

Dt. 32:45-47 “This Is Your Life!”

For the Children: Sometimes people say “This is my life” when there is some activity that takes up most of their attention. A teacher might say “Teaching children is my life,” A minister might say, “Preaching is my life.” God’s children should be able to say, “The Lord Jesus is my life.” That also means making the study of His Word your life – and not just reading it, but also acting on it. **Questions:** When Moses says that “the Word is your life,” which word does he mean? What are we told to do with that Word, to show that it is our life? Why should we take God’s Word seriously?

Introduction:

First Point: What Is Your Life?

- 1) The Word: V. 47 indicates that the Word is our life, a gift from God. The “word” here could mean Moses’ song (vss. 1-43); the words of the Law; or the whole Book of Deuteronomy. It makes little difference, since the song is a covenant song, the Law is covenant-law and Deuteronomy is a Book of the covenant. The covenant involves both promises and obligations, whether we consider Moses’ song, the Decalogue or this Book overall.
- 2) The Word-Made-Flesh: The written Word only benefits us in Christ, whom we must receive by faith. The written Word is from and about Him. Only then do we receive life from the written Word. For Christ is the life. At the most fundamental level, our lives are defined by Him. *He* is our life!

Second Point: What Do You Do with It?

- 1) Take It to Heart: Simply memorizing the Word is not enough. We must take it inside us, so it governs our thinking, speaking and acting. See Dt. 6:4ff. We love that Word because it is the Word of God, from and about the Second Person of the Trinity and applied to us by the Third Person.
- 2) Careful Observation: When the Word is taken to heart, there is a concern for “careful observation” of it – of “all the words of this law.” The desire for precision in doctrine and practice may not be appreciated by many, but we should not be ashamed of it.
- 3) Command Your Sons to Obey It: V. 46 is again similar to Dt. 6:7. If we love God’s Word and love our children, we will want to nurture them in it. This nurture includes instruction in the reasons why we act as we do; but it does not shy away from *commanding* obedience.

Third Point: Why Take It So Seriously?

- 1) Not an Idle Word: One of the reasons why we take God’s Word seriously and require our children to do the same, is because it is not an “idle” Word – not vain, empty, worthless or fruitless. It is, after all, God’s Word. It never fails to accomplish His purpose for it.
- 2) It Is Your Life: How can we fail to take the Word seriously, when it not only brings life to us, but is itself our very life?! We should be demonstrating by our words and deeds that the Lord Jesus is everything to us and therefore His Word is too.
- 3) It Comes with a Warning: On the one hand, the Word brings life to God’s people – spiritual, eternal and even, eventually, a glorified physical life. That is foreshadowed in the text in terms of prolonged life in the Promised Land. But that also implies that if we reject that Word, what awaits us is the opposite of life. Moses therefore describes his words here as a warning to Israel. Fear of eternal death is, by itself, not an adequate motive for faith. But warnings encourage the faithful to cling to the Lord for the right reasons; while giving fair warning to unbelievers and complacent churchgoers.

Conclusion:

