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All right, so Uh, we're continuing to Worked towards having. Men who oversee the ministry of the church in service and earthly and material things. As the lord has commanded and we're continuing to see the Theology, and the history. Behind those commands. That not only might those men be prepared to lead us, but that we might be Prepared to be led.

We're, we considered how The lord. Even in his creating us created us. In a material world in which to know him and his goodness by all the good things he has made. And even to make him known, By our service, he has Appointed to us in the material world.

And that, of course, Was significantly affected by our sinning and Adam and our falling in him. Uh, both. Because we now are In bondage to Apart from christ bondage to To sit and decay and god. Um, We're sending misery and god, Uh, Made the Productivity of the world. Uh, part of not just the curse, but also a place where he would show that he was bringing redemption in christ and even mitigating his curse right from The beginning of its Pronouncement and implementation.

And then in the process of bringing the lord jesus into the world. The lord. Showed himself a covenant, god setting apart to himself, a particular people through whom would come to christ. From whom by whom he would give us the scriptures in which he Continued. Not only to make general display of himself, and the creation, and in every man, but Uh, continued to Speak in.

In that particular self-revelation. To his people. And, In their life as a nation. He was constituting. He Uh, we were at the place where he has constituted them as church. At sinai. Having gathered them out of egypt, and We're seeing how The theme continues. The lord continues to bless his people to make himself known to us in part.

In what he gives us and material things. And to assign to us the privilege of making him known. Particularly. For israel. Now as a covenant people. And where we are specifically right now. Is. Considering. How? The management of inheritance, and especially how the care of the poor. Is tied to israel's life with god before the face of god.

And, Uh, their identity as a people. Both a church and a nation. The lord is constituting them. As both of those things. Before him. Now, for many of us were helped in having recently, come through The passage. Or passages. At sinai, covering what? The lord himself calls the book of the covenant.

And the blood of the covenant with the representation up on the mountain, after the gaming of the ten commandments. Of the Uh, 70 elders of israel, Aaron and two of his sons, and Moses. And Moses having. Given some instruction. And now written it down and what is called the book of the covenant.

And we're going to Begin this morning by taking a look. At a portion in the middle of that instruction is kind of a sample of the case law. There's going to be a lot more case law later, obviously. Uh, tied not just to Israel, as a church. Which we get a lot of in leuiticus and connection with the service of the priesthood and Uh, their church calendar and the ceremonies that the lord had appointed but also in connection with israel as a state.

Uh, you get a lot of case, law and deuteronomy Especially. And you know, to some extent in numbers, as you have some of it coming out in the history of god's dealing. Uh, with israel in the book of numbers. But there's a sampling. Of that case law in what is called the book of the covenant.

Between the end of the giving of the ten commandments. And the beginning of the preparation of the tabernacle on the instruction of the tabernacle, which is where we are right now. In the evening services. And we're almost. Out to the outer part of the tabernacle there, but before god, Describes this tent.

With all of the features that he builds in builds into it for how he dwells among his people. He gives a sample in the book of the covenant, in the ceremony with the blood of the covenant. Of his dwelling among his people. So that, so that Israel would understand when they had the tabernacle on god, God with them there that this was innovate a portable version.

Of what the lord had displayed with their leadership on the mountain before they left Sinai. That there are people that has god in the midst of them, and he has Made it. Safe for them or given them. The, the opportunity. To have him in their midst, for blessing, rather than destruction.

By this blunt that has a turned for them. And by instruction that he has given them. For living before god. In a way that redeemed people do. Not earning the dwelling of god before them. But living as those who have been redeemed. So that the lord Enjoys and rewards the display of his own redemption.

In the conduct of his people. That's still applies to us today, doesn't it? Uh, we have We have the Um, We have difficulty sometimes when we are. Trying to, Live our lives before the lord differentiating. And putting the gospel first, the redemption first, it's helpful to us to remember that.

That's what he did with israel. That we have been attuned for by the blood of jesus. And the lord has come to dwell in our myths, especially by his holy spirit, who ministers to us the presence, not only of the lord jesus, but even of the father, In the sun by the spirit.

We have not been left as orphans. Uh, because the lord jesus has poured out his spirit. Upon us the father and the son have come and made their home with us. And our obedient lives. Or to be an expression of what redeemed people look like. When they live. So that when you and i obey the lord, we're not earning blessing from him.

Uh, we are expressing independence upon him. That life that he has given us in christ by his spirit and since he loves his redemption and he loves the glory of his name and he loves the display of his son. Which is what is? In every genuinely good work, it's not from us, it's from his son.

The lord loves the display of himself and is making Display. Of himself. So there's this. Principle in how they use their wealth, how they use their property, how they treat the poor, how they treat slaves? And, And foreigners. And And so forth. Um, There's this principle of being first and foremost before the face of god.

