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So if you have an outline, we are in two.

Roman numeral one today. I think if you don't have a Yeah, if you don't have a Roman numeral one, then you're on the wrong side, that doesn't happen that much anymore. Since I started Um, Making bold face. Parts that we're going to do today. Um, And so we are beginning thinking about Israel and their laws for Uh, tithing and especially for charity.

And inheritance and all the, all their laws. Having to do with money and specifically today in Roman numeral one. The Lord's teaching them before and in the context of giving them all these laws. That how we think about wealth and how we use wealth. Is one of the main indicators of whether we are remembering God.

In our lives. You remember? Well actually, you'll remember it when we when we get there because Jesus quotes From these, so, Oh, wait on that. So how we think about and youth wealth is one of the main indicators of whether we are remembering God. You remember last week, I hope that we highlighted that one of the reasons why diaconal ministry is so important for the church and why it was so important for Israel as they were being constituted.

Both a nation and a church, is that the the church in the world is a display of what God's grace looks like when he comes redemptively to a people. So they were told that the rest of the world was supposed to be able to look at Israel and their laws and how they followed them and know that they had the only true and living the great God and That he was near to them.

That the society that God had produced in Israel was supposed to be as it were a missionary society of witness and now, we all know, Uh what the Lord testifies as he's prosecuting, his case against Israel and places like the opening chapters of Isaiah, how he had done everything for them.

As his vine and yet, when he came to inspect the fruit from the vine, he he had the The bitter. Cd uncultivated. Wild grapes instead of the the good grapes that the vine should have produced, but still that was the design. And one of the things that Israel that Isaiah goes on to, Teach is that God has always had his true Israel and that true Israel will especially be displayed when his when his true servant comes and we now You know, hopefully you are familiar with phrases like the suffering servant or the servant songs and that last third of Israel, Isaiah or so that describes the Lord Jesus.

And then that that section in, which the Lord Jesus is the truth, Israel and all who are in him or the true Israel, which we've been hearing from Romans more was always the case. That Abraham as. Father and that we as as children of faith and that any believing Israelites in between and now as children of faith, that it was always by faith in Christ, it was never By by biological lineage, although God deals with households.

And I don't want to get Uh, too far away from where we're going. This this morning to track that down, But all of that to say, That the church ought to be. Uh, what Israel had failed to be Christ is And to the extent that a church is, genuinely.

Preaching the truth. Uh, acting like we've seen in the first Timothy 3, as a pillar in buttress of the truth and what is the great truth that of which the church's a billion, buttress, who Jesus is, and what Jesus has done and what Jesus is doing from his seat.

In glory, in heaven, we actually have that in our new testament reading today. In first Timothy 3:16 Uh so uh the church needs to be ought to be a reflection of a preacher first, a preacher of but also a reflection of who Jesus Christ is and what Jesus Christ has like.

So all of these things kind of from The last week section and deuteronomy four through eight. What we called at least on the outline. The deuteronomy, four three principle, they all have kind of a, how much more Uh, tag to them for the church, if that was true of Israel and God, or that was supposed to be true of Israel instructed Israel's instructed, that that should be true of them, and they failed and got prosecuted them, but then he said, when I send my servant, then my church will be different.

And he has sent Christ in Christ is perfectly. What he is and he is building his church and there are going to be always individuals and congregations that are more rather than less examples of this none. Perfect this side of glory, but that's part of the gospel that we preach Christ as our attainment and our sustainer by his grace and yet There are always going to be congregations that are more rather than less and those that aren't remember.

Jesus threatens them. He warns them. He's going to take their lampstand away. He's going to remove from them, the actual knowledge. Of God's favor. In him. Yeah, they might even have some, you know, some leftover theologizing about it, but they won't have the actual light. They won't have the actual knowing of Jesus, it'll be something that they speak words about.

And, you know, maybe some of the Of the more. Yes, I go. Emotionally wired folks in their congregation will have feelings that they think are those things, but the lampstand will be gone. The preaching will not come. With with the power of the Holy Spirit, the knowledge of the Lord Jesus and the knowledge of the light of the glory of God in the Lord Jesus won't be there.

And so it is very urgent upon congregations that we reflect the character of Christ that we not only have true preaching of his word and true hearing of his word and the living out of. But also the living out of that in the day in the daily life. And we've seen already as we've moved through first Timothy 3, how the tying of those two things together.

