



# The Good News

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## *Exalting God's Word*

By Michael McCleary

Consider the words of God to the children of Israel concerning His commands in **Deut. 11:18-21**:

He tells them to “lay up these words” in their hearts and souls. How were they to do this? By binding them on their hands and letting them be as frontlets between their eyes. If these words of God were constantly surrounding them, they would have no opportunity to forget them. But consider the term “lay up”. It means to “put” these words in their hearts and souls...this carries the thought that not only were the children of Israel to respect and reverence the command, but also the object of the command – the words which were to be laid up. Just because we are now under the New Law of Christ, this concept is no less applicable – God’s words are still to be in our hearts and souls. We should be surrounding ourselves with His word every day so that we never forget it and its application in our lives. In **John 12:48** Jesus says, “...the word that I have spoken will judge him [he who rejects Christ] in the last day.” We must make sure that we “lay up” Jesus’ words in our hearts and souls – lest we be condemned by them.

God also tells the Israelites to teach these words “to your children”, speaking of them all the time, having the words written on the doorposts and gates. Consider the importance being placed on teaching them to their children – in the parents’ respect and reverence for the words of God, the children could see the importance that is placed on His words and would hold His word in reverence and respect as well. Do we speak of God’s word often with our children during the day, or at night, or at meals, or any other times? Or do we assume our children get plenty of God’s word at church? It is our responsibility as parents to set the

example of proper respect and reverence for God’s word, surrounding ourselves with it, speaking about it, and practicing it. Our children will take their cues from us – whether we are setting a good example or a bad one. Consider the example of Paul as he is setting forth himself as a spiritual father of the Corinthians in **I Cor. 4:14-21**. He urges them to imitate him in vs.16 and for that reason, he sent Timothy to them, vs. 17, that he would “*remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church*”. His “ways” in Christ was the application of the words of the gospel.

Finally, God tells the Israelites that if they follow these things, the reward will be that they and their children may live long in the land that God had given them. We must understand that there is a reward waiting for us also if we have respect for God’s word – and it’s not limited to physical blessings. We realize that we are strangers and pilgrims, seeking that final home in heaven. If we do not have the proper respect for God’s words, then we will not be surrounding ourselves with them, we will not be speaking about them to our children, and we will not receive the promise of the Father – eternal life.

We know that Israel did not continue in these things, and so “became our examples” and the things were written about them “for our admonition” (I Cor. 10:6, 11). “*Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.*” (**Heb. 4:11**)

Let us have respect for God’s word, heeding it, teaching it to our children, and being diligent to enter into that rest with Him.