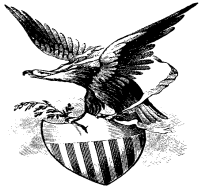


Light Brings Salt

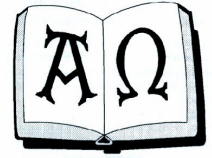
Volume 6, Issue 21

May 25, 2008



Iron Range Bible Church

Dedicated to the Systematic Exposition of the Word of God
"Sanctify them in the truth: Your word is truth."



Importance of the Word in our Lives!

C. H. Mackintosh

Excerpt from Deuteronomy 6

In every part of Deuteronomy, we see how much importance God attaches to the attitude and state of the heart, the mind, with respect to Him or to His word, which is one and the same thing. When the heart/mind is true to Him, all is sure to come right; but, on the other hand, we shall find that, where the heart grows cold and careless as to God and His truth, there will, sooner or later, be open departure from the path of truth and righteousness. There is, therefore, much force and value in the exhortation addressed by Barnabas to the converts at Antioch: "He exhorted them all, that with *purpose of heart* they would cleave unto the Lord."

How needful, then, now, always! This "purpose of heart" is most important to God. It is what we may venture to call the grand moral regulator, It imparts an earnestness to the Christian character which is greatly to be coveted by all of us. It is a divine antidote against coldness, deadness and formality, all of which are so hateful to God. The outward life may be very correct, and the creed may be very orthodox; but if the earnest purpose of heart be lacking — the affectionate cleaving of the whole moral being to God and His Christ, all is utterly worthless.

It is through the heart/mind that the Holy Spirit instructs us. Hence, the apostle prayed for the saints at Ephesus that, "The eyes of their *heart* might be enlightened" And again, "That Christ may dwell in your *heart* by faith." It is the illumination of truth which results in enlightenment. This is an important ministry of H/S, if not the most important to the believer. "*The eyes of your heart*" indicates an inner awareness, perception; focus of mind

Thus we see how all scripture is in perfect harmony with the exhortation recorded in our

chapter, "And these words which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart." How near this would have kept them to their covenant God! How safe, too, from all evil, and specially from the abominable evil of idolatry — their national sin, their terrible besetment! If YHWH's precious words had only found their right place in the heart, there would have been little fear of Baal, Chemosh or Ashtoreth. In a word, all the idols of the heathen would have found their right place, and been estimated as their true value, if only the word of YHWH had been allowed to dwell in Israel's heart.

And be it especially noted here how beautifully characteristic all this is of the book of Deuteronomy. It is not so much a question of keeping up a certain order of religious observances, the offering of sacrifices or attention to rites and ceremonies. All these things, no doubt, had their place, but they are, by no means, the prominent or paramount thing in Deuteronomy. No; THE WORD is the all-important matter here. It is *YHWH's word in Israel's heart*.

The reader must seize this fact, if he really desires to possess the key to the focus of the book of Deuteronomy. It is not a book of ceremonial; it is a book of moral and affectionate obedience. It teaches, in almost every section, that invaluable lesson, that the heart that loves, prizes and honors the word of God is ready for every act of obedience, whether it be the offering of a sacrifice or the observance of a day. It might so happen that an Israelite would find himself in a place, and under circumstances in which a rigid adherence to rites and ceremonies would be impossible; but he never could be in a place or in circumstances in which he could not love, reverence and obey the word of God. Let him go where he would; let him be carried, as a captive exile, to the ends of the earth, nothing could rob him of the high privilege of uttering and acting on those blessed words,

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

Precious words! They contain in their brief compass, the great principle of the book of Deuteronomy; and we may add, the great principle of the divine life, at all times, and in all places. It can never lose its moral force and value. It always holds good. It was true in the days of the patriarchs; true for Israel in the land; true for Israel scattered to the ends of the earth; true for the church as a whole; true for each individual believer, amid the church's hopeless ruins. In a word, obedience is always the creature's holy duty and exalted privilege — simple, unhesitating, unqualified obedience to the word of the Lord. This is an unspeakable mercy for which we may well praise our God, day and night. He has given us His word, blessed be His Name, and He exhorts us to let that word dwell in us richly — dwell in our hearts, and assert its holy sway over our entire course and character.

