that **the wages of sin is death**. Eternal.

We know that we will all face this experience one day.

If we have come in repentance and faith, through God's way of salvation, then happily the death of the body is the entrance of the soul into the eternal life of heaven.

**So, with Christ as our Saviour,**

we should have no fear of death.

**Without Christ as our Saviour and Lord,**

we have actually chosen death (eternal death), and evil.

**4**

**God has been very clear to us in this passage of scripture.**

**In verse 16,** God says. “I command you, **this day,** to love the Lord your God and to walk in His ways and keep His commandments.

**The soul that is saved will have this God given desire.**

We must acknowledge that we will fall short in this endeavour, but we have a Saviour Who will hear and answer our repentant cry for forgiveness.

**In verse 19,** God repeats

that He has set before us the choice of **life and death**.

He says therefore **choose life** (eternal life),

that you may live.

And He continues in **verse 20** that it is His desire that you may love the Lord thy God and that thou may obey His voice, and that you may cleave unto Him for He is thy life.

The Lord Jesus said, ***“I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.”***

The Lord Jesus Christ is the **only** way because He is the **only** one who can present a sinner clothed in His goodness and righteousness so that they are acceptable to God.

I hope that you have chosen **Life and Good.**

That you have exchanged your robe of filthy rags and are wearing the goodness, that robe of righteousness, of the Lord Jesus.

**How foolish to choose our own way – Death and Evil.**

**Our verse repeats – this day.**

**“Behold, Now is the Day of Salvation.”**

**Let us all choose Life and Good.**