

Truth and Reason

Speaking the Words of Truth and Reason ♦ Acts 26:25

Volume I

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Number 5

Who Is to Teach?

CHRISTIAN, WHAT IS YOUR attitude toward teaching others? Do you think it is the job of only a certain few — the preacher or, perhaps, the elders? Or do you think you have a responsibility to convey the gospel to those who are lost?

The instructions Jesus gave His disciples in Matthew 28:18-20, commonly called “the great commission,” emphasize that it is the duty of every child of God to be involved in the task of presenting the gospel to the world. Yet, many members of the church never teach others. Do they not see the urgent need to reach those who are dying in sin? Do they really feel no action is needed on their part?

Jesus, in John 4:35; spoke of the fields that “are already white for harvest.” He was speaking of people in the world who need to be brought to the Father by the message of the gospel. The people of the world still need to be gathered into the kingdom of God. That “field” is still ready to be harvested but now it is larger than ever. Therefore, many workers should be busy in it.

Jesus, on another occasion, said, “I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.” (John 9:4)

Though He was speaking of His time on earth, the principle can apply to us. While we are living is the time to work. Rest will come in the place of eternal rest. (Rev. 14:13) We must use our time wisely. (Eph. 5:16) We must be zealous to accomplish those good works for which we have been created in Christ. (Eph. 2:10; Titus 2:14) If we are going to be like the New Testament church, we will be seeking and teaching the lost.

Study the first century church and its marvelous growth as it is seen in the New Testament. Why was its growth so dramatic? Acts 8:4 states a most significant reason for their astounding numerical development. Scattered abroad by persecution, the disciples “went everywhere preaching the word.” Though separated from the apostles, they diligently sought out those “good and honest hearts” who would listen to the message of truth. So great was their dedication, so effective was their teaching that the apostle Paul was able to say in Colossians 1:23 that the gospel had been preached in all creation.

Consider that statement for a moment. In just a span of about 34 years, the Christians had saturated the world with the

teaching of the gospel. They had been able to accomplish that great task because every one of them recognized his responsibility to Christ and the commission He had given and worked earnestly at fulfilling it.

Just as inequity of ability exists today, I am sure their talents were not equal. Yet, that did not seem to hinder them. Neither should it hinder anyone today. Even the least knowledgeable and most timid disciple can teach someone. If he can only relate what he did to be saved, that would be enough to tell others. Additionally, various helps are available such as tracts, pamphlets, bulletins, etc., which make an adequate teacher out of everyone. If you were to run into a problem, remember there is always the preacher, the elders or another member to help you.

Every child of God should utilize and enlarge the abilities he possesses. Each should be seeking to improve his knowledge of the word of God and improve himself as a teacher by diligently studying. (2 Tim. 2:15) He must remember at all times that Christ is his source of strength. (Phil. 4:13) Then, with prayer for help and strength, he can effectively teach the saving gospel of Christ to those who need it. 🍎

Gene Taylor

How to Raise a Delinquent

WHILE LIVING IN EVANSVILLE, INDIANA, I BECAME FRIENDS WITH A CITY policeman who worked in the juvenile division. He dealt on a daily basis with children who had violated the law. Many times he became discouraged with his job because even though he was dedicated to helping these troubled youths, he realized that many of their parents were not. As a matter of fact, often, the parents were the ones who were responsible for the actions of their children.

On a visit to his office, I saw a poster on the wall behind his desk. It bore the title of this article as its theme. It gave the following suggestions on how to raise your child to be a delinquent.

- **Give** your child everything he wants.
- **Laugh** at him when he uses bad language.
- **Never** give him any special training.
- **Don't** tell him anything is wrong...He may develop a guilt complex.
- **Do** everything for him so that he will shun all responsibility.
- **Let** him read any printed matter he can get his hands on.
- **Quarrel** frequently in his presence.
- **Give** him all the spending money he wants.
- **Satisfy** his every craving for food, drink and comfort.
- **Take** his part against neighbor, teacher and police.
- **Prepare** for a life of grief. You will likely have it.