⁶ "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and 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 frontals on your forehead. ⁹ "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

The word of God hidden in the heart; flowing out, in loving instruction, to the children, and in holy conversation, in the bosom of the family; shining out in all the activities of daily life, so that all who came inside the gates or entered the house might see that the word of God was the standard for each, for all, and in everything.

Thus it was to be with Israel of old; and surely thus it ought to be with Christians now. But is it so? Are our children thus taught? Is it our constant aim to present the word of God, in all its heavenly attractiveness, to their young hearts? Do they see it shining out in our daily life? Do they see its influence upon our habits, our temper, our family intercourse, our business transactions? This is what we understand by binding the word as a sign upon the hands, having it as a frontlet between the eyes, writing it upon the door posts, and upon the gates.

Reader, is it thus with us? It is of little use attempting to teach our children the word of God, if our lives are not governed by that word. We do not believe in making the blessed word of God a

mere school book for our children; to do so is to turn a delightful privilege into a wearisome drudgery. Our children should see that we live in the very atmosphere of scripture; that it forms the material of our conversation when we sit in the bosom of the family, in our moments of relaxation.

Alas! how little is this the case! Have we not to be deeply humbled, in the presence of God, when we reflect upon the general character and tone of our conversation at table, and in the family circle? How little there is of Deuteronomy 6:7! How much of "foolish talking and jesting which are not convenient!" How much evil speaking of our brethren, our neighbors, our fellow-laborers! How much idle gossip! How much worthless small talk!

And from what does all this proceed? Simply from the state of the heart. (That is what is in the frame of reference.) The word of God, the commandments and sayings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, are not dwelling in our hearts to the degree that they should; and hence they are not welling up and flowing out in living streams of grace and edification.

Will any one say that Christians do not need to consider these things? If so, let him ponder the following wholesome words, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." And again, "Be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms, and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Eph. 4:29; 5:18-20.)

These words were addressed to the saints at Ephesus; and, most assuredly, we should apply our hearts diligently to them. We are little aware, perhaps, of how deeply and constantly we fail in maintaining the habit of spiritual conversation. It is especially true in the bosom of the family, and in our ordinary intercourse, that this failure is most manifest. Hence our need of those words of exhortation. It is evident the Holy Spirit foresaw the need, and graciously anticipated it. Hear what He says "to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ at Colosse." — "Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God." (Col. 3:16)

Quote of the week

“You’ve probably seen the bumper sticker somewhere along the road. It depicts an American flag, accompanied by the words ‘These colors don’t run.’ I’m always glad to see this because it reminds me of an incident from my confinement in North Vietnam... Then a major in the U.S. Air Force, I had been captured and imprisoned from 1967 to 1973. Our treatment had been frequently brutal. After three years, however, the beatings and torture became less frequent. During the last year, we were allowed outside most days for a couple of minutes to bathe. We showered by drawing water from a concrete tank with a homemade bucket.

One day, as we all stood by the tank, stripped of our clothes, a young naval pilot named Mike Christian found the remnants of a handkerchief in a gutter that ran under the prison wall. Mike managed to sneak the grimy rag into our cell and began fashioning it into a flag... He made red and blue from ground-up roof tiles and tiny amounts of ink and painted the colors onto the cloth with watery rice glue. Using thread from his own blanket and a homemade bamboo needle, he sewed on stars.

Early in the morning a few days later, when the guards were not alert, he whispered loudly from the back of our cell, ‘Hey gang, look here!’ He proudly held up this tattered piece of cloth, waving it, as if in a breeze... When he raised that smudgy fabric, we automatically stood straight and saluted, our chests puffing out, and more than a few eyes had tears... Now, whenever I see the flag, I think of Mike and the morning he first waved that tattered emblem of a nation. It was then, thousands of miles from home in a lonely prison cell that he showed us what it is to be truly free.” —Medal of Honor recipient Leo K. Thorsness

On cross-examination

“War is an ugly thing but not the ugliest of things; the decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feelings which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. A man who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself.” —John Stuart Mill

God's Water Engine

Genesis 1:2b

And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Today, let's talk about the tremendous power in water.