And, Uh, desiring that he would be pleased. With what he sees. Produced in their lives. Now in the middle of the book of the covenant, we have this and x is 22. Verse 21 and following. Uh, you shall need a mistreat. A stranger nor oppress him for your strangers, in the land of egypt.

Um, you shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child. If you flick them in any way and they quiet all to me. I will surely hear their cry. And my wrath will become hot. And i will kill you with the sword. Your wives shall be with us. And your children fatherless.

If you lend money to any of my people who are poor among you, you shall not be like a money lender to him. You shall not charge him interest. If you ever take your neighbor's, garment has played, you shall return it to him before. The sun goes down for that, is his only covering it is as garment for his skin?

What will he sleep in? And it will be that when he cries to me, I will hear. For our i am gracious. Okay, so Hopefully you can remember back if i don't think it's been too long, just a few months. Um, to where we were hearing preaching through this section.

And you did you catch there and verse 23 and 24. And then, in verse 27, That the way you treat those who are poor. Is driven by what god sees and hears. That he will hear them when they cry. That he is paying attention to whether we are reflecting what our god is like.

The reason he hates. When his people are, Are not tenderhearted and compassionate. With those who are poor and in difficulty is because he is gracious. And and there's this principle throughout the law that we are to be holy because our god is holy, And therefore, we are to be gracious because our god is gracious.

Now, one of the things that we're going to be seeing is As we? Consider a bunch more passages. Um, Is a reminder over and over again. How many israelites started out as poor? This is. Think about it children, how many israelites? Cyani. Started out as poor. I mean, despite the fact that they were Fantastically.

Wealthy. Before they or You know, before they came into the land and then they came into the land, Uh, but what happened when the pharaoh who did not know Joseph arose Okay, so they became Uh, more fantastically poor than they had been fantastically wealthy. And then what did the lords do for them as they were coming out?

You remember from the last Last few of these. When they were coming out, what they, what were they supposed to do to their neighbors? Supposed to ask their neighbors for things and all the wealth of egypt left with israel. And so they have gone from extreme poverty. Uh, to unimaginably rich.

Now, this is Yesterday. Services. Correct. To say that after the famine, the Israelites of wealthy was Yes, and then a feral rose who did not know Joseph. Um, So what the lord did in the life of israel? Uh, the lord teaches us about ourselves. This is a recurring theme.

We had again. Um, membership and profession of faith interviews at the At the session meeting Thursday evening, it's one of our favorite things that we get to do. As elders to hear the work of the lord, and the work of the lord, in almost every one of these. Interviews lives.

And the life of almost everyone of these people that we interview is such that Their testimony is they come to realization that they're completely bankrupt? Not not necessarily financially, although sometimes that's part of it actually, but that they have no good in them. That there's nothing they can do.

To. Make up for themselves to god that they do nothing. They can do to stop being These horrible sinners, that they have discovered themselves to be. And so this principle of god being gracious and giving Literally all of the wealth because what do you get when you believe in jesus christ?

You get everything. Actually, it's even better. You get Jesus and together with him everything because everything belongs to him. And so, the Lord has given. Uh his people even in material things and given Israel, as he's constituting them as a nation at church, even in material things, the opportunity to reflect the character of God in his redemption.

And so, So what that means, dear children is That if you are. Stingy and hard. With your siblings or with, you know, other kids who come over To your house, or as you grow. And, Have opportunity to obtain and earn money. And the way you think about the money that you earn, and And, If?

Uh, giving Both for the work of the Lord, like we've been hearing, Last last week, I think maybe the last couple And, For the, the care of others. Uh, so that you can have something to help a brother in the, in his time of need, like we hear from Ephesians.

If you're not thinking that way about your stuff,

Selfishness and heart-heartedness towards others, as before the face of God. And, You might be worried if If? Being. Being selfish with your possessions, you might be worried. That your little brother or sister whoever it is. Tell on you. Mommy. And you know what's going to happen, mama's gonna come and she's gonna teach your little brother or sister to do Matthew 18 because, you know, just telling like that isn't what we're supposed to do.

But when mom gets to you She's going to remind you that you and everything you have belongs to God. And is to be enjoyed as an employment of God and as to be employed in the service of God, even when you play, Now God, Says that. Even if someone doesn't have a mommy to cry out to When they cry out in their hearts, He will be furious with those.

Who were closed-handed and closed hearted. Towards their poor brothers and sisters. To their brothers and sisters who are poor. So, I've noted for you, a Yeah, another verse in which he Says the same thing. Deuteronomy, 15 verse 9.

This is in the midst of instructions. Uh, that will get to later for generosity to the poor. But he says beware, unless there be a wicked thought in your heart saying The seventh year of The seventh year, the year of releases and And your evil against your poor brother and you give him nothing And he cry out to Yahweh against you.