All parents should rather be doing everything they can to see that their child is learning proper values. Remember the words of the wise man in Proverbs 22:6: "Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it." 🐼

Gene Taylor



Book of the Month

A Study of the Books of the Bible from Truth and Reason

Deuteronomy

I. General Data

- A. Name: Deuteronomy.
 1. The Hebrew name for the book is **Haddebarim**, i.e., “The Words,” which is taken from the opening verse. (1:1).
 2. The Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament, rendered 17:18 “this second law,” from which came the present title “Deuteronomy” which was given by the Septuagint translators in the third century B.C.
 - a. *Deuteros* means “second” and *nomos* means “law.”
 - b. The book is a giving, or relating, of the law a second time to a new generation of Israel who had grown up in the wilderness and were poised to take Canaan.
- B. Author: Moses (31:9,24-26) and Joshua (at least chapter 34).
- C. Time span: About one month beginning the first day of the eleventh month of the fortieth year (1:3) through the death of Moses.
- D. Theme: Transition.
 1. A transition to a new:
 - a. Generation. There were only three members left of the generation which had come out of Egypt—Moses, Caleb, and Joshua.
 - b. Possession. The pilgrimage in the wilderness was ending. The land of Canaan was their promised home.
 - c. Experience, i.e., a new life. Israel will dwell in houses, not tents. They will eat “milk and honey” instead of manna.
 - d. Revelation of God, the revelation of His love. While only briefly referred to in the first four books of the Pentateuch, the love of God is emphasized in Deuteronomy (4:37; 7:7-8; 23:5).
 2. A striking comparison of the fifth book of the Old Testament, Deuteronomy, to the fifth book of the New Testament, Acts, in reference to transition. In Acts, like Deuteronomy, a transition to a new:
 - a. Generation—a regeneration in Christ.
 - b. Possession—a spiritual Canaan.
 - c. Experience—a new birth into a new life.
 - d. Revelation—the unfolding of the mystery of Christ. (Eph. 3:1-12)
 3. This transition is undergirded by the faithfulness of God. It is seen in His gracious, wise, and righteous dealings with Israel in the past generations and in His renewed pledge for the future.
- E. Key thoughts in the book.
 1. The sermons of Moses.
 - a. Throughout Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers, God speaks to Moses. In Deuteronomy, Moses speaks to the people.
 - b. The three lengthy discourses are uttered to a new generation about to possess the promised land.
 - 1) Sermon one. (1:3 - 4:40) A review of Israel’s history from Horeb to Moab. In it Moses commands them to obey God and flee idolatry.
 - 2) Sermon two. (5:1 - 26:19) Beginning with the Ten Commandments, it contains exhortations, warnings, and instructions often quoting from the Law and expanding upon it.
 - 3) Sermon three. (27:1 - 31:29) Instructions for erecting an altar to God on the other side of the Jordan River, conditions for God’s blessings and curses, and a choice of life or death.

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2. Key words and phrases.
 - a. "Remember." (7:18; 8:2; 9:7; 15:15)
 - b. "Take heed." (8:2; 11:16; 12:13, 19)
 - c. "Be diligent." (6:7, 17; 28:1)
 - d. "Go in and possess." (35 times)
 - e. "The land which the Lord giveth thee." (34 times)
 - f. "Love God." (10:12; 11:1, 13, 22; 13:3; 19:9; 30:6, 16, 20; etc.)

F. A Summary.

1. Since it is a book of transition, Deuteronomy addresses a generation which was not present for the first reading of the Law. It had grown up in the wilderness and, possibly, many of the laws were unfamiliar to them. The laws were designed to regulate their lives in the promised land so it is possible they had not even been exposed to some of them. To accomplish this second reading, Moses delivers a series of three lengthy discourses. The book closes with the song of Moses and the blessing of Israel. Moses climbs Mt. Nebo, views the land, and then dies.
2. "This is distinctly a book of **obedience**. 'Observe to do' was the emphasis of Moses to the people. Everything depended on this—life and happiness. Blessing is the reward of obedience; the curse, the result of disobedience." (*Unger's Bible Handbook*, p. 140)

II. An Outline of Deuteronomy

A. Moses' First Sermon - Historical. (ch. 1-4)

1. A recount of the last 40 years. (1:1 - 3:29)
2. Commands to obedience and warnings against idolatry. (4:1-40)
3. Appendix.
 - a. Eastern cities of refuge. (4:41-43)
 - b. Conclusion. (4:44-49)

