

Scripture: Ten Commandments (Ex. 20) – Jeremiah 31:1-26
Singing: 251:1-3 – 40:1, 6 – 231:1-3 – 222:4-5 – 425:3, 5, 6

Intro: The Bible is God's *self-revelation* to draw our affections and trust to Him

JEHOVAH'S COMMITMENT TO HIS COVENANT PEOPLE

I. He speaks the truth about their sin II. He refuses to forsake them
III. He yearns for their return IV. He promises to have mercy upon them

I. JEHOVAH'S COMMITMENT IS SHOWN IN THAT HE SPEAKS THE TRUTH ABOUT THEIR SIN

- A. Observe the name and description of His covenant people: vs. 20a
- B. The reason for these *affectionate words* is not because he is a model child
1. Jeremiah 1-29 is a recounting of his sinful behaviors
 2. God spoke against him (vs. 20b) – chastised them (vs. 18)
 3. Finally the measure is full: Jer. 4:23-31
 4. Jeremiah's reaction is intense: 4:19; 14:17, 19-21
 5. God's answer is firm (15:1) yet with encouragement (29:10-11)
 - a. 31:19 describes the fruit of grace and answer on prayer (vs. 18)
 - b. God promised this on a grander scale: Zech. 12:10-11 & Rom. 11:25
- C. Can we draw a line from Jeremiah to today – you/me – our children?
1. We are like Israel His Ephraim – His pleasant/darling child (Ps. 95; 100)
 2. Do we also live like Israel – Ephraim: forsaking fountain of living waters?

II. JEHOVAH'S COMMITMENT IN THAT HE REFUSES TO FORSAKE THEM

A. The rough structure of Jeremiah's 3 sections book: 1-29 – 30-33 – 33-52

- B. The revelation of Ch. 31:20 is about the astounding depth of God's heart
1. Though deeply offended, He *earnestly remembers Ephraim*
 - a. to 'remember' is not because God might forget

C. This is our hope for us and our children and for His covenant people Israel still

III. JEHOVAH'S COMMITMENT IS THAT HE YEARNES FOR THEIR RETURN

A. This revelation of Himself is *one of most intimate* insights into his Being

1. "Heart" does not just refer to *His Being* (like our soul)

2. "troubled" is not being upset

B. Are we living in faith of God's revelation of Himself?

1. T. Goodwin's thoughts on Jer. 31:30

"Our sins move Him to pity more than to anger. The greater the misery, the more is the pity when the person (Ephraim!) is beloved. Now of all the miseries, sin is the greatest, and Christ will look upon it as such."

C. Is this how we think about the LORD our God? Is the God you pray to?

IV. JEHOVAH'S COMMITMENT IS THAT HE PROMISES TO HAVE MERCY THEM

A. The LORD emphasizes His promise of mercy: Is. 55:8-9

B. Is that what you show to your child when they return to you with sorrow?

C. God's shows us the depth of this yearning nowhere better than in Jesus