

# Junior High Quarterly

## Godly Living

**Quarterly Aim: To show that God expects His people to live godly lives.**

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## About the Writer



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Greg served churches in Fayetteville, AR; Avery, TX; Albuquerque, NM; Siloam Springs, AR; Jonesboro, AR and Prattsville, AR as youth and music minister. He was ordained by Harmony Baptist Church in Prattsville, AR in 1999 and is currently and has for the past seventeen years been the pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church in Broken Bow, OK.

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# Godly Living Requires Obedience

## APPLICATION

To show that godly living demands obedience.

## SCRIPTURES TO READ

Text: Deuteronomy 4:1-10.

Related Scripture: Genesis 5:22-24; Leviticus 11:44; 19:37; Deuteronomy 26:16; Matthew 7:21-23; Luke 11:28; John 14:15; Acts 5:29; Hebrews 10:38; 11:5; James 1:22-25; 1 John 3:7.

Devotional Reading: Obedience unto Righteousness, Romans 6:16.

## Introduction

As we begin a new quarter with this lesson, it is important to remember that the theme of this unit is to acknowledge that God desires that His people live for Him and not for themselves. Godly living must not be an option for Christians. It must be the most important factor in our lives as we set our goals, make decisions and simply go about our day-to-day lives. God did not just demand godly living and leave us to flounder about trying to figure out how to accomplish it. His Word is rich with advice, commands and examples. Titus 2:11, 12 reads, “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.” Second Peter 1:3 tells us, “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.”

Everything we need to know to live the life God created us to live can be found in His Word. How encouraging is that? We are not left here to figure it out on our own and do the best we can. We are going to see from Deuteronomy that godly living begins with obedience.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **Attention (Deuteronomy 4:1)**

It is important to remember that the Israelites in Moses' day did not have the written Word of God as we do. They did not have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit as we do. They had the words of God to Moses, who passed them along to the people. In Deuteronomy 4:1, Moses is telling his people that it is essential for them to pay attention as he shares with them instructions from God. Compare that to us today. We have the completed and perfect Word of God, the Holy Spirit living in our hearts and a church family given to us by God. With all we have going for us when it comes to hearing and understanding God's instructions for us, how much attention do we often give to this topic? Here's a rule to live by: when God is trying to get your attention, pay attention!

Why did Moses say it was important that they pay attention? Look at the second half of verse 1, "For to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers giveth you." You see? It's not enough to study God's instructions, to read them, to even understand them. God expects us to obey them and actually do them! Why? It is to prepare us to "possess the land" (Deuteronomy 4:1). This means to live the life He created us to live, with purpose and victory, accomplishing His will through all that we do. For modern Christians, that is their promised land.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ **Warning (Deuteronomy 4:2, 3)**

God takes His words and instructions for His people very seriously. As Christians, we have the responsibility to know God's Word. We must be able to identify truth from lies because our world is full of people claiming to be men and women of God who actually are far from it. Just because something is online, on TV or in a book doesn't make it the truth! Judge everything someone tells you about God and His will against His holy Word. Do not add or take away from Scripture, and do not pay any attention to those who do.

In our text, Moses reminded the people about what happened to them when they did that at a place called Peor where they began worshiping the false god Baal. You can read about it in Numbers 25:1-4. It cost many people their lives. Scripture calls our God a "jealous God" (Exodus 34:14). That doesn't mean He is jealous of us and wants stuff we have or jealous in the way someone might be a jealous boyfriend or girlfriend. He isn't jealous of us; He is jealous for us! He loves us and wants us not to be drawn away by lies from His Word and His will for our lives. He created us and knows what is best for us.

It is our responsibility to recognize the lies. How? When the United States Secret Service agents are trained to recognize counterfeit money,

they aren't given hundreds of kinds of the fake money and told to study everything that is wrong with it so that they can spot those mistakes later. Rather, they are given the real thing. They take actual, legal money and study it so thoroughly that when they see a counterfeit they can spot it immediately because they are so intimately familiar with the genuine bills. That's what we must do. Know God's Word and don't be fooled by false teachings.

**3. \_\_\_\_\_ Benefits (Deuteronomy 4:4-8)**

God, through Moses, was telling the people that when they obeyed Him and entered the Promised Land, they would have laws to live by that would keep them safe and happy. Isn't it funny that most people don't like rules? Where would we be if there were no traffic lights or speed limits? What if there were no police to keep us safe from kidnapers or murderers because nothing was against the law? We need structure. God doesn't give us burdensome laws that are hard. He created us, and He knows how we best operate best. His laws are for our good. It is also important to realize that we are going to either be servants of God or slaves to sin. One way leads to life and the other to eternal destruction. Jesus described His own laws in Matthew 11:28-30 when he said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Moses also told the people that other nations, ungodly nations, would see them and acknowledge that they had a personal God who loved and led them. That should be our goal as well. People ought to look at us as we are following God's guidance in our lives, and they ought to be saying, "I'm not sure what they have that I don't, but I need it."

**4. \_\_\_\_\_ Learn (Deuteronomy 4:9, 10)**

The most intelligent thing a person can do is understand that one never quit learning. Every day you need to know something when you go to bed that you didn't know when you got up. While learning new things is great, we also have to constantly relearn and remind ourselves what we already know. Our text in verse 9 says, "Keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget." It is human nature not to learn from the past, but Scripture tells us to make a concerted effort to remember all the times that our faith intersected with God's faithfulness and He was always exactly what He said He would be, exactly where and exactly when. Our faith grows, by experiencing His faithfulness throughout our lives.

Moses goes on to say, “Specially” (verse 10) remember the day at Horeb. Horeb is another name for Mount Sinai, the place Moses received the Law from God and shared it with all the people. In other words, God is saying, “Review.” Keep what you know out in front of you and remind yourselves of it over and over. This world will try to squeeze God and His Law and His truths out of your life. You must keep it front and center. The word Deuteronomy means to retell or go through the Law a second time. It is vital to stay focused on God. We cannot obey what we don’t even remember or consider important.

### **Application**

Parents might make you come to church, make you take a bath or make you eat your vegetables, but no one can make you truly care about and obey God’s Word. Yes, it’s best, and, yes, nothing else will ever satisfy you, but you have to learn that for yourself and decide for yourself that you are going to care about what God thinks and obey Him.