The the right preaching of the word that produces the, the Lord uses to produce the right living of the Christian life. That that is why it was so necessary for Timothy to give Ephesus a reset, as it were for Timothy to do the work of reformation that he was called to and reorgan.

Is that church with properly recognized called installed elders properly recognized called installed, deacons a preaching ministry then and under the elders and a living ministry under the deacons, that would put an end to the some of the Extra doctrines that were being preached by those who ought not to have been teaching in the church.

And therefore, some of the Well, unbelieving living that had resulted from the poor doctrine. So that's what Timothy Was doing there. So, as we think about coming to, Have installed new deacons and wanting as a congregation to live before. God, the way that the The the deacons are supposed to be helping us.

Overseeing us leading us in living before God. It's a helpful, I think to think of where Israel was as a church. And to remember that, this is something that continues in the new testament in a very Very real alive. Active sort of way. Well. The, the great chapter of the primary chapter for

remembering that how we think about, well, and use it as one of the main indicators of whether we are remembering.

God is Deuteronomy chapter 8. So if you have a bible, You may wish to open there and i will try to read. As clearly in communicatively as possible. For those who don't have it in front of them. Deuteronomy chapter 8 every commandment which i command you today, you must be careful to observe that you may live and multiply and go in and possess the land of which you always swore to your fathers.

And you shall remember that yahweh, your god, led you all the way these 40 years in the wilderness to humble? You, and test you? To know what was in your heart. Whether you would keep his commandments or not. So he humbled you Allowed you to hunger. And then fed you with manna, which you did not know nor did your fathers know.

That he might make, you know, That man shall not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word. That proceeds from the mouth of yahweh. Now, remember your savior In the wilderness after his baptism. The holy spirit, drove him out into the wilderness. Right? And he knows his bible, of course, because he loved his bible.

The way each of us knows that we ought to and come and repent before god, that we don't, and thank him that jesus christ our righteousness did. And that, that has been counted for us. And so, jesus knew Deuteronomy chapter 8, jesus was a custom to To living his life by applying the the most appropriate applicable, part of the word of god, to every moment of his life.

As he developed, the not just developed some knowledge of what's in the bible, but developed the knowledge of living by the bible. And now he's been led out into the wilderness and you know, what's he thinking about? Well, another things he's thinking about Deuteronomy chapter 8, Where god says, he led his people into the wilderness and what does god say about?

He that one of the reasons he led them into the wilderness was to test them to see whether they would obey or not. And so he here he is being led into the wilderness by the spirit and he knows from the word of god. He's being tested to see why whether or not he'll obey.

And what is one of the main ways that God is going to test him? Well, he knows Deuteronomy chapter 8, He's going to give him hunger. And is he going to trust that god is still his father that god still loves him? That god is still providing for him, even when he's hungry.

And so the lord jesus says, answer, when satan comes at the end of 40 days, He says, if you are the son of god and, of course, you know is not like Is not like eve. Yeah, you know, under instructed, perhaps from from adam, but Um, Well but with an easiness, you know, in the first if you are the son of god, of course, the spirit of our lord would be Uh, would be Recoiling against that.

What do you mean if He said it, you are my beloved son, you know the you know we don't do the you know did god really say thing? Serpent yeah that you know that was the first Adam. And, and his wife. Uh if you are the son of god, tell these stones to become bread and the implication on satan's part is Uh, god must not be taking really good care of you since the end fed you in 40 days, But it meditating upon the word of god.

What would our savior be thinking? For 40 days. Father has been giving me the opportunity. To show that in my human nature, which gets hungry. I will be humble before him. I will consider his providence, perfect. And he has given me every word, That has proceeded from his mouth.

So that i have had in some sense, a greater feast these last 40 days when i wasn't wasting time, or life on eating food and all of my eating was on the words of my father, Now, we all Wish that we could live like that before, God, don't we?

But if you are a believer in jesus christ, You have been counted. As if you live like that. And, You are being conformed to live like that. Don't ever make the mistake of reading the law of god. Well, forgetting the lord jesus and both what has been counted for you and what you will certainly be like when god is done with you.

