

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont
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Superintendent: Ordained Minister Samuel O. Simon
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Lesson # 6 October 4, 2022, to October 9, 2022

Unit II: Out of Slavery to Nationhood

Subject: “Expressing Thankfulness”

Print Passage: Deuteronomy 32:3-6, 10-14, 18

Key Verse:

“He said unto them, Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law. (Deuteronomy 32:46, KJV)”

Lesson Pointers:

- 1). “Forgetting to Remember” (Deuteronomy 32:3-6 KJV)**
- 2). “Disregarding GOD’S Grace” (Deuteronomy 32:10-14,18 KJV)**

Introduction and Biblical Context:

Ingratitude is the forgetfulness of or poor return for kindness received. Have we not all experienced it or been guilty of showing it in our lives in some form or fashion? Yes, we have. Ingratitude is a danger zone for believers as it begins in the heart. Callousness, thoughtlessness, pride, and envy are some of the many causes of ingratitude. However, no matter the source ingratitude is a deadly sin as it robs GOD of His glory which is a divine attribute He will not share with anyone or anything else (Isaiah 42:8 KJV).

Israel, GOD’S chosen people more than any other, had a reason and a responsibility to express perpetual gratitude to Him. Instead of humbly praising GOD for everything that He had done for them; Israel turned to idols, corrupted themselves, and broke their relationship with GOD. God instructed Moses and Joshua to write down a song that He had given them to learn and remember. Deuteronomy 32 is known as “The Song of Moses.” There were three purposes for the song (1) Israel was to review the nation’s history (2) to identify their past mistakes as to warn against repeating them and (3) to remind all who heard him that GOD rewards obedience. The contrast of GOD’S character and goodness with the people’s rebellious, ungrateful attitude will be seen in today’s lesson. Remember to pay close attention so you will understand fully how important “Expressing Thankfulness” is first to GOD and then to others.

Topic # 1

- Forgetting to Remember (Deuteronomy 32:3-6)**

After forty years of leadership of Israel (Deuteronomy 31:1-9 KJV), Moses' death was imminent but he completed his final instructions to the generation that survived the wanderings in the wilderness. Moses honors GOD’S name and praises His greatness (Deuteronomy 32: 3). Reverence for GOD’S name and praising GOD’S greatness humbles the heart and prevents ingratitude for who GOD is and for what GOD does for His people. Moses highlights attributes of GOD’S character that reveal His faithfulness (Deuteronomy

32: 4). Then Moses compares it to Israel's future unfaithfulness and ingratitude (verses 5-6). Finally, Moses describes GOD as the Rock, GOD is the anchor, the Savior and ruler of His people (Deuteronomy 32:15, 18; 2 Samuel 23:3) GOD is the Rock; GOD is stable, unchanging.

Topic # 2

- Disregarding GOD's Grace (Deuteronomy 32:10-14, 18)

The old standard hymn in church worship for decades was "Amazing Grace." One of the lines of this hymn acknowledge, "Twas grace that brought me safe thus far and grace will lead me home." It is only by GOD'S grace that we have made it to whatever good place in which we find ourselves. Moses reminds us of this truth (Deuteronomy 32: 10-14) as he warned the Israelites not to forget GOD (Deuteronomy 32:18). GOD'S grace, His unmerited favor, delivered them from Egypt and came to them in the wilderness of Sinai. When we are weak and helpless, GOD'S grace pities us and guards us like one who automatically protects the pupil of the eye. GOD cared for the infant nation of Israel and protected her as she matured (Deuteronomy 32:12).

Moses speaks of the future of conquest of Canaan and the physical blessings. The land was given to them for the enjoyment of its prosperity. The barren places would become fertile and productive, honey from the rock, oil from the flinty crag. GOD'S grace was especially evident in His provision of various rich foods and drinks from the herds, flocks, and vineyards. The people were warned by Moses that the prosperity ahead would tempt them to become proud, self-sufficient, and forgetful of their GOD. This would cause chastening by GOD (Deuteronomy 32: 18). Gradually they drifted away from GOD and suffered the consequences of His rejection and abandonment (verses 19-27). We as believers are beneficiaries of GOD'S grace daily. Sometimes prosperity can be more dangerous to our relationship with GOD than adversity. We recognize GOD when "things are rough," but when all is well, we (some) easily forget the source of their blessings and disregard GOD'S grace.

NUGGETS:

.....GOD'S salvation will transform and sustain if we remember GOD'S steadfast commitment towards us (GOD'S faithfulness).

.....GOD is the "Rock" in whom we can find protection and provision.

.....GOD'S daily Grace is and should always be enough for us never to forget

EXPRESSING THANKFULNESS!!