

For Our Good Always Deut. 6:24-25

Introduction:

1. Distorted thinking always has a dangerous effect. Nowhere is it any more dangerous than when it affects our thinking about the Lord.
2. If we see the Lord as good-willed, kind and compassionate, it produces within us a totally different response than if we see Him as unnecessarily restrictive, testing us to see if we will obey Him, and then harshly condemning us if we do not.
3. If a child sees a parent as good-willed, kind and compassionate they are much more likely to place their trust in that parent and respond with submission and obedience. However, if a child sees a parent as unnecessarily restrictive, testing to determine obedience, and condemning, they are unlikely to place their confidence in him/her.
4. If we see God as unfair it affects our whole response to Him.
5. One of the central messages of the book of Deuteronomy is that God deals graciously with His people. But sometimes this message is not clear, especially in light of the warnings against disobedience, statements like, "He will wipe you off the face of the earth," and passages that state you are to fear the Lord.
6. How are we to balance this "fear of the Lord" with our understanding of His graciousness?
7. Consideration of Deut. 6:24-25 may help.

Discussion:

- I. The Lord has acted in the past for our good.
 - A. This provides the evidence of His good will toward us in the present and the future.
 1. God had delivered Israel from Egypt as evidence of His good will toward them (Deut. 6:20ff).
 2. Throughout the O.T. text there is the repeated reminder that God brought them up out of the land of Egypt.
 3. Future generations were to be reminded of His good will (Deut. 6:20)
 - B. We need to be reminded of how God has delivered us from the bondage of sin by means of the sacrifice of His Son.
 1. This remembrance should tip the scales in favor of God being good-willed.
 2. This is Paul's reasoning in Rom. 8:32: "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?"
 3. The Lord's Supper memorial regularly reminds us of this graciousness.
- II. The Lord has promised us good for the future.
 - A. He promised to multiply Israel and grant them a land flowing with milk and honey (Deut. 6:3). Cf. Deut. 6:10-11.
 1. Joshua reminded his generation "that no one word of all the good words the Lord your God spoke concerning you has failed" (23:14).
 2. Therefore the determination to serve the Lord in sincerity and truth (Josh. 24:14).

- B. He has promised us an even greater land.
 - 1. A heavenly city (Heb. 11:13-16).
 - 2. A kingdom that cannot be shaken (Heb. 12:22-23, 28).

III. The good He has promised is conditioned on hearing and doing His word.

- A. This is not some artificial test by which God determines whether or not we are worthy of His kindness.
- B. There was nothing that particularly commended them to God, instead He chose them (Deut. 7:6-9).
- C. Had God not chosen them they would have been left separated from Him and would have experienced the consequences of separation from God.
 - 1. The diseases of the Egyptians (7:15).
 - 2. They would not have received the blessings of God (7:12ff).
 - 3. If they turned away from Him they would experience the consequences of separation from God (7:10-11).
 - 4. This is not to be taken lightly, nor is the repayment of God to be diminished (7:10).
 - 5. Death is the natural result of sin and separation from God. God saves by inviting us into relationship with Him. Salvation requires submission to His will.

IV. It may not always seem that obedience results in good.

- A. Sometimes the Lord discipline makes us feel uncomfortable (Deut. 8:1-5; Heb. 12:4-11).
- B. Endurance is necessary (Heb. 10:36ff).
- C. The Lord delivers (2 Tim. 3:11). His grace is sufficient (2 Cor. 12:7-10). Bad things happen to good people. Sometimes it is the result of other people's sin against us. Sometimes it is a result of our own sin. Sometimes it is the result of the human condition (born outside the Garden of Eden).

V. Good does ultimately result from depending upon the word of God.

- A. Those who trusted in the word of God entered into the land of Canaan. Those who did not lost their lives in the wilderness (Deut. 8:1ff).
- B. He manifests His lovingkindness to the thousandth generation (Deut. 7:9ff).
- C. "God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8:28).
 - 1. Does not mean that the tragedies and death associated with this life are brought on by God.
 - 2. It means that God is working to bring about good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.

Conclusion:

1. Do you see the instruction that the Lord gives as unnecessarily restrictive, testing to determine your qualifications? Do you feel threatened if you are disobedient? Do you see God as an abusive father?
2. Or do you see Him as a benevolent Father, gracious to benefit you? Do you see His instruction as for your good always?