And what's in between those two things. Is what he's doing in you now. And so, Kids. Especially little boys. I'm sure it happens a little girls, too. I've only been a little boy. Praise god. We were biblical enough in, in my family, and in my day, that We didn't have any other crazy ideas like this.

Like this culture does. And children. I know it sounds weird but you are going to run into weird and you need to hear about the weird from the people who know god and his word and the truth. Um, But little boys, get hungry. I could get hungry so fast that by the time i swallowed a bite, i was hungry again for the next one.

And, you know, and i could get up from a male run, outside in five minutes later, i'd be hungry again. Um, things changed. But, Every moment of hunger is a a opportunity that has given to you from god. Will i think about the way that he provides for me in a way that says my god is good.

He's taking care of everything i need and the one thing i need more than anything else is to know his word. So, you start thinking, Yeah, you start tying i'm hungry, too. Boy, i'm so glad. That mom taught me to read and i can read my bible or mama's teaching me to read.

And i can read my bible. Or i'm hungry. I'm so glad We read the bible together as a family. This morning, we're going to read it again tonight. You know what was it we read again this morning and if i can't even remember then maybe i should be hungry or in a different way.

I'm hungry. I'm so glad we get to go. Yeah it's never more than six days until i get to hear the word of god. Preached in the holy assembly. Again. Okay, so, the way we think about Provision. The way we think about wealth. Is an indicator. Of. Of how we are, remembering God, he continues and he's going to move on from the food now to the wealth.

Because we actually, Are people who live more in an estate of abundance than in a state of lacking. Yeah, but remember that the apostle on philippians 4. Uh, teaches us that the grace of god is necessary in order, how to do both. When he talks about knowing how to abound.

Is not talking about knowing how to get abundance. He's talking about how to spiritually, survived a condition of abundance. Abundance comes to you in the providence of god, when he says, knowing how to lack, he doesn't mean knowing how to be financially impoverished. You know, a lot of people do it themselves, you know, a little sleep, little, you know, slumber a little folding of the hands to rest and poverty comes upon you like an armed robber.

Um, So people do it to themselves, but sometimes in god's providence poverty, also comes even to those who are working hard and frugal and you know, making good decisions and and so forth when he says i know how to How to lack, he's talking how to spiritually survive and thrive.

In liking. Well let's continue then in Deuteronomy 8 and be listening for how to abound especially since this is more applicable to us therefore you shall keep the commandments of

yahweh. Your god to walk in his ways and to fear Him for y'all. What your god is bringing you into a good land.

A land of brooks of water of fountains and springs that flow out of valleys and hills. It will say having lived in Iowa and having lived in middle Tennessee. There's a lot easier for y'all. To go on. A little drive. And have a Deuteronomy 87. Uh, moment, you know, they might have you beat on.

Uh wheat and barley though, a land of wheat and barley and figs and fig trees and pomegranates and the land of olive oil and honey and land in which you will eat bread without scarcity. In which you will lack nothing. A land, whose stones are iron and out of his hills.

You could dig copper when you have eaten and are full then you shall bless yahweh. Your god For the good land, which he has given you beware that. You do not forget, you always your god, by not keeping his commandments, his judgments and his statutes, which I command you today, less.

Now notice what, he pairs with the disobedience of all of god's commandments here, lest when you have eaten and are full and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them. And when you're herds and your flocks multiply and your silver and your gold or multiplied, and all that you have as multiplied, How many people sit there and think about how to, you know, achieve this state in their lives and scheme?

Yeah. How many of you young people are tempted that to think not about? What is most needful for the world around you when you're thinking about? Education and career, and those things. But the primary factors what will make me the most bucks with the least amount of effort. Um, But when all of this is multiplied and when your heart has lifted up, And you forget, yahai your god.

Who brought you out of the land of Egypt? From the house of bondage. Who led you through the great and terrible wilderness in which were fiery serpents, and scorpions and thirsty, land? Where there was no water. Who brought water for you? Out of the flinty rock. Who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know that he might tumble you and that he might test you to do you good in the end?

So you, you forget, Uh how it was or how you should have that spiritually lacked, or how you should have financially lacked and spiritually survived it, you know, like we were talking about before and then you say in your heart My power. And the might of my hand. Have gained me this wealth.

