**God Speaks to Highlight the Glory of the Curse-Bearer**

Deuteronomy 27&28

**DISCUSION QUESTIONS**

1. What comes to mind when you think of the word *curse*? In what way(s) is this different from the biblical use of the word? In Scripture (such as Deuteronomy 27&28), who is executing the curse? Why is this an important thing to note (see also Romans 12:19? How should a proper understanding of biblical curses impact our view of: God’s character? The nature of sin? The need and price of atonement? The warnings in the rest of Scripture? In your opinion, why don’t curses play a larger role in gospel preaching today?
2. What does James 2:10 tell us about the requirement of the law? Compared to the myriad curses listed in Deuteronomy 27:11-26; 28:15-68, how should sinners feel after reading James 2:10? Read Galatians 3:10-14 and answer the following: What is the outcome of relying on your own works for salvation? How are curse-deserving sinners justified before holy God? What specifically did God do to make a way for lawbreakers to be pardoned? How does this also ensure that God’s holiness and righteousness remain unstained? How does this explain R.C. Sproul’s statement? - “When [Christ] cried out, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’ His father, as His judge, replied, as it were, ‘The Lord, the Lord your God, damns you.’”
3. What standard is set by God to receive his blessing (see 28:1&14)? Considering passages such as Psalm 51:5, John 3:36, and Romans 3:11-18, what hope does Deuteronomy 29:1&14 afford us? The term Active Obedience refers to Jesus’ fulfillment of the law of God in his sinless life of obedience – Why is this important to understand considering today’s passage? What hope do we receive from passages such as John 8:29, Romans 8:1, and Hebrews 2:10-18? What blessings do believers receive by being united to Jesus Christ by faith alone? Are these blessings primarily in the present or the future?
4. Review Deuteronomy 27:1-10 and answer the following questions: What were the people to do once they entered the land? What was the purpose of these instructions? What is the relationship between the written law, the altar of sacrifice, and the fellowship offerings (peace offerings)? Read Jeremiah 31:31-34 and explain how the promise of the New Covenant is superior to the Old. According to Romans 8:1-4, how does union with Christ (by faith) impact us internally (see also Romans 2:29)? How is this reality related to our assurance of salvation mentioned in 1 John 2:4-6? How do you personally know that you are indeed united to Christ and are no longer under divine curse?