

Dt. 8:1-3 (LD 7:22-23) “Every Word That Proceeds”

For the Children: Young people learn to depend on what adults say to them: they listen to their parents when they tell them to do something, they believe the promises their parents make to them. They believe the explanations their parents and teachers give them about the world around us. But parents sometimes make mistakes. The Lord does not. His Word can be relied on in everything it says. We should believe it all, trust it all, and obey it all. **Questions:** When we fail to listen to God’s Word, will He still forgive us? Why should we obey God’s Word? Why does the Lord sometimes take things from us in this life?

Introduction:

First Point: Do *All* God Commands

- All, Not Just Some: The instruction to keep all of God’s commandments is a familiar refrain in Deuteronomy. See 4:1-2, 6:1-3. If He told us to keep only some of His laws, sinners would fall even farther short of the mark.
- Reasons to Obey: God deserves to be obeyed completely. But He also gives the added reason for complete obedience, that this way His people will enjoy the covenant-blessings without the interference of sin. The blessings singled out include life, the Promised Land, and multiplication of the nation. These blessings are not earned, but they can be lost by ongoing rebellion. See Dt. 27 on the covenant-curses.
- The New Covenant Situation: The covenant-blessings reach their fulfillment in Christ. By grace, He supplies us with eternal life, in the heavenly Canaan. However, we must demonstrate that we really love and fear the Lord, and are truly grateful for His mercies, by striving to obey the whole “rule of gratitude.” If we try to “pick and choose” which commands to obey, that indicates an inner refusal to submit to the Lord.

Second Point: Remember *All* God Has Done

- Remember How God Led You: The Lord knew Israel would rebel when they became used to the good life in Canaan. He warned them to remember how He led them in their time in the wilderness. For there He deprived Israel of necessities – like food – to humble them and teach them to depend entirely on Him. He sent manna also to teach them to depend on His provision, not on their own work. By “removing their props” He also tested (brought out) what was in their hearts, their attitude to Him.
- Fulfilled In Christ: We have all we need provided by Christ, our “Bread from Heaven.” He also prepares us and tests us, both by His provision and also by sending us trials. We need to remember what God has done in the past, as well as what He has promised for the future. This is a matter of *doctrine* - remembering all the ways God leads (v. 2), and “everything God promises in the Gospel” (Q. 22). LD 8-22 therefore goes on to outline this “everything in the Gospel” by explaining the articles of the Apostles’ Creed. All this should be believed .

Third Point: Depend on *All* God Says

- Depending on All God Says: The manna in the wilderness was given to teach Israel to depend on “everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord” – every expression of His will, whether Law or Gospel, accounts of past actions or promises of future action.. That Word of God was for their physical and spiritual sustenance.
- Jesus’ Dependence: The Lord Jesus kept this principle perfectly – even when God removed His “necessities” and allowed the devil to tempt Him in the wilderness. He refused to supply His own food, but waited for God to keep His promise to sustain Him. He answered every spiritual attack by Satan with a response from God’s Word.
- Our Dependence: All God’s Word is inspired – both Law and Gospel. We must rely on that revealed will as well as God’s secret will. We do not do so perfectly, but we are to accept all His Word as true, authoritative and sufficient for our needs. We are to strive not to rebel against any part of it.

Conclusion: