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Substance of Prayer Meeting Address

given by our Pastor on June 25, 1974.

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Lesson. Deuteronomy 8. vv. 1-10.

And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. Deuteronomy 8. 2.

The sacred terminology of this second verse is well known to you. Notice how emphatic and positive it is. It is the divine will and purpose and pleasure of God concerning all His children. There is no uncertainty or ambiguity about it. "And thou shalt remember." What? a few things? highlights? times of deliverance? times of great joy? No: "thou shalt remember all the way." It is divinely qualified; "which the Lord thy God led thee." The way of divine leading is therefore of paramount importance for one specific reason. If the Lord leads us it is the road to glory.

I will make a few observations. The whole spiritual content of the verse reveals the profundity of the glorious purposes of God in His decree of salvation as to why He should look down on an innumerable host of mankind (as it is to us) thousands and thousands and thousands of millions of human beings from Adam to the last. How small we are! But looking down He saw those He had chosen, those on whom His love was fixed eternally, and the verse reveals to you the grand purpose of Jehovah.

"And thou shalt remember." It does not refer just to the brain: to something deeper, greater, the spiritual faculty of the gracious understanding of the new man. Not just cold calculating. It is attested and confirmed by God, and it is evergreen. It never withers; it cannot decay: it knows no death; it is never moribund. Why remember? It must be clear to you. Because it is God's purpose that these people should glorify Him evermore. It is His purpose that they should show forth His praise throughout their spiritual lives. If we use the hymn, it says; "And only be living to publish Thy praise." (906) There is no other purpose. What a beautiful life of sunshine! There are radiant and

beautiful lives where this is so wonderfully manifested it is transparent: the whole life is sanctified and devoted to one glorious end,- to publish His praise. That is why God has saved sinners, redeemed sinners. Why should you remember? Because it is His will that you should glorify Him. Before the heavens, before the Trinity, before all men, the wicked, dear ones, and relatives you are to glorify Him.

So this reveals the glorious purpose of Jehovah in saving sinners, and it will well up in your breast as a spring,- an intense desire to honour and praise and glorify God. I say to you, some claim little, if anything. There are various things in their lives that are self-revealing: one is, you will find they put God first and show forth His praise: they praise Him, give Him all the glory. This may be one of the self-revealing evidences of life in your family. You put God first; you praise and acknowledge Him. This is an evidence of grace and life in the soul. There are foretastes of heaven when a family joins in praising God.

"And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee." Why? Because there is something to remember. You will never remember in the sense of the Text if you have nothing to remember because it will perish. You will remember in the sacred force of the word because you have something to remember. And why? Because it is God's work and it stands. It can never die; it can never be overthrown, so you will remember. It lives; it is everlasting, so you remember. It is not only to have it once and on special occasions, but through eternity you will look back on it.

What had they to remember? I will give you some of the outstanding things, and you must fill in for yourself. First they had to remember- (they were near the land of promise) God had remembered them in their bondage and sorrow. He came down and revealed Himself to Moses. He told Moses He knew their sorrows in Egypt and He was about to deliver them, and they had this to remember, and you will. "For I know their sorrows" said the Lord. "I have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; And I am come down to deliver them." What is outstanding? It was all commemorated in the Passover service. Did they remember the last of the plagues? This they had to remember, and I am thankful that some have recently realised their personal interest in this

"And when I see the blood, I will pass over you." There was the blood in the basin, the bunch of hyssop, and the blood on the two side posts and the lintel, and the destroying angel passed over these houses, but there was not a house of the Egyptians where there was not one dead. Now, my friends, if your souls are beneath the shadow of the cross, sprinkled with the precious, shed, vital blood of Christ you will remember. He has passed over you.

They remembered their emancipation from slavery and the glorious hope of the land of promise. They remembered the Red Sea, the time when Egypt pursued and overtook them. God had led them and He was still leading them. They remembered the time when they could see no deliverance, but it was certain. "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will show to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace." Soon they were on the other side: the waters were divided. We would not be here to night apart from this. It is our hope that we shall soon come to the river and find the waters divided again. It is awesome to think of the waters returning, and the hosts, the cream and pride of Egypt dead on the shore. What a day it must have been! God was their refuge and strength. What a day! They looked on the shore and saw the proud host dead. They had this to remember. You know how it is translated.- all your spiritual enemies, sin, death and hell,- these chiefly, dead on the sea shore.

It was not long before they came to Marah, and they remembered the bitter waters. You will never forget. You may have bitter waters with you quite a while, and you will remember. It is wonderful how the tree was cast into the waters and they were made sweet. This is what the Lord does for His dear people. It is out of this world, but experienced in this world. It is the power the Lord ^{has} through the cross to make bitter waters sweet. It is a miracle, and you will remember in praise and gratitude to God. Why remember? Because God should ^{be} glorified in our hearts and lives and with our lips,- all our faculties and powers. And because of this; that we should be humbled at His feet, and kept there. This is the desire of those who have grace and who are under grace.

Why remember? Because there was something to be transmitted. "What

mean ye?" their children said. So they had something to remember and to transmit. It sets forth the day when the Lord delivered them out of Egyptian bondage, and the blood was put over their houses, not over the houses of the Egyptians. So how wonderful to have something to transmit, to convey to others.

"And thou shalt remember all the way." There is this: we shall come to the end of the way, the end of the road. There have always been pilgrims who have set out, and one day they have arrived. It is a pleasing thought sometimes to realize we are getting much nearer the blessed place. Soon we shall reach the end of the road and be at Home. Amen.