Perhaps the first thing that you think of when the power of water is mentioned is the way it has cut and eroded the rocks of the earth. But I am thinking of a power much more subtle than that. Some of the most impressive power of water is seen when it powers one of the water engines that God has created.

You see, there are certain substances, like the jelly mass in which frogs' eggs are suspended, which are hungry to absorb immense amounts of water. After a short amount of time in the water, a swollen mass of frog eggs may be larger than the mother frog from which they came. And this engine does its most impressive work when it is enclosed so that it cannot easily expand as it absorbs water. The resulting pressures have been measured at thousands of times higher than atmospheric pressure. In practical application, a small number of dry bean seeds, accidentally left under a concrete sidewalk, will, when they get wet, swell with such power that they will break the concrete!

God uses seemingly simple and powerless things to do incredible feats. His Word, even though it takes the same form as human words, creates worlds and galaxies. But more amazingly, and more powerfully, it changes human hearts and minds!

References: Steven Vogel. *Life's Devices: The Physical World of Animals and Plants*. Princeton University Press, 1988. P. 254.

A real Marxist Speaks!

Change you can hope for: “We can’t drive our SUVs and eat as much as we want and keep our homes on 72 degrees at all times... and then just expect that other countries are going to say OK.”
—Barack Obama

Some Real Heroes Honored

The President was at Fort Bragg today for All American Week and to present some medals to deserving paratroopers and their families.

The President presented two DSCs today - one to Sergeant Corriveau:



Sgt. Christopher Corriveau (right), Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, is awarded the Distinguished Service Cross from President George W. Bush along with the commander of the 82nd Abn. Div. Maj. Gen. David Rodriguez May 22 during the Division's Review at Fort Bragg, N.C. Corriveau, a native of Lewiston, Maine, is credited with repelling an overwhelming and heavily-armed force Aug. 26, 2007. His four man sniper team courageously fought off an enemy force in close combat for control of a rooftop during Operation Iraqi Freedom killing or wounding at least 10 insurgents. Photographer for all photos: Sgt. Timothy Dinneen, Headquarters, 82nd Airborne Division Public Affairs.

Specialist Christopher Hamel Corriveau of Lewiston, Maine, for extraordinary heroism in action. Specialist Christopher H. Corriveau, C Company, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, on 26 August 2007, distinguished himself as part of a four-man sniper team in combat operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Specialist Corriveau's exceptional courage and tactical prowess under intense enemy fire and close combat contributed to the defeat of a concerted enemy effort to overrun his sniper position. Surrounded and attacked by an enemy force ten times superior to that of his own, Specialist Corriveau and his fellow paratroopers valiantly repelled the enemy attack with withering small arms fire and grenades. His four-man sniper team courageously fought off an

overwhelming enemy force for control of the rooftop for over ten minutes in close combat, killing or wounding at least ten enemies in the process.

And he presented one DSC to Sergeant Moser:



Sgt. Eric Moser (right), Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, is awarded the Distinguished Service Cross by President George W. Bush along with the commander of the 82nd Abn. Div. Maj. Gen. David Rodriguez on May 22 during the Division's Review at Fort Bragg, N.C. Moser, a native of Houston, is credited with repelling an overwhelming and heavily-armed force Aug. 26, 2007. His four man sniper team courageously fought off an enemy force in close combat for control of a rooftop during Operation Iraqi Freedom killing or wounding at least 10 insurgents.

Sergeant Eric Alan Moser of College Station, Texas for extraordinary heroism in action. Specialist Eric A. Moser, C Company, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, on 26 August 2007, distinguished himself as a Designated Marksman in combat operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Specialist Moser's exceptional courage and tactical prowess under intense enemy fire and close combat contributed to the defeat of a concerted enemy effort to overrun his sniper position. Surrounded and attacked by an enemy force ten times superior to that of his own, Specialist Moser and his fellow paratroopers valiantly repelled the enemy attack with withering small arms fire and grenades. His four-man sniper team courageously fought off an overwhelming enemy force for control of the rooftop for over ten minutes in close combat, killing or wounding at least ten enemies in the process.