



Double Portion:

SCRIPTURES

- Deuteronomy 31 & 32
- II Peter 1:10-15

Title:

POST MORTEM IMPERATIVE

- Hear, Fear & Obey
- Moral Imperatives

It's a moral imperative, one that does not expire upon death. What could possibly be so crucial, so vitally important, that even death cannot relieve its obligation? We often think in terms of inheritance, succession and legacy, when we think of such things, the stuff left behind after our decease. I wonder what comes to your mind as you contemplate this idea. I'd guess for most of you, it would concentrate somewhere in the subject matter of estate planning and business succession.

Those are important for many reasons, but not the topic of this discussion. And although important, could they ascend to the lofty heights of vital, indispensable, or critical for life and death? I'd say not, and maybe you'd argue. And I suppose we could still return to succession and legacy in search of meaning, with one caveat; remove estate planning and entrepreneurial endeavors from the topics of your probing.

What else is there? What might be the moral imperative; what is so vital, so indispensable, so critical that you must not leave it out of your quest for succession, your pursuit of legacy? I pray that the very fact that we are studying the Bible would give you a clue. And if you take your faith seriously enough and you are willing to take your cues from scripture, you just might see the immeasurable value of leaving this behind for those who will travel this road long after you are gone.

Let's practice it together. In education it's called repetition, repetition, repetition. Why? Because repetition contains the DNA of understanding; it's the matriarch of learning. And if something is so vital, so indispensable, so critical (there goes repetition again), as to effect life and death, I want to "ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease."

What could be so important to designate as a moral imperative that does not expire upon death? Here it is: "That you may hear, that you may learn to fear, and that you may carefully obey." These are so imperative for life and death that I call heaven and earth to witness against you regarding such matters. Now, if that warning does not move these priorities to the lofty top in your succession and legacy plan, I think we ought to check your pulse. You might be dead already!

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

"So Moses came with Joshua the son of Nun and **spoke all the words of this song** in the hearing of the people. **Moses finished speaking all these words to all Israel**, and he said to them: "Set your hearts on all the words which I testify among you today, which you shall command your children to **be careful to observe**—all the words of this law. **For it is not a futile thing for you, because it is your life, and by this word you shall prolong your days** in the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess."" Deuteronomy 32:44-47 NKJV

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

"For this reason **I will not be negligent to remind you** always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, **to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent**, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. Moreover I will be careful to **ensure that you always have a reminder** of these things **after my decease**." II Peter 1:12-15 NKJV

HEAR, FEAR & OBEY

1. Death, Reminders, and Assignments

A. Foundations

(1) My Moral Imperative

(a) Catalogue the previous Five sermons and REMIND YOU OF THESE THINGS! Why?

1. "but the **Levites shall camp around the tabernacle of the Testimony, that there may be no wrath on the congregation of the children of Israel;**

and the Levites shall keep charge of the tabernacle of the Testimony.””

Numbers 1:53 NKJV

B. Peter on the critical nature of reminders...

(1) Be even MORE diligent!

(a) To do what?

1. “Therefore, brethren, **be even more diligent to make your call and election sure**, for **if you do these things** you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” II Peter 1:10-11 NKJV

(2) This is so important that...

(a) So important that...what?

1. “For this reason **I will not be negligent to remind you** always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, **to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent**, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. Moreover I will be careful to **ensure that you always have a reminder** of these things **after my decease**.” II Peter 1:12-15 NKJV

C. Moses on the critical nature of reminders...

(1) Moses has reached the end of his life...

(a) I have come to my stopping point. This is the end of my journey.

1. “Then Moses went and spoke these words to all Israel. And he said to them: “I am one hundred and twenty years old today. **I can no longer go out and come in**. Also the Lord has said to me, ‘You shall not cross over this Jordan.’” Deuteronomy 31:1-2 NKJV

(b) I have written all this stuff down so you have a record.

1. “**So Moses wrote this law and delivered it to the priests**, the sons of Levi, who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and to all the elders of Israel.” Deuteronomy 31:9 NKJV

(2) The moral imperative is the plan to keep it at the forefront of the peoples’ hearts.

(a) Hear, Fear and Obey:

1. "And Moses commanded them, saying: **"At the end of every seven years, at the appointed time in the year of release, at the Feast of Tabernacles,** when all Israel comes to appear before the Lord your God in the place which He chooses, **you shall read this law before all Israel in their hearing. Gather the people together, men and women and little ones, and the stranger** who is within your gates, that they may **hear** and that they may **learn to fear** the Lord your God and **carefully observe** all the words of this law, **and that their children, who have not known it,** may **hear** and **learn to fear** the Lord your God as long as you live in the land which you cross the Jordan to possess."" Deuteronomy 31:10-13 NKJV

(3) And to make it even easier...

- (a) Write down this song, teach it to the children so it is on the tip of their tongues.