And it becomes sin. Among you. So, the first, uh, the first one's for whom We employ our property. Well, the first one for him. We employ our property. Well, is God. Desiring that he would be pleased with what he sees. Coming out of this people that he has set apart to himself.

We rejoice. In in covenant, theology. And the fact that God has set apart to himself a covenant people. Uh, that That there are promises concerning that covenant people and there are privileges that he's given us and having his worship in the means of his grace. And knowing that, This is his ordinary way of working in the world gives us good hope when he applies signs, not just to us.

But but also to our children, God has a people in the world still And he has set them apart by signs, still. But that means, He is interested in their display of his character in a unique and special way. Still one of the great offenses to God in our present age of the church is a sort of preaching and teaching that says Christians really aren't different from the world.

We're just forgiven. A kind of advertising to the world. Oh, come to our church, you won't be out of place at all. We're all just recovering centers, like you are. No. The church is supposed to be different. The church is supposed to be holy. And god is furious with his church.

When it is not. And so the the the covenant theology helps us desire obedience. Now, that we can earn the favor of god. That we could properly reflect the character of the god who has saved us. Which ought to as it makes him furious when we don't it all also to grieve us deeply.

When we don't, This is. What? I refer to on your outline. As the Deuteronomy four through eight. Principal if If you remember your two places, where the law of god, Is given you. You'll recognize right away that chapter 5 is the the other place that the ten commandments has given x is 20.

I think is probably the more well-known, but Deuteronomy 5 is as well. But in deuteronomy four through eight, he's he's giving this principle That god's people are to be reflecting god's character in their relationship with him. And that all disobedience. Uh, to him, is rooted in a forgetfulness? Of him.

And so the actual ministry as it takes part in the commandments of god for his church and the commandments of god for his state, we're talking about israel here. Um, although The. The working out of the moral law and the character of christ in his people. Continues to, in his.

People under the administration of grace continues today. But the Um, The obedience of israel as a church and of a Of a nation is. Is to reflect their relationship with God and what he has done with them. And this is something that is a testimony between between them and god.

That's why disobedience, god refers to as playing the harlot to them. Yes. Karen That the idea behind the saving god's name. Yes. Yes. So the Thank you. So that's the, that's the third commandment. And you remember when we were, when we were hearing about the third commandment that it was a not carrying of his name, lightly or not bearing his name lightly which, of course, as those who have been given to have God's name on our lips.

Has a significant effect on the way we use our mouths, especially and workshop, but not just in worship. Because now we have mouths, there are consecrated, especially for worship that we can't be cursing. Our brothers. If we're going to be coming to praise god in the next minute. But our lips are not.

The only way that we bear the name of god. God has put his name upon us in a way that places demands on our lives. And this is, This is something that Again occurs, not just in worship. But it occurs in our In our interaction with others. Part of this principle in deuteronomy four through eight that god's people were to be a display of god's character particularly for For god to delight in his work, in his people, part of it was that this would also be seen by others.

And so, Towards the beginning of that section of Deuteronomy Deuteronomy, And we're going to pick up in verse 6. Therefore be careful to observe them. The statutes for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the people who will hear all these statutes And say, surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.

For what great nation is there, that has god so near to it as Yahweh, our god, it's to us. For whatever reason, we may call upon him. And what great nation is there, that has such statutes and righteous judgments as our in all this law, which i said before you this day So one of the things is saying is that as they and we when obviously don't have time to Uh, to read five chapters together right now.

Uh, but as they are living this redeemed life. That reflects god's character and especially is, especially for god's eyes. His eyes are not going to be the only eyes that see it. That it was part of his design for israel to have laws especially laws. That guard and take care of the poor and the slave.

And even Even the foreigner among you. That's, That's exactly opposite. The nature of the flesh and And we have seen even how in our day when When this rise of the state, as idle, And, Put it putting government in the place. Where God belongs. It's failed, spectacularly. Uh, to actually take care of the poor.

Uh, never have the poor been hurt more. Um, But, Uh, But one of the things that happens. Uh, is that as they have this relationship with god, that as fleshed out in part in what they do with their economically, each one of them and their generosity Uh, As commanded by god, is Uh, verse 6.

Uh, therefore be careful to observe them for. This is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the people who will hear all these statutes and say, surely, this great nation is a wise and understanding people. So are they supposed to do it for the eyes of god or for the eyes of men?

It's it's one of those easy questions. I hope for you. Kids, the answer is always god. Um, Well, just about it. Depends on what the question is. But, It's similar to when the lord jesus. Is teaching. That we are let to let our light shine before men. And i grew up under.

Maybe under instructed, or just under instructable, Uh, because of the flesh of my heart. Uh, fleshliness of my heart thinking. I was supposed to do good deeds so that other people can see them. And i would take matthew 5. And i would follow matthew 5 in a way that would immediately disobey Matthew 6.

