

**Subject: God's Focus on the Family**

**Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:1-9**

We need to understand the historical setting of Deuteronomy. This book contains God's instructions for His people as they were preparing to enter the Promised Land and establish their homes in this new land. The key to their blessing and long existence as a nation would be their obedience to God and His Word, and the key to their this would be the teaching by parents in the family. God's focus was on the family. He gave His people a blueprint for blessing that included four things:

### **1. EVERYONE MUST LEARN GOD'S WORD (vs. 1)**

When Moses passed away and Joshua became their leader, God spoke to Joshua about the importance of knowing and doing His Word. This was always the most important thing. We can't believe and obey God's Word unless we first know God's Word.

***Joshua 1:7-8**<sup>7</sup> Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest. <sup>8</sup> This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.*

God's people were blessed above all people because they had the Scriptures.

***Psalms 147:19-20**<sup>19</sup> He showeth his word unto Jacob, his statutes and his judgments unto Israel. <sup>20</sup> He hath not dealt so with any nation: and as for his judgments, they have not known them. Praise ye the LORD.*

### **2. EVERYONE MUST FEAR GOD AND OBEY HIM (vs. 2-3)**

As you read the Old Testament, two themes are prominent: God's people must fear Him and obey Him. In Psalm 19:9, "the fear of the LORD" is one of the names of Scripture.

***Ecclesiastes 12:13** Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.*

### **3. EVERYONE MUST KNOW GOD AND LOVE HIM (vs. 4-5)**

Verse 4 is the great Jewish confession of faith called the "Shema," from the Hebrew word for "hear." The one true God was the foundational and primary truth that separated Israel from all other people. All other people were polytheistic (many gods), but Israel was monotheistic. So are Christians today. We believe in one true and living God because that's what the Bible teaches. All other gods are false gods.

**John 17:3** *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

**1 Timothy 2:5** *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;*

Verse 5 in our text is also known as the Great Commandment. When Jesus was asked about the greatest commandment, this is what He said:

**Matthew 22:36-38** <sup>36</sup> *Master, which is the great commandment in the law?* <sup>37</sup> *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.* <sup>38</sup> *This is the first and great commandment.*

#### **4. PARENTS MUST TEACH THEIR CHILDREN (vs. 6-25)**

- A. Teach them with conviction (vs. 6)
- B. Teach them with consistency (vs. 7)
- C. Teach them with clarity (vs. 8-9)

Some Jews took this literally and tied small boxes that contained Scripture (“phylacteries”) to their hands and foreheads with strips of leather. They also made small containers (“mezuzah”) to the door post of their homes.

- D. Teach them with concern (vs. 10-19)

God was concerned they would forget Him and forsake Him. The very life and welfare of the nation depended on following God’s Word.

**Psalms 78:1-7** <sup>1</sup> *Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth.* <sup>2</sup> *I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:* <sup>3</sup> *Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.* <sup>4</sup> *We will not hide them from their children, showing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.* <sup>5</sup> *For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:* <sup>6</sup> *That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:* <sup>7</sup> *That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.*

- E. Teach them with confidence (vs. 20-25)

There is a similar passage in Exodus 13, when Moses told the people at the first Passover to expect their children ask them what this meant and why they did this every year. It’s

the same with baptism and the Lord's Supper. Children want to know why, and parents should be ready to tell them.

There was a time when the Bible was taught in public schools, and sadly that is not allowed anymore. We tend to focus on that and say that's when our nation began to decline morally and spiritually. But the problem is not with the schools...it's with the home. It's still legal to read the Bible in our homes. It's still legal to teach children in our homes.

God gave a plan for His people and it was designed for the family. I'm thankful for the commitment our church has to help families and children. We have VBS, SS, AWANA, and Student Ministry, but all of those can never take the place of instruction in the family. The church is to supplement and assist parents in the training of their children, not take their place.

The plan God gave to Israel about 3,500 years ago is still His plan today.

- 1) Learn God's Word
- 2) Fear God and obey Him
- 3) Know God and love Him
- 4) Parent teach your children