B. Moses' Second Sermon - Legal. (ch. 5-26)

1. Summary of the foundation of the Law of Moses. (ch. 5-11)
 - a. The Ten Commandments. (5:1-22)
 - b. The events at Sinai. (5:23-33)
 - c. The greatest commandment (6:1-9) and a caution against disobedience. (6:10-25)
 - d. A chosen people (7:1-11) and blessings of obedience. (7:12-26)
 - e. Remember the Lord. (ch. 8)
 - f. Israel's rebellions reviewed. (9:1 - 10:11)
 - g. The essence of the Law. (10:12 - 11:32)
 2. Exposition of the principle religious, political, and civil laws. (ch. 12-26)
 - a. God's prescribed place of worship. (12:1-28)
 - b. Idolaters and their punishment. (12:29 - 13:18)
 - c. Separation from the nations (clean and unclean animals). (14:1-21)
 - d. Tithing. (14:22-29)
 - e. Laws of generosity (canceled debts, poor, bond servants). (15:1-18)
 - f. Firstborn animals. (15:19-23)
 - g. Three principle feast days. (16:1-17)
 - h. Justice. (16:18 - 17:13)
 - i. Principles concerning kings. (17:14-20)
 - j. Portion for priests and Levites. (18:1-8)
 - k. Avoid wicked customs. (18:9-22)
 - l. A new prophet like Moses. (18:15-22)
 - m. Cities of refuge. (19:1-13)
 - n. Property boundaries. (19:14)
 - o. Laws concerning witnesses. (19:15-21)
 - p. Principles regarding warfare. (20:1-20)
 - q. Unsolved murders. (21:1-9)
 - r. Female war prisoners. (21:10-14)
 - s. Firstborn inheritance rights. (21:15-17)
 - t. Rebellious son. (21:18-21)
 - u. Miscellaneous laws. (21:22 - 22:12)
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- v. Laws of sexual morality. (22:13-30)
 - w. Those excluded from the congregation. (23:1-8)
 - x. Cleanliness of camp site. (23:9-14)
 - y. Miscellaneous laws. (23:15-25)
 - z. Laws concerning divorce. (24:1-4)
 - aa. Miscellaneous laws. (24:5 - 25:4)
 - bb. Kinsman redeemer law. (25:5-10)
 - cc. Miscellaneous laws. (25:11-16)
 - dd. Destroy the Amalekites. (25:17-19)
 - ee. Offerings of firstfruits and tithes. (26:1-15)
 - ff. A special people of God. (26:16-19)
- C. Moses' Third Sermon - Prophetic. (ch. 27-30)
 - 1. Ratifying the covenant. (ch. 27)
 - 2. Blessings and curse of the covenant. (ch. 28)
 - 3. Renewal of the covenant. (ch. 29-30)
 - D. Moses' Parting Words and Song. (ch. 31-33)
 - 1. Moses' parting words. (ch. 31)
 - a. Commission of Joshua as new leader. (31:1-8)
 - b. Law to be read every seven years. (31:9-13)
 - c. Prediction of Israel's rebellion. (31:14-29)
 - 2. Moses' song (31:30 - 32:47) and prediction of his death on Mt. Nebo. (32:48-52)
 - 3. Moses' final blessing on Israel. (ch. 33)
 - E. Moses' Death. (ch. 34)

III. The Lessons of Deuteronomy

- A. The example of Moses.
 - 1. Moses has few peers. He is one of the greatest figures in all of the Bible and all of history.
 - 2. "Spiritually minded people know the thrill of listening to a man who loves God, lives His word, and loves His fellowman. His lessons are rich, thought-provoking and motivating...In Deuteronomy, we are privileged to sit at (Moses) feet as he delivers some powerful sermons to the children of Israel as they make final preparations to enter the Promised Land." (Skip Sebree, *Today Magazine*, Vol. I, No. 7, p. 24)
 - 3. "Moses never appears quite so fine, noble, and practical as in Deuteronomy. His personal history comes out in great prominence, and with a solid grandeur, a calm earnestness, and affectionate persuasiveness, and unflinching fidelity to truth, a singleness of aim and unselfishness of purpose, which command the most reverent attention, bespeak the most intense sympathy, and endorse to the fullest extent the statement of Divine inspiration." (Joseph W. Kemp cited in an unpublished work)
- B. Respect for the word of God.
 - 1. This is a prominent theme throughout the book.
 - 2. Note 4:1-2; 10:12-13; and 12:32.
- C. God's promises are conditional.
 - 1. God promised to bless Israel only if they remained faithful.
 - 2. Note 6:24-25; 7:11-12; 8:18-19; and 28:1, 15.
- D. The family.
 - 1. The book contains many legal regulations in reference to marriage and the home. Two of them are:
 - a. Israel was forbidden to marry with heathen nations (7:1-3) because they would lead the Israelites away from God. (7:4)
 - b. A man who was newly wed was exempt from military service for one year. (24:5)
 - 2. The need for parents to teach spiritual values to their children is emphasized. (6:6-7)
- E. The test for a prophet. (18:22)
- F. God's attitude toward sorcery, witchcraft, and the occult. (18:9-14)
- G. Jesus and the book of Deuteronomy.
 - 1. Prophecy of the Messiah. (18:18-19)
 - a. Peter applies this prophecy to Jesus. (Acts 3:22-24)
 - b. Jesus confirmed that Moses wrote of Him. (John 5:46-47)
 - 2. When Jesus was tempted by Satan, he recalled the words of Deuteronomy to help Him overcome the temptation. (8:3; 6:13, 16; cf. Matt. 4:1-11)

Deuteronomy Study Questions

Chapter 1

1. Give the setting of Deuteronomy as to time, place, persons and occasion.
2. What is indicated with regard to the subject of Moses' speech (or speeches)?
3. What evidences of the consequences of disobedience are put before the people?
4. List the words which define the sin of Israel for which the first generation had to die in the wilderness.

