

Deed, Thought, Word

Ex 13:9

1

9 “And it shall serve as a sign to you on your hand, and as a reminder on your forehead, that the law of the Lord may be in your mouth

The Israelites, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, had been brought out of Egypt by the awesome power of God. They had been preserved as a nation through that power and they are being led to the land that He had promised them. In this passage we see the commandment that God gives them to remember what He has both done and asked of them in return.

Ex 13:1-8

READ

1 Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “Sanctify to Me every firstborn, the first offspring of every womb among the sons of Israel, both of man and beast; it belongs to Me.” 3 Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you went out from Egypt, from the house of slavery; for by a powerful hand the Lord brought you out from this place. And nothing leavened shall be eaten. 4 “On this day in the month of Abib, you are about to go forth. 5 “It shall be when the Lord brings you to the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Hivite and the Jebusite, which He swore to your fathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, that you shall observe this rite in this month. 6 “For seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a feast to the Lord. 7 “Unleavened bread shall be eaten throughout the seven days; and nothing leavened shall be seen among you, nor shall any leaven be seen among you in all your borders. 8 “You shall tell your son on that day, saying, ‘It is because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt.’

There is some debate over whether this passage from verse 9 was intended as literal or figurative, but, I suppose the definitive answer is seen in that the Israelites observed it literally in the things that they did. Besides the annual Passover feasts, there were inscriptions on the door-posts and fringes on their clothing that also were appointed to help them remember. And the Jews, from a very early time wore phylacteries fastened on the left arm and on the forehead, containing favorite passages from the Law as reminders. But it does seem that there is also a metaphorical meaning to be understood here, a figurative illustration of how important it is to not forget what God has done or what He desires. God wants us all to remember what He has done, He wants this to be the motivation that guides us in our lives. He gave the Israelites tokens of remembrance so that they would not forget. This was the sign, the Passover Feast. That is the impact of verse 9; the Passover was to serve to them as the great reminder of the great deliverance. It was to be...

2

- 1) On their Hand
- 2) On their Forehead
- 3) In their Mouth

The “therefore” of verse 10 seems to say that keeping this commandment as God has given it, in the right season, with the right elements is the fulfilment of the command. The point being that if the commands were not kept the way God dictated, then the principle of the commands had not been faithfully obeyed. There are three thoughts we want to look at for this discussion.

- 3
- A) God's deliverance of man should be seen in the things we do
 - B) God's deliverance needs to be always present in the way we think
 - C) God's deliverance is to be on our lips

We are going to look at these thoughts from the metaphorical aspect. The first thought...

- 4
- 1) God's deliverance of man should be constantly before us

To me this speaks of keeping the Salvation of God at our fingertips, keeping it near at hand. The Psalmist says it this way...

Ps 5:7-8

5

7 But as for me, by Your abundant lovingkindness I will enter Your house, at Your holy temple I will bow in reverence for You. 8 O Lord, lead me in Your righteousness because of my foes; Make Your way straight before me.

This is the attitude towards God that should be our mantra.

6

“Make your way straight before me!”

We see the explanation of this in...

Ps 18:20

7

22 For all His ordinances were before me, And I did not put away His statutes from me.

God makes His way straight before us when we keep His ordinances and His statutes as our guide and goal. When we lose sight of the direction we are to be going, when our path begins to veer away from His ordinances, then the way is no longer being made straight by His Word. We see the same thought in...

Ps 119:29-30

8

29 Remove the false way from me, And graciously grant me Your law. 30 I have chosen the faithful way; I have placed Your ordinances before me.

The principle of God's commandments as being that which teaches and guides His followers on the right path to a home eternal in heaven, is as old as time itself.

One of the commentators I looked at on this passage said that the expression

9

“A sign, for a memorial,”

Could also be understood as;

10

- A) It shall serve as
- B) It shall be like
- C) As you shall wear

I see these ideas and I can't help but think about Quinton's invitation he gave on...

Eph 6:10-12

11

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. **11** Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. **12** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Keeping the Word of God always at hand, to me conveys the idea that it is a tool that I can use, it is the cord that binds me to my faith and obedience. In Matt. 4 when Satan took Jesus to be tempted, we see three times that Jesus used the Word as the defense against Satan and his temptations. The Word of God is stronger than any two edged sword...

Heb 4:12

12

12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

God's Word is the defensive bulwark as well as the scalpel that clears away the disease from our hearts and minds. This brings us to our next point in this discussion...

13

- 2) God's deliverance needs to be always present in the way we think

Have you ever had that little wisp of hair that persists in falling so that just a strand or two is in your eye. It can drive you nuts trying to find that hair. As bad of an analogy as that is, that is how God's Word is to be to us. It never goes away; it's always there in our eyesight. If we can turn away from it at our convenience, then it isn't there the way it should be. These are the ones Christ is talking about in...

Luke 8:13

14

13 Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away.

Christ illustrates that when the Word has no depth, no firm root, then temptation soon draws the believer away. I think this is important. Christ doesn't say they quit believing, He says that their faith is not firmly rooted, and thus doesn't keep them on the straight path. They no longer have the Word of God on their foreheads and constantly in their thoughts.

1 Tim 1:18-19

15

18 This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight, **19** keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith.

In his instructions to Timothy Paul shows us that it is only by keeping the faith and fighting the good fight that we can keep our faith from becoming, as he says, "Shipwrecked." Clinging to the truth of God, His Word, needs to translate into our lives in everything we do. Note what remembering what God has done for us does...

16

A) It defines the law for all our activity. It gives us...

- 1) The pattern for what we do. The death as well as the life of Christ teaches us what we ought to be.
- 2) The motive for what we do. He died for me! Why won't I serve Him who redeemed me?

B) It arms us against temptations, and helps keep us from sinking into sin.

Christ, in Matt. 10 tells us that we are to confess Him. We see in...

Rom 10:8-10

17

8 But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART"—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, **9** that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; **10** for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

Paul brings us to our last point...

18

3) God's deliverance is to be on our lips

What does Paul mean by this? What did God mean when He said through Moses that...

19

The law of the Lord may be in your mouth

What is that? How do we put the Word of the Lord into our mouths? This goes far beyond just teaching or preaching. This speaks to the first two thoughts of the salvation of God being in our hands and on our heads. Until we control the evil that is our flesh, the emotions of our hearts, the lust of the flesh, the pride of life, and the lust of the eye. We are doomed to failure.

1 John 2:15-17

20

15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16** For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. **17** The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

The lesson in this sermon is the lesson given to the Israelites in...

Ex 13:9

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9 “And it shall serve as a sign to you on your hand, and as a reminder on your forehead, that the law of the Lord may be in your mouth

It is our responsibility to control , and it is our responsibility to remember. The three areas we have been talking about can, I think, be summarized...

- A) God’s deliverance of Israel was to free them from their slavery in Egypt. The purpose of salvation is to give all men a chance to be free of their sin. As with Israel, God's purpose is the same to all Christians. The very meaning of redemption is there. He has opened our lips that we should show forth His praise. He wants us to be vocal, He desires our love. Words of testimony, praise, and adoration are all forms of the love He wants from us.
- B) Without the remembrance of what He has done for on our lips, the other two are incomplete.

And here is the rest of that story...

- C) The utterance of our lips, to be worth anything, must rest on and follow the other two.

This is the impact of what the Macedonians did...

2 Cor 8:1-5

22

1 Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, **2** that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. **3** For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, **4** begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints, **5** and this, not as we had expected, but they first gave themselves to the Lord and to us by the will of God.

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