

# Consecration 2019

## Week 2

January 7th - 13th

I was thinking on a scripture this morning which had to do with the power of memory. The scripture that I want you to meditate on this week is found in Deuteronomy 8:2: *“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 wouldst keep his commandments, or no.”*



The days of our lives usually slip away smoothly enough, but days such as this, the first Sunday in a new year, are like knots or markings on the staff of the patriarch of the family in ancient days. The marks, they remind him how fast what he is holding onto is going by. They suggest a momentary consciousness of the swift passage of life and naturally lead us to a glimpse backward and forward. Both glimpses ought to be very good for us.

As we reflect back and look forward, I want to give you some thinking points to help make our retrospective moments wise and useful.

**FOCUS** - Many of us look back with regrets and that leads only to frustration. What we should be occupied with as we look back are the things which God allowed us to go through to teach us lessons so that we would know what is in us. The Bible says, as a man thinketh so is he.

**SHYAWAY FROM BOASTING** - Memory, like all other capabilities, may either help us or hinder us. There are a lot of ways that we can go wrong in looking back. Some of us prefer to think with pleasure about things that ought never to have been done. And when we do that we find ourselves boasting about what we use to be. I use to tell a brother, “you should never take pride as a Christian in the wicked things that you used to do as a sinner”.

## Precious Memories

**TAKE THE GARBAGE OUT** - In the ancient Egyptian culture they would embalm animals like cats and even snakes. When we use our memory in ways such as this it teaches us nothing and definitely does not prepare us for what God has in the future. To me, this seems unnecessary . Our memory should not be focused on the rubbish or garbage of the past. Some of these memories are at the bottom of the sea and should never be brought into the daylight of memory.

**DON'T ABUSE YOUR MEMORY** - There are those of us who remember every bit of disappointment, all the loses, all the pains, and all the sorrows. There are some people who look back and say as Jacob did in one of his moods, "Few and evil have been the days and years of my life." The same man, when he was in a better spirit, said, "the God that fed me all my life long, the angel which redeemed me from all hell has kept me." Don't let your memory dip into blackness/darkness, even if you cannot always remember the sunshine. Some of us spoil all of the good that we can get out of a wise reflection by feeding discouragement and sadness. I think this is perhaps the most meaningless of all ways of looking back.

**Deuteronomy 8:2. "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."**

Our text for this week brings out two points: God said, "thy shall remember all of the ways by which the Lord thy God led thee". This is the first condition of making memory a blessing. "To humble thee, and to prove thee, and to know what is in thine heart". We should look back with a clear recognition of the fact that the use of life is to test, to reveal, and to make our character.

What happened to you and me, however many years ago, was for this purpose, to get us ready and to humble us. It is meant to knock the self-confidence out of us and to bring us to a point where we say I AM NOTHING, AND YOU ARE EVERYTHING. I am a poor, weak rag and I need your hand Lord to hold me up. I can do nothing without you. Whoever has learned that lesson is ready to look forward with expectation concerning the things that God will do in his life this year.

### **Our Guide To Praying**

I will ask all of you that are fasting with me to take pork and pork products out of your diet. I know that it is a sacrifice to come out and pray with us on Mondays and Fridays. The Bible says, "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land" (Isaiah 1:19 KJV). I do not believe that anything that you do for Christ with the right motives will be lost.

We are asking all that can to come and meet us in prayer on Mondays at 7PM and Fridays at 7:30 PM.

A part of our prayer objective for this year is that we be submissive to God's will and that we keep His commandments to walk in love. Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35). I will close by saying this, remember and be thankful. You are still alive.