

Passing Our Faith to the Next Generation **Deut 32:45-47**

45 Moses finished speaking all these words to all Israel, 46 and he said to them: "Set your hearts on all the words which I testify among you today, which you shall command your children to be careful to observe — all the words of this law. 47 For it is not a futile thing for you, because it is your life, and by this word you shall prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess." NKJV

Forty years pass for the children of Israel in this weeks reading. We started with the beginning of Numbers and go through the book of Deuteronomy. Moses is getting ready to go meet the Lord and he takes time to tell the law again, this time to a new generation who have grown up in that past 40 years.

In the beginning of our reading, God had spies to go throughout the land of Canaan. But the children of Israel had turned against God and Moses and had chosen not to go. God destroyed the rebels of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram (Num 16:24). And then there was the discouraging wondering in the wilderness for 40 years until all those who would not go up and take the land were dead. That would be about 100 deaths per day for about forty years. Finally at the end of that time only Joshua and Caleb were left of the older group.

But this new generation must also be taught, so Moses gives them the book of Deuteronomy, the telling of the law again. You cannot know God and serve Him acceptably without His Word.

If we could only understand that today. We think that all it takes is some occasional good thought about God and He will be pleased. We have determined that without looking at His word.

God is not going to open up the earth and swallow those who rebel against Him as He did in Numbers. But I do think that America is wondering in the wilderness of our own philosophy as those who would not follow God are dying all around us.

We have raised the most self-centered narcissistic generation that this nation has ever produced because we have decided to let everyone do what is right in their own eyes rather than having a God given standard.

How can we turn that back? What does this generation need? Where can we go for direction?

Ps 119:9-11 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.
10 With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!
11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You. NKJV

I. Set your hearts

A. The religion of God is a religion of the heart.

1. John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." NKJV
2. Deuteronomy 4:29 But from there you will seek the Lord your God, and

you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul. NKJV

3. Deuteronomy 6:5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. NKJV
4. Deuteronomy 10:12 "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, NKJV
5. Deuteronomy 26:16 "This day the Lord your God commands you to observe these statutes and judgments; therefore you shall be careful to observe them with all your heart and with all your soul. NKJV
6. Joshua 22:5 But take careful heed to do the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul." NKJV

B. There is a difference between obeying from the heart and obeying for any other reason.

II. Set your hearts on all the words which I testify among you today.

- A. To love the Lord is to love every thing about Him.
- B. To truly love His commands is to love them all.
- C. That is why reading the whole Bible through is such a good idea.
 1. We are pill poppers.
 2. If we have a headache we pop a pill.
 3. If our stomach gets stressed we pop a pill.
 4. So we think that if we take a verse a day we will keep the devil away.
 5. The truth of the situation is that if you take a verse a day, you are not much of a bother to the devil.
- D. You know that even a bank robber probably keeps 98% of the law code.

III. Which you shall command your children

- A. If not you, who?
 1. The church gets a child for about 30 minutes a week in SS and 30 minutes a week in worship.
 2. Deut 6:6-9 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand,

and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

3. And then we are not simply teaching them morals, the Boy Scouts can do that.
 - a. We do not teach our children the 10 suggestions.
 - b. Or you should avoid these things that your life will have less problems.
 - c. We teach the commands of God with the authority of God.
4. We have a society today that knows it is wrong to lie and cheat but think that it is okey.
5. That is why our congressmen and movie stars and sports stars get away with such bad behavior.
6. It not that we do not know what is wrong, but we have lost the authority for why it is wrong.

IV. To Observe

- A. This follows for it is not for lack of knowledge that we perish but for lack of obedience.
- B. Jesus told a great story one day.
 1. Matt 7:24-27
 2. 24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.
 3. 26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." NKJV
- C. Deut 29:9 9 Therefore keep the words of this covenant, and do them, that you may prosper in all that you do. NKJV

V. For it is not a futile thing for you, because it is your life, and by this word you shall prolong your days