

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of life" (Phil. 2:16).

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A Part Of Thanksgiving

In what might well be looked upon as a Thanksgiving style text, we note the following admonition: "Therefore you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him. For the LORD your God is bringing you into...a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing..." (Deut. 8:6-10). It certainly is a call for gratitude. But then in the same context is the warning, "Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today" (Deut. 8:11).

In the midst of a call for gratitude, notice that part of the message is stressing the importance of not forgetting God and what He has done for us. If truly the things written aforetime were written for our learning (Rom. 15:4), then here is an admonition that needs to stick in our minds.

What is ironic is that Israel went on to forget God. As the Psalmist looks back at the events following the exodus from Egypt, he writes, "The waters covered their enemies; There was not one of them left. Then they believed His words; they sang His praise. They soon forgot His works..." (Psa. 106:11-13). "They forgot God their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt" (Psa. 106:21). Such was the history of Israel. "When they had pasture, they were filled; They were filled and their heart was exalted; therefore they forgot Me" (Hos. 13:6).

It is hard to believe that after all that God had done for Israel, that their history would show a tendency to forget God. But perhaps that is not that strange when you look at America today. We live in a land that flows with unparalleled blessings. We have an over abundance of food. We have homes that are comfortable for our living. We have clothing so that no one goes cold. We have freedoms that many in this world long to possess. And yet the tendency in this great country is to forget God.

In the call for thanksgiving, let us never forget the source of all of our wonderful blessings. "Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever" (Psa. 118:1).