

# Further up, Further in

## Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT  
MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

### "THE PATH OF COVENANTAL BLESSING"

For individual study or group discussion

In Deuteronomy chapter four, Moses transitions from a narration of the historical events in the wilderness (ch. 1-3) to an exhortation of obedience. With our previous studies, we examined how Moses recounted lessons from the past that the first generation of Israelites failed to learn. In today's passage, his admonition to "take care...lest you forget" (v. 9) lays the groundwork for the path of future covenantal blessing as the second generation of Israel enters into the Promised Land.

As we examine verses 1-8, note how Moses points out the path to covenantal blessing. In order to receive long life in the Promised Land, obedience to God's law is required, for Israel's good and the good of their neighbors.

- How does God's Word give life to those who obey it? Read Luke 10:25-37. How did Jesus answer the lawyer's question about inheriting eternal life?
- In verses 2-4, Moses warns against people adding to the Word of God as well as ignoring the parts they don't like. Read Proverbs 30:5-6 and Revelation 22:18-19. What warnings does God give to those who revise his law?
- God's Word not only transforms the lives of his people, but it has a profound impact on unbelievers. According to verse 6, what will the others say who hear of Israel's law and witness the blessings of obedience to it? (cf. 2 Samuel 7:23) How has your love for God and his law been a testimony to others in your life?

Covenantal remembrance requires diligence on our part, for the good of the next generation. See how Moses issues two commands in verses 9-12: "keep your soul diligently, lest you forget" and "make them known to your children and your children's children." The practice of repeating God's law and remembering his goodness, grace, and provision in our lives cultivates a holy gratitude, not only in our hearts, but also in the hearts of our children. The practice of remembering God's covenantal faithfulness should be part of our daily household rhythms, according to CCEF faculty member Julie Lowe:

*Instill in young people a regular ability to look for and notice good things, to value them. Psalm 77:11 is one of a multitude of passages that call us to remember the deeds God has done. The practice of looking for and treasuring the good in everyday life deepens the pleasure in what we already have. It reminds us that God is our provision and has provided for our every need. This kind of gratitude is invaluable. Remembering can be done in a variety of ways: lists, journaling, creative expressive exercises, memory boxes, gratitude jars, etc. Gratitude itself is not the end goal, but we aspire to gratitude that points to the Lord, our Provider. He is enough. He is our source of contentment, pleasure, satisfaction. All else is icing on the cake...We must also remember that blessings can come from simply doing what the Word says to do. It's true that the deepest blessings of obedience happen when it is done out of love, but any act of obedience can be instrumental in turning the heart, and can bring the positive outcomes that so many proverbs describe.<sup>1</sup>*

- Read Deuteronomy 4:9 and 4:23. The Israelites are called to remember twice in today's passage. Why is it often easy to forget what God has done on our behalf? This week, think of ways you can develop the habit of remembering.
- What special day in the history of Israel's wilderness wanderings did Moses want them to remember and retell to their children and grandchildren? Why was this day especially important? Read the account in Exodus 19:9-20:19.

Jesus states in Matthew 5:17-19 that he did not come to abolish the law or the prophets, but to fulfill them. Throughout Scripture, the assertion is made that truth and justice have their roots in God's law, or as the psalmist puts it, the "fear of the Lord." Meditate on Psalm 119:97-104 and make it your prayer this week to say with the psalmist, "Oh how I love your law!" For further study, read Revelation 15:3, Isaiah 33:5-6, Psalm 33:4-5, and Psalm 111.

DATE: August 21, 2022

SPEAKER: Wil/Chad

SERIES: Deuteronomy

PASSAGE: Deuteronomy 4:1-14

## Family Dinner Table

*Love & Obedience: Wisdom from a Two-Year-Old*  
by Ed Welch

"Jack, our two-year-old grandson, was over the moon. His 'Gogo' my wife—was coming to the house that morning after having been away with me for a week. Jack was standing watch at the window. He loves his Gogo. When she finally arrived, his pent-up love could no longer be restrained. He took his mother by the hand, ran over to be picked up by his grandmother, and gave them both a maximum embrace.

Now came the more challenging part. He had expressed his effusive love in a physical way, but that wasn't enough. He wanted to speak his love. For Jack, when something important is on his mind, it typically comes out haltingly. But there was no halting when he said, 'I will never go out into the street without an adult ever again.'

These words, he determined, were the perfect compliment to his physical affection. And, indeed, they were.

*This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome. (1 John 5:3)*

Love and obedience, for Jack, were coterminous. 'I love you so much' and 'I will never go out into the street without an adult' were different words for the same desire; his delight in obedience was the most profound expression of love that he could imagine. If only we grown-ups could rehabilitate our understanding of obedience so it squares with God's intent. For example, a married man could say to his wife, 'I love you.' Better, he could say, 'Today, I will run from pornography or flirtatious imaginations, and I will remember how important this relationship is to me.' This is an adult version of not going unaccompanied into the street."<sup>2</sup>

### PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

**Alex Watlington**, serves as RUF campus minister at University of South Carolina.

### PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

**Ruth Ann and Norm Leduc**, supported missionary partners who serve in France.

<sup>1</sup>Lowe, Julie. *Instilling Gratitude in Your Family*. November 20, 2017. <https://www.ccef.org/instilling-gratitude-family/>. August 16, 2022.

<sup>2</sup>Welch, Ed. *Love & Obedience: Wisdom from a Two-Year-Old*. July 29, 2016. <https://www.ccef.org/love-obedience-wisdom-two-year-old/> August 15, 2022.