And you shall remember, yahweh, your god. For his, he who gives you power to get wealth. That he may establish his covenant, which he swore to your father's as it is this day. Again, the constituting of Israel as a church and to state and how closely connected what we're learning about is to that Then it shall be, if you by any means, forget Yahwe your god and follow other gods and serve them and worship them.

I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish. As the nations which y'all had destroyed before you. So you shall perish because you would not obey be obedient. To the voice of yahwe, your god. And so one of the primary things that would lead to that disobedience Was a forgetfulness of humility before god, that we are all needing.

The rich are needy. Their bank accounts are not taking care of them. Their educations. Are not. Supplying their income. Their efforts, and Successful planning. It's not what has provided for

them. God has provided for them and God continues to extend to them, their bread every single day. When we come and we thank God for our food children.

Listen up. When we come and we thank God for our food. That needs to not be this little prayer that we have prayed so many times that we don't feel the force of it anymore. We ought at every meal. To be humbled before God, that for a, for a Someone so poor, as I am.

God is free again. Because he loves me. And he's taking care of me. Whether it's, you know, something you had to scratch and scrape for and it's the only meal you're going to get today and you might not have had one yesterday or whether, you know, you're eating like a hobbit and it's the eighth meal of the day.

Or you're at an extended family. Feast, I don't know how you all extended family feast I know my American wife was. I don't know. It's done. Isn't the word and ask her about it some other day. Uh, some other time about what is like to come to an extended family holiday gathering Um, You know, if the if the Zombie apocalypse happen in that moment, we could batten down the hatches and eat free years.

But whatever you have, you need to be humble. All are needy before. God, we are fed from his hand. Whether we are wealthy or whether we are poor, and if you're humble, then you need to be thankful. That you have been provided for and especially that you've been provided his word.

Lest you eat and fill your belly? And fail to believe. And die in parish. And to this humility and this thankfulness are added, therefore joy. We're going to push a little bit. And try to try to finish our room in numeral. So moving on to chapter 14. And he's talking now about Tithing principles were were actually going to come.

Uh this is tied to 20, let's do 26 first and then come back. To 14.

So chapter 26, verses 5 through 11. Um, when you bring in the first fruits and the tithes The the priest takes what you brought and he sets it down before the altar usually answer and say before you all the way your God, my father was a Syrian about to Paris.

Remember how at the end of The conquest, you know, Joshua tells them the that Uh, Tara and Abram in Calvin. In the land of the Chaldeans is we're about to perish without the knowledge of God, they were idolaters Uh, before the Lord called them and he went down to Egypt and dwelt there, a few in number and there.

He became a nation, great mighty and populous but the Egyptians mistreated us afflicted us and laid hard bondage on us. Then we cried out to Yahweh, God of our fathers, and you always heard our voice and looked on our affliction on and our labor and our oppression. So he always brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand with an outstretched arm with great terror and signs and wonders.

He has brought us to this place and has given us this land. A land flowing with milk and honey. And now behold I have brought the first fruits of the land, which you owe y'all way. Have given me. And then you shall set it up before you all the way your God.

And worship before. Yahweh your God. So you shall rejoice in every good thing. Which y'allah your God has given to you and your house, you and the Levite and the stranger. Who is among you and that's going to become important. When we start thinking about, not just tithing giving to God, but charity, but this principle of enjoyment A humble heart is always more joyful.

As it as it receives, what is given to it? A thankful heart is always more joyful and said this principle of enjoyment. Because you and i uh, we can convince ourselves. Yeah, i'm humble. Yeah and thankful. You know, i pray those big flowery for echo but a pharisee to shame with with how well i prayed prayers of thankfulness.

Yeah, but do you have a rich pleasure? In everything. That you eat and drink every day. You would, if you really were humble and knew that It was God who gave that to you and not yourself. If you're really worth thankful, you would eat with the relish of a thankful person.

But what if you can't get to wherever the altar is, and that brings us back to chapter 14. You shall truly tie all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year, and you shall eat before you always, are god, and the place where he chooses to make his name abide, the ties of your brain and your new wine and your oil of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks that you may learn to fear.

You always your god always, but if the journey is too long for you so that you are not able to carry the tithe or if the place where you are, God chooses to put his name as too far from you, when you know, where your god has blessed you.

