

LOVE, JOY, AND PEACE DON'T PAY THE BILLS
Loosening Your Grip V
Deuteronomy 8:1-14

INTRODUCTION

- A. When paying bills, where do we put our trust?
 - 1. Maybe noticed when signing name to mortgage paper.
 - a. “Mort” – “death,” and “gage” – “promise.”
 - b. You’ve got it, “promise of death.”
 - 2. It is out of our control!
 - 3. What makes us feel best, bottom line of account.
- B. Any assurance God works when financial future on line?
 - 1. I know in time of spiritual trouble, or physical harm, but...
 - 2. What about when it comes to our money affairs?

I. WHOM DO YOU REALLY TRUST?

- A. Case Number One.
 - 1. Moses speaking to the children of Israel, Deut. 8:2-5.
 - 2. You had nothing in wilderness, what did you learn?
 - a. They faced hunger, thirst, danger.
 - b. They survived the ordeal because of the hand of God.
 - 3. Based on trust in the Lord.
 - a. Vs. 1, keep His commands.
 - b. Vs. 2, tested to see whether or not...
 - c. Vs. 3, not live by bread alone, but by every word from the Lord.
- B. Case Number Two.
 - 1. Preparing to enter into land of Canaan, Deut. 8:7-10.
 - a. List of financial resources stated to Israelites.
 - b. How did it all come together?
 - 2. Vs. 10, God gave them all that was in the land. Bless the Lord!
 - 3. The entire nation was moving from slums to suburbs.
 - 4. Challenge still to be same as in wilderness, Deut. 8:1.
 - 5. Give control to the Lord.
- C. Case Number Three.
 - 1. What tends to happen when a nation begins to enjoy the “good” life?
 - a. A tendency to trust in themselves.
 - b. “Look what we have done...”, Deut. 8:11-16.
 - 2. Moses warns the people of this danger, Deut. 8:17.
 - a. Don’t forget God, vs. 11.
 - b. By not keeping His commands, v. 11.
 - 3. One word summarizes the case studies in Dt. 8, it is **control**.

II. TRUST IN GOD.

- A. Do We Recognize the Control of God?
 - 1. Rarely do we experience the situation found in Case Study #1.
 - 2. We have experienced the situation in Case Study #2 (and #3).
 - 3. Giving control to God, does not free us from economic decision.

B. God's Control, Mt. 25:14-30.

1. Management vs. leadership.
 - a. Management – doing things right.
Leadership – doing the right things.
 - b. Management – sees to getting the business up the ladder.
Leadership – makes sure the ladder is on the right wall.
 - c. Management – cuts the path through the jungle.
Leadership – makes sure the path goes in the right direction.
2. God leads, controls, picks the wall, sets the direction.
3. It is up to us to manage, set schedules, route paperwork, and set policies.
4. God is watching over us.
 - a. Ps. 9:10 – Thou hast not forsaken those who seek...
 - b. Ps. 94:14 – He will not abandon His people...
 - c. Ps. 121:3 – He who keeps will not slumber...
 - d. Mt. 6:33 – Seek first His kingdom...

CLOSING

- A. Are you under His control?