

PRONE TO WANDER

Deuteronomy 29

FROM PASTOR MARK

“When people stop believing in God, they do not believe in anything. They believe in anything” (G. K. Chesterton). Moses had presented the Covenant, with the blessings and curses to the new generation. Then, he called on them to renew