

New Sermon Series: Living Successfully for God

9/28/25 “Pure and Jealous,” Deut. 4:1-24, NLT

INTRODUCTION CK’s death causes fear, anger... called to be His witnesses, ministers of reconciliation, ambassadors for Christ

Can jealousy be good? Sin: distrusting Good: requiring fidelity

Consuming fire: God is pure & holy, removing what is evil.

MAIN IDEA: God purifies us as we have relationship with Him.

What must we do? Here are three things we must do.

I. First, obey the word of God (1, 2, 5, 6, 14)

A. must be taught the word of God

1. Holy Spirit is not enough
2. need teachers (such as Moses)

NOTE: Yes, HS gives us understanding, but God gifts some to help us know & understand His word (Eph. 4:11-16).

B. not enough to know *what* He says; must *do what He says*

1. and not add to...*political views, background*
2. nor take away from...*love, forgive, sacrifice for*

C. that we may live (1 & 3-4)

EX: those who worshiped Baal of Peor perished, but those who held fast to God lived (Numbers 25:1-9)

D. that we may be witnesses in a pagan land (5-8)

1. obedience appears as wisdom & understanding (6)

NOTE: Wisdom is not knowledge but how to apply knowledge. Real wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord (Proverbs 9:10)

2. which shows others that we are different

ILLUSTRATION:

II. Second, remember our experiences with God (9-14)

Heed: hedge about as with thorns, guard, protect

Soul: life source...mind, will & emotions

A. to keep our soul in living relationship with Jesus (9)

1. reminds us of who He is: *Holy, powerful*

2. reminds us of His love for us, **our debt to Him**

B. teaching what we have learned to our children (9)

1. reinforces our understanding & experiences
2. helps them know God

C. remembering our awe of Him...*He is unlike any other, keeps us humble*

Fear: to be afraid, stand in awe

ILLUSTRATION:

III. Finally, be very careful to worship only God (15-24)

Watch: hedge about as with thorns, guard, protect

Yourself: life source, soul...*mind, will, emotions*

Corrupt: spoil, ruin

A. whom we cannot see...*He has no form, Spirit only*

1. because it is very easy to worship what we can see
2. because many around us worship idols
3. faith is about placing trust in what we cannot see

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. –Hebrews 11:2, MEV

B. to keep the covenant (23)

OT covenant: God’s commitment to His people; their making blood sacrifices to Him (circumcision, blood of animals) & obeying Him.

NT covenant: God’s commitment to His children—those coming under the blood of Jesus through belief & obedience.

1. loving Jesus by obeying Him
2. loving Jesus more than all & anything else

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION: As followers of Jesus, we can NOT continue in our old ways, attitudes, attacks of others

ALTAR: Need Jesus’ help to minister to *anyone* else?