

Deuteronomy 28:58, "If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD;"

My prayer this morning is for the children of God to understand that there are consequences to disobedience. Often in sermons, we hear about the blessings a child of God can enjoy by walking in obedience to their Heavenly Father, but the Bible is also clear in teaching the sorrow of disobedience. In Luke 18:23 we read about a man who went away from the Lord sorrowfully. This man, who had much in this world, walked away from a life of obedience with sorrow in his heart. In the verses previously cited, it was Moses who warns the children of Israel of the consequences of a life of disobedience. Moses had already, earlier in the chapter, told them of the blessings of keeping God's commandments, but now warns that disobedience is sure to bring as much sorrow. Moses says a life of disobedience will bring:

(1) Troubles and restlessness (verses 64-65). Rest and peace are very precious in this world and we, the children of God, miss out on these two by not obeying our Father in Heaven. In Matthew 11:28, Jesus told us to "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." We come to Jesus when we, with a repenting heart, come to Him for all our help, strength and instruction.

(2) Ignorance (verse 64, "even wood and stone"). Knowledge and wisdom is found in Jesus. In Colossians 2:3 we learn that it's in Him we find "the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" and by walking close to Jesus we can be delivered from the ignorant influence of this wicked world.

(3) Doubts and fears (Verses 66-67). According to the 2 Peter 1:10, assurance is obtained by doing the will of God. Peter said "if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:" If you, dear child of God, would like to enjoy a life of peace, overcoming fears and doubts, do what the Lord has commanded.

(4) Despair of life (verse 67). Many times, because of disobedience, the children of God will lose all joy of life. They will find themselves sitting around wishing for another day to end. But the child of promise, who is walking close to Jesus, is often sad to see the day end. I can remember years ago hearing my daddy say at the end of a long Old Baptist Meeting, 'I'm very sad to see this end.'

Brothers and Sisters, that is enjoying the days of your life. How many children of promise are just alive, wishing their life away. If you want enjoyment of days, obey God!

(5) Bondage (verse 68). Moses, in his warnings to the children of Israel, tells them that they would experience bondage by not obeying God. How many today are in bondage to the sins of this world? So many are in bondage to drugs, alcohol, lasciviousness and sinful emotions, such as anger and fear. If you, dear child of God, want to enjoy a liberty of life, live by the words of God.

In closing, I would like for the reader to pay attention to Deuteronomy 30:19. In this verse of scripture, Moses is exhorting the children of Israel to forsake the works of disobedience and choose a life of obedience to the commandments of God (Temporal blessings-not Eternal salvation). And you too, dear child of God, I trust that you are exhorted to "put off concerning the former conversation of the old man" (Eph 4:22) and "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." Amen!

Elder Ronnie B. Loudermilk