Which says do them for god to see them. Don't even let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Uh, but the key is, you read the whole text and pay attention to the whole text. He says, light can't be hidden. So if you do it for the eyes of god, and if you're careful not to be doing it for the eyes of men, god will still make it visible to whomever, he wishes?

And, Then it becomes a, the A way that you can know whether or not your light, Because you don't have to try. To let your light shine before men. If you are light, it will be seen because it can't be hidden. But that's a way of testing the the integrity of the light.

Okay? So something similar in the life of israel here. The way that they dealt. Uh, with all things but as As we are considering. Especially. The care of. The poor, the care of the slave, the the care of the stranger. The The use of money. For the support of god's worship as We've seen in the section that we just as they do all of these things.

Uh, god is Giving that as a testimony between himself and them, but it's also designed to be a testimony to the nations that don't have him. If you, if you're going to be a poor person anywhere on earth, you want to be a poor person among god's church. And when israel was constituted an nation among god's nation, Except for, as we're going to see in the next section.

You know, what led to the exile and the eventual. Rejection of israel. Um, national Uh, israel. They never were like this. In fact, when in when him in him was the light came. Uh, they rejected him. When he came.

So, I hope it is pressing upon us. It's always. I, i hope this is pressing upon us. Some of the urgency. Of. Doing this. Well, doing this rightly. Not doing it so that you know the greater

kaleocca area That i don't know if that phrase ever been said. I'm sure, you know, we're small kalega small enough that, that must have been satirically said before.

Not just not just so that the community around us. Will say oh you know those hope well people You know. You know, they're one of the most Charitably involved congregations, there are. And so we stack up the programs to To promote ourselves as the charity church. But so that we become a people where every individual every household and then yes, In.

In some cases corporately as a congregation as well, a reflecting the character of our god. And what we do with material things, So that he is pleased. With. The display of his son. In us. And then in his providence, when that is real. It can't be hidden. Not that, we do it for others to see.

But that when he permits others to see it and say, wow. We want to have their god. You know, you don't do it as a bait and switch. You actually have christ and that's what you have. And they see that. But that is, that is given by the lord.

You know, another place had just Noticed on the outline where he Says the same thing as we just read from chapter 4 Deuteronomy 26, will Uh, we'll close with this and then we'll get into lord willing next week, some of the specific instructions. About property. Deuteronomy 26. 16 through 19.

This day all day, your god commands you to observe these statutes and judgments. Therefore, you shall be careful to observe them with all your heart and with all your soul. Um again redemption first, it's our having been set apart to him and being by being redeemed. By him. That is behind the obedience.

The obedience doesn't get him for us. Today, you have proclaimed, Yahweh to be your god and that you will walk in his ways and keep his statutes his commandments, and his judgments and that you will obey his voice. Also today you always proclaimed you. To be his special people.

Just as he promised you that you should keep all his commandments. And that he will set you high above all nations, which he has made. And praise and name and in honor, and that you may be a holy people. To y'all, who your god. Uh, just as he is has spoken.

We desire. That the lord who has bought for himself. This people. By the blood of jesus. What receive praise and honor. By the way, this people whom he has bought lives. That's, Uh, what needs to be driving? Our generosity. And if we are not generous, If we are stingy.

Then that exposes that we haven't really realized, how generous God has been with us. We haven't really realized how he has bound himself to us and us to himself. It needs to come out, it ought to come out. In the everyday details. Of what we're doing. Uh, in this world.

And with everything that he has given to us, we'll get to some more of those details. Uh, lord willing next week, let's pray.

Our father in heaven. And we thank you that you have given christ. Who is our light and our life? And That you have by your spirit removed, the veil from our hearts. That we would. See him. Particularly by faith. And That you give through your word and the plane.

Speaking of the truth, We pray. Oh, lord. That As you have joined us to your son. He would be glorified. In your people who walk in the light as he Is in the light and as he is. The light that we might have fellowship. Not only with one another.

In being. Light lings But that truly our fellowship would be with you. And with your son, our lord  
jesus. We pray. Lord for your blessing upon this instruction. That it would not only help us to.  
To be more diligent in. Service and generosity. Um, but that it would help us to view.

That service and that generosity the right way. That we would love for praise to rebound. To our  
lord jesus. That we would love. For your pleasure. To be in your son and What your spirit has  
produced in us from him. And that we would love for others. To have this display of the light of  
christ.

By which you give opportunity. For the word of christ. Through which to make them light as  
well. Help us. Oh god. And bring yourself honor and the ongoing. History of this congregation.  
And what you do through these studies. And the fruit that you make them to bear. In our lives,  
we ask it in christ's name.

Amen.