

REMEMBERING, A CAUSE FOR THANKSGIVING

Deuteronomy 8:1-5; 13-18

Introduction: There is a spirit of thanksgiving that shines through this text. God is asking the (His) people to remember where they had come from. It was not an easy exodus and Israel learned a lot about God and about themselves. Now it was a time to look back in gratitude and to apply to tomorrow what was learned. It is only logical to look both ways before crossing a street, so the same sane, logic should be applied to living one's life.

I. THANK THE LORD FOR YOUR TRIALS (Psalm 119:71)

1. Humbling experiences in the wilderness took away Israel's proud and arrogant attitude.
- 8:13-14; 17-18
2. One of the greatest problems with most people is that WE forget.
- Somehow we don't learn from our past mistakes and experiences.
- 2 Peter 1:9
- Remembering brings wisdom - Forgetting is a stumbling block.
3. There are two ways to look back: in REGRET or in GRATITUDE.
- Our Pilgrim forefathers had hard times and wrestled with harvest time celebration. Was it a memorial service or a THANKSGIVING service?
- One's losses and disappointments can feed his/her faith.

II. THANK THE LORD FOR HIS DISCIPLINE (8:5)

- It is foolish to depend on others to teach our children honesty, fair play, determination, etc.
- A parent must be involved in his/her child's growth.
- It is the same with God and His Children.
- The wilderness was used by God to discipline and teach Israel, His chosen ones.
- Discipline brings athletes to their best abilities for example.
- What could God's family do if they responded to God's guidance as a team does to it's coach?
- One can be bitter or thankful for God's hand of discipline in his/her life.

III. THANK THE LORD FOR HIS PROVISIONS (8:16)

- Trials bring humbleness.
- Discipline brings strength.
- Provisions bring faith.
- If you wanted to attend a Macey's Thanksgiving Parade, what would you have to give up? Thanksgiving!
- What is "thanksgiving?" It is prayer, fellowship, God's salvation.
- Remember how Israel gathered manna daily, so it is with God's grace to us.
- Also manna was gathered individually, so is God's grace dispensed.

CONCLUSION:

1. Salvation is free, but each person must come to the Cross him/herself to receive it.
2. A person won't get any more from his/her faith than he/she puts into it.
3. God offers us an abundant life, but we must get up and go get it.
4. So are you thankful or bitter? Think, remember, look back.