1. ""Now therefore, **write down this song** for yourselves, and **teach it to the children** of Israel; **put it in their mouths,** that this song may be a **witness** for Me against the children of Israel." Deuteronomy 31:19 NKJV

(4) Warnings

- (a) A thoroughly satisfied people is a forgetful people. People in need, however, seldom forget their provider.

1. **"When I have brought them to the land** flowing with milk and honey, of which I swore to their fathers, and **they have eaten and filled themselves and grown fat,** then **they will turn to other gods and serve them; and they will provoke Me and break My covenant."** Deuteronomy 31:20 NKJV

- (b) Paul was left with a piercing need for this very reason and learned to be content NO MATTER WHAT.

1. "And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, **a thorn in the flesh was given to me,** a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He

said to me, **“My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.”** Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses,** for Christ’s sake. **For when I am weak, then I am strong.”** II Corinthians 12:7-10 NKJV

2. **“Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:** I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Philippians 4:11-13 NKJV

(5) The song will be a witness...

- (a) Because you taught them the song, it will serve as one witness against any wrong behavior.

1. “Then it shall be, **when many evils and troubles have come upon them,** that **this song will testify against them as a witness;** for **it will not be forgotten in the mouths of their descendants,** for **I know the inclination of their behavior today, even before** I have brought them to the land of which I swore to give them.” Deuteronomy 31:21 NKJV
2. “Therefore Moses **wrote this song** the same day, and **taught it to the children of Israel.** Then He **inaugurated Joshua** the son of Nun, and said, “Be strong and of good courage; for you shall bring the children of Israel into the land of which I swore to them, and I will be with you.” Deuteronomy 31:22-23 NKJV

(6) The Law will be a witness!

- (a) The Book of the Law will remain as a reference and the other witness against any wrong behavior.

1. “So it was, **when Moses had completed writing the words** of this law in a book, when they were finished, that Moses commanded the Levites, who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord, saying: **“Take this Book of the Law, and put it beside the ark of the covenant** of the Lord your God,

that it may be there as a witness against you; for I know your rebellion and your stiff neck. **If today, while I am yet alive with you, you have been rebellious against the Lord, then how much more after my death?"** Deuteronomy 31:24-27 NKJV

(7) Heaven and Earth as a Witness

(a) Even after my death, this post mortem imperative will stand.

1. "Gather to me all the elders of your tribes, and your officers, that I may speak these words in their hearing **and call heaven and earth to witness against them.** For I know that **after my death** you will become **utterly corrupt**, and **turn aside** from the way which I have commanded you. And **evil will befall you** in the latter days, because you will do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger through the work of your hands."" Deuteronomy 31:28-29 NKJV

(8) The Song

(a) Moses spoke the words of the song to the people...

1. "Then Moses spoke in the hearing of all the assembly of Israel **the words of this song until they were ended:"** Deuteronomy 31:30 NKJV

(b) The Heavens and the Earth have heard the testimony!

1. ""Give ear, **O heavens, and I will speak;** And **hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.**" Deuteronomy 32:1 NKJV
2. "**Let my teaching drop as the rain, My speech distill as the dew,** As raindrops on the tender herb, And as showers on the grass." Deuteronomy 32:2 NKJV
3. "**For I proclaim the name of the Lord:** Ascribe greatness to our God." Deuteronomy 32:3 NKJV

(9) Then the final seal! It is your life! (Assignment!)

(a) Moses spoke all the words of the song.

1. "So Moses came with Joshua the son of Nun and **spoke all the words of this song** in the hearing of the people. **Moses finished speaking all these words to all Israel**, and he said to them: "**Set your hearts on all the words which I testify among you today**, which you shall command your

children to **be careful to observe**—all the words of this law. **For it is not a futile thing for you, because it is your life, and by this word you shall prolong your days** in the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess.” Deuteronomy 32:44-47 NKJV

D. Moses and Peter

(1) Post Mortem Imperative

(a) It is life and death!

1. **“Set your hearts on all the words which I testify among you today...be careful to observe**—all the words of this law. For it is not a futile thing for you, because **it is your life.**” Deuteronomy 32:46-47 NKJV
2. “For this reason **I will not be negligent to remind you** always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, **to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent,** just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. Moreover I will be careful to **ensure that you always have a reminder** of these things **after my decease.**” II Peter 1:12-15
NKJV

Scorched Earth Declaration and Seal

You raised me up Yahweh, from the ashes. And for that I owe you my complete and uncompromising gratitude.

Today I declare I am available to You, to be Your mouth, Your hands, Your feet, Your every resource, even Your blood, if that's what it takes.

Even if I spend the rest of my days suffering to bring You glory, it could not touch the magnitude of my appreciation.

I can't even imagine what it will be like to enter into Your glorious presence and worship you forever, to dance before You, and to stand in awe of You.

I will spend every day of my life, from this day forward, pursuing what it takes to live a life worthy of such honor.

Initial & Sign if you agree...

No more compromise! _____

No more holding back! _____

No more regrets! _____

No more comparison! _____

No more options! _____

*A seal of Affirmation in His Blood, this Date*_____.

Name Printed: _____

Signed: _____ Seal:

