

MEMORABLE PRINCIPLES FROM DEUTERONOMY 4:1-9

The setting: It was the 40th year and 11th month of the journeys of the Israelites since their departure from Egypt (Deuteronomy 1:3) On the eastern side of the Jordan River, not long before the Israelites crossed over into the land of promise, Moses spoke to them. He reminded them of (1) what God had done for His people in the past, (2) how the Israelites had treated God in the wilderness, and (3) what their duties to Him would be once they were living in Canaan

We recognize that Christians are not the fleshly nation of Israel. We did not live in the days of Moses, and furthermore, we do not live under the Law of Moses. Yet, from Moses' message to the Israelites of His era, there are a number of helpful lessons that we can glean. For our purposes, we are focusing our attention on a few concepts that are recorded in Deuteronomy 4:1-9. These principles are a formula for success in any generation. Do you want your family to experience the same? If so, then the instructions that are recorded in the early verses of Deuteronomy 4 have the potential to help you and your loved ones have such success. Let's take a look.

Hearken - In this section, Moses' message for Israel began with these words, "Now therefore hearken [listen, NKV], O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live" (4:1). It does not matter who it is or what a person's circumstances are in life, here is the fundamental key to genuine success: hearken/listen to what the God of heaven has to say! A failure to do so is 100% guarantee of spiritual disaster.

Leave - Leave God's Word Alone - Moses further charged God's people, "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you" (4:2). That is clear enough, is it not? Leave God's word alone - do not tamper with it or alter it in any fashion. The God of all wisdom knows just what man needs, and He gives us perfect instructions. For humans to take it

upon themselves to "improve" on what God has said by reducing or increasing His message is the height of foolish arrogance!

Cleave - After reminding Israel of the disobedience of some that had led to their destruction from God, Moses told them, "But ye that did cleave unto the LORD your God are alive every one of you this day" (4:4). What is the key to life? Cleaving unto the Lord! When Barnabas arrived in Antioch of Syria to work with the brethren there, he "exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord" (Acts 11:23). I know that many of us are striving to learn God's word better, and I know that we are trying to remain active in His work, but have we developed our heart to the point that we are really cleaving to Him? All the study and activity in the world goes for naught unless we are really cleaving to the One who makes it all possible! Note also that the one who truly cleaves to God is the one that cleaves to and follows the Bible. There is no such thing as cleaving to the Creator while not obeying what He says to do.

Be Wise - As Moses spoke about God's statutes, he went on to tell the Israelites, "Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations" (4:6). God's word has the potential to make us wise unto salvation (2 Timothy 3:15). And how do people show true wisdom? By doing what the Lord says! The fear / reverence of Jehovah is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10). Did not Jesus say that a person who hears His words and then goes and does them is like a wise man that built his house on the rock? He sure did (Matthew 7:24, 25). When it comes to wisdom, never forget these truths: (1) Wise people get their main education from God's word, and (2) Wise people carry out in their lives what they learned from that word. It is now fair to ask this personal question: Are you and I acting wisely, or foolishly?

Diligently Keep Yourself - "Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life" (4:9). At least twice more in this chapter we read that God exhorted His people to take heed unto them-

selves. "Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves... Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the Lord your God" (4:15, 23). When God tells His people to take heed, you know what that means, don't you? It means to take heed!

The Israelites had seen and heard great things from Jehovah. God did not want them to forget them or their significance. In fact, He said that He wanted the memory of those deeds and laws to be in their heart "all the days of thy life" (4:9). Brothers and sisters, with so much going on in our lives, it can be a real challenge to keep the great teachings and blessings of God and His Cause, and that is to be diligent as we take heed to ourselves.

Teach - This, too, is "a big one," and it is just as important as the previous five principles that we have observed. When it came to the ways of God, what else did He want the Israelites to do with them? Not just remember them, but teach them: "... teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons" (4:9). Parents instructing their kids from God's word and grandparents teaching their grandkids God's truth. What a precious thought! Supreme love for one's offspring is not shown by material gifts, but by showing them the way of the Lord. That "showing" or "teaching" takes two forms: (1) Informing them what the Bible says and (2) Being a godly example for them. Parents and grandparents, are we really putting in a serious effort to get these matters right, or are we letting our offspring down by neglecting our duty to them?

You may not share my sentiments, but I love the message of Deuteronomy 4:1-9. I really am convinced that it gives us the formula for success in God's sight in any generation. Again, what were those words of the Bible text on which we concentrated on this study? Hearken, leave, cleave, be wise, diligently keep yourself, and teach. These half-dozen principles provide a wonderful potential for a whole lot of learning for those who meditate upon and apply these truths. How about it?

Roger Campbell from *Eastside Edifier*

ILL

Sunday: Millie Robertson (PM); Melissa Cole.

Wednesday: Millie Robertson; Melissa Cole.

Those battling cancer: Ledgia Campbell, Betty James and Cleo Stone. Please remember these in your prayers.

HOME BOUND

Kathleen Camp is in Room 101 at the Royal Terrace Nursing Home in Olathe. Barbara James' Aunt, Evelyn Marquardt is at Sharon Lane in Shawnee. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Tom Tucker was visiting relatives in Eldon, MO last week. Chris Edwards was in Chicago, IL on business last week.

LADIES CLASS

The Ladies Bible Class will resume this Wednesday, October 7 at 10 AM. The ladies will continue in their study of "Caterpillars and Butterflies."

AREA MEETINGS

There are several Gospel Meetings taking place in the Kansas City area in October and early November. Please check the flyers in the foyer for full details.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 46; Sunday PM, 43; Monday PM, 42; Tuesday PM 34; Wednesday AM, 11; Wednesday PM, 36; Thursday PM, 35.

Got It Right? Wrong!

While attending a Marriage Seminar dealing with communication, Tom and his wife, Grace, listened to the instructor say, "It is essential that husbands and wives know each other's likes and dislikes." He addressed the man, "Can you name your wife's favorite flower?" Tom leaned over, touched her arm gently and whispered, "It's Pillsbury, isn't it?"

Those To Serve

October 4, 2009

BUILDING AND COMMUNION.....Thomas

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS.....Trent Thrasher
SONG LEADER.....Joel Nelson
OPENING PRAYERJeff Nemechek
PRESIDE.....John Cody Carter
ASSIST.....George Thomas
ASSIST.....John James
CLOSING PRAYER.....John Dodson

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYERChris Edwards
CLOSING PRAYER.....Stanley Anderson
LORD'S SUPPER.....John Cody Carter

WEDNESDAY 7th

SONG LEADER.....Jeff Nemechek
INVITATIONJoel Nelson

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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