Then usually exchange it from money and take the money in your hand, and go to the place, which you always your god chooses. You shall spend that money for whatever your heart desires. Listen to the emphasis on enjoyment here for oxen, or sheep for wine or and i know why maybe because New King James is Thomas Nelson and it's baptist publishing house, wine or similar drink.

The root of the word comes from the word for intoxication. It's not saying you should be intoxicated. Uh i think king james has strong drink some translations, say beer, if you're a good presbyterian, you can read scotch Okay. But whatever, your heart desires. If you like oxen roast get oxen roast, if it's mutton get mutton if it's wine get wine if it's scotch gets scotch Only.

The reason for doing so is you shall eat there before? Yahweh your god. And you shall rejoice. You and your household. And then you know, you see the tithe and then you see the charity, you shall not forsake the levite who is within your gates. For he has no park or inheritance.

Um, Uh, with you. And the end of At the end of every third year, you shall bring out the tithe of your produce at your stored up within your gates and the Levite because he has no portion here. It's with you and the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who are within your gates, may come and eat and be satisfied that you always your god, may bless you and all the work of your hand which you do.

And so, there is this emphasis on enjoyment. Now, next week, at the beginning of first, Timothy 4, we're going to hear about doctrines of demons, right? So this week at the end of first, Timothy 3, you know, which we started out with that. Truth of which the church is a pillar and ground, what God has done for us and in jesus christ and then anything that gets added To the word of god, religiously is a doctrine of demons.

And, you know, i hope you, you know, spend time on that this coming week and in the devotional in the opening of first, Timothy 4 and compare it with the the Uh, passage from Colossians 2 that i reference. Don't have time. We ran ourselves out of time to do all that now.

But what are some of those doctrines of demons? Priests shouldn't marry. On these days at this time of year, you're not allowed to eat that food. Things that as Colossians 2 say, have the appearance of wisdom. But actually can't do anything against sin, why? Well, because first, Timothy 3:16 jesus is the only one who can do anything against sin.

Man-made religion. Doesn't come from, man. It comes from the devil. And it destroys souls. Even if it sounds so spiritually sincere. And so the papists have multiplied to themselves, you know, they're not marrying of priests and the fasts and they're not the only ones, you know, whenever man made religion, goes off the rails even uh in some Pentecostal circles, where, you know, they they'll have these obligatory fasts and they'll add, you know, the, you know, the The new revelation kind of added religious spirituality over here, we'll get added to to it.

What else? Or maybe not some more or in such an antonymian culture now, but imagine still the first half of the 20th century. A bunch of legalistic rules. Of things that christians mustn't do that aren't actually from the bible. And what isn't there? Joy. Thankfulness that's that's what's emphasized about the true religion.

That is in jesus and there's opening verses in first Timothy chapter 4. I wish i had just extended into next week, maybe we'll do it at the beginning of next week. Anyway, And you see on the one hand, the the man-made religion, doctrine of demons is you can't you mustn't, we're deprivation is good for the soul.

And the the true doctrine of christ is What deprivation? I have to word of god. I have prayer. I have the son of god. I have his life and death and resurrection. I'm gonna enjoy everything i eat and everything. I drink.

Enjoyment. Is one of the symptoms? Of the humility and thankfulness that belongs to those who know that everything they got, from the everything they have. They got from god who loves them and gave himself for them and to them. You know what another symptom is. Generosity. Generosity. And they will both flow.

That's one of the things that our Deacons. We pray to god, we'll be used of his spirit. To help us live in. Humility. Thankfulness enjoyment and generosity. Thank you for bearing with for a few extra minutes. That's right. Oh, our father, we bless your name. We thank you for the perfect righteousness.

Of our savior. We read on remember often about him coming and speaking so that his joy might be in us. Oh lord. We want to enjoy you. We want to enjoy you first and foremost. We want that everything else that we have we would enjoy as from you. And we would enjoy you and your goodness by means of it.

But help us. Oh god. For we are not like your son. Thank you for counting his righteousness for us. Thank you for giving us his spirit and we pray that you would by that spirit continued. Conforming us to him that we might be humble thankful joyous generous people. Unto the praise of your glory.

So that all can see. That we have a great and true and living god, who is near to us. Even now in us. By your spirit and union with christ. In his name, we pray. Amen.