Chapters 2 and 3

5. What three peoples was Israel commanded not to fight?
6. What successes in battle had the Israelites already had when Moses spoke to them? (2:24-3:11)
7. What effect do you suppose these conquests would have on Israel as they faced the task of conquering the land west of the Jordan River? What lesson would they teach them?
8. What tribes received the conquered lands east of the Jordan?
9. What had been Moses prayer to God?
10. What was God's answer to Moses?

Chapter 31

11. What did God anticipate that the people would do?
12. Who would the people blame for their trouble?
13. What was the purpose of the song Moses taught the people?
14. What reason is offered for the order given to the Levites to deposit the law in the ark?

Chapters 32 and 33

15. How was the song found in this chapter a witness for God against Israel? How does it serve as a vindication of God?
16. In light of the context, explain the statement, "It is your life." (v. 47)
17. What was Moses permitted to do before his death?
18. How is the great sin of Moses described?
19. How is chapter 33 like a "last will and testament?"

Chapter 34

20. Where did Moses die?
21. How old was Moses when he died?
22. What was the physical condition of Moses at the time of his death?
23. How did the people feel about Moses?
24. How was Joshua qualified to succeed Moses?
25. Discuss the "uniqueness" of Moses.

The Necessity of Baptism

EVEN THOUGH A CAREFUL study of the New Testament shows baptism for the remission of sins to be necessary for salvation, many people and religious denominations teach otherwise. If a person is honestly seeking the salvation of his soul, though, he will endeavor to do what God commands even though it may be contrary to the thoughts of many people or to popular religious dogmas or groups.

One needs to understand, you see, that man is not a proper source for salvation. Mankind has never had, nor will he ever have, neither right nor ability to formulate conditions for salvation or to grant eternal life. God alone has that authority.

In Matthew 21:23, the chief priests and elders confronted Jesus in the temple because the previous day He had driven out the money changers and those who sold doves telling them that He would not allow them to make His Father's house a den of thieves. Those chief priests and elders wanted to know, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?" Jesus responded by asking a question of them, "The baptism of John— where was it from? From heaven or from men?" Those men did not know how to reply to Him because they knew that any answer they gave would condemn them. For their only two alternatives were that John's

baptism originated with men or with God from heaven. The people regarded John as a man of God so they would not say his teaching was from man because they did not want to alienate the people. Also, even though they were intent on rejecting Jesus, they still understood that if a command is from heaven— it must be obeyed because only God has the authority and ability to command.

God has commanded that if a person is going to be saved, he must be baptized for the remission of his sins.

By noting just three passages from Scripture, baptism can easily be established as an integral part of God's plan for the redemption of mankind.

Matthew 28:18-20. "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, *baptizing* them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen."

Mark 16:15-16. "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is *baptized* will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.'"

Acts 2:38-39. "Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let

every one of you *be baptized* in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.'"

Jesus is speaking in two of these Scriptures while the apostle Peter, being guided by the Holy Spirit, is speaker in the other. In each passage baptism is presented as necessary for salvation.

Since God's word is truth (John 17:17), since truth does not conflict with truth and since these three references are found in God's truth, where does that leave those who claim that it is not necessary for a person to be baptized in order to be saved? The truth is, it leaves them holding onto a doctrine that cannot be true because it teaches exactly the opposite of what Jesus and Peter taught in these three verses.

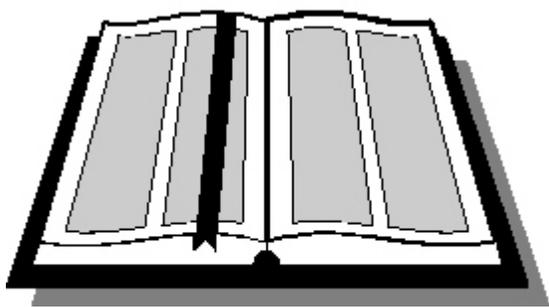
Consider also what Peter wrote later in his life about baptism. In **1 Peter 3:21** he said, "There is also an antitype which now saves us-- baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

When it comes to my salvation, I would rather listen to and obey what God, not man, tells me to do. Wouldn't you? 🙏

Gene Taylor

GOSPEL MEETING

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**Speaker:
Bob Dickey**

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