

Godly Diligence

Harmony M.B.C., May 3, 2009 (Evening)

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Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Deut. 6:1 Now these *are* the commandments (law, ordinance, precept), the statutes (something appointed by the Lord), and the judgments (verdict, or the justice coming from a verdict), which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do *them* in the land whither ye go to possess it:

- This first verse is a word picture of God's instructions to newly saved believers, and it holds true for believers through all their earthly lives. We are on a journey from the day that God brings us to salvation until we go home to be with Him. We are taking possession of a land that God has given us since He brought us out of the Egypt of our sins. In that land that we are taking possession of, the Lord wants us to be His faithful and obedient servants. He gives us an outline for living here as He spoke to the Israelites centuries ago. His roadmap begins by reminding us that we have His words to live by. Note that verse 1 is clear concerning the fact that all these commandments, statutes, and judgments of the Lord are taught to us for the express purpose of us using (doing) them in the new land we are to live in. With that in mind, may the Lord help us to understand how and why God calls us to a diligence in taking His things and using them for His glory and to our advantage.

Deut. 6:2 That thou mightest **fear the LORD thy God, to keep** all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.

- By this we can infer that fear of God results in keeping His statutes and commandments
- By experience we know that it does

Deut. 6:3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do *it*; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey.

- The spiritual lesson here is that observing the things of God results in:
 - > things going well with us here in the land called earth,
 - > but more particularly in our life as citizens of God's kingdom as we live here on earth,
 - > and spiritual increase can be expected when we observe the things of God. Since the Promised Land does not represent the opportunity for temporal or material wealth, this promise from God does not guarantee riches and a physical life of ease. It does, however, guarantee an expanding spiritual life of power IF we observe to do what we hear God say.

Deut. 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God *is* one LORD:

- The spiritual lesson here is an admonition from God to never forget that:
 - > The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are united in purpose, divine character, and intent toward us as His chosen people

- > God is never to be confused with idols; which means also that He is not ever to be supplanted by other things that can become a god in our lives

Deut. 6:5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

- The spiritual lesson here is that all we are and can feel (heart), reason out (soul), and put effort into (might) is to be oriented toward and driven by love for God.

Deut. 6:6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

- The spiritual lesson: Let God's word dwell in you richly; let it be of a depth that it is a heart thing, not just an intellectual thing

Deut. 6:7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

- Use care and emphasis to teach God's commandments, statutes, and judgments to your children
 - > When you are just enjoying leisure
 - > When you are traveling about
 - > When you are preparing to rest
 - > When you get up in the morning

Deut. 6:8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

- The spiritual lesson here is that we are to make God's word a note written on our hand...this is the Hebrew word for the open hand, thus signifying a hand of power. Which teaches us that when we make the Word of God a "sign upon (our) hand" we make that Word to be what empowers our hand for what we do with it.
- "...frontlets between thine eyes." I have a pair of nice sunglasses that look really good, but they have one thing that distracts me sometimes. The way they are put together in the middle I can always see the frame right on each side of my nose. I can't look anywhere without seeing part of that frame. This is a good imagery of what is meant here...that the Word of God is to be always visible in our minds eye when we are viewing things in the world.

Deut. 6:9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

Spiritual lesson: Let God's commandments, statutes, and judgments be advertised by:

- how you run your household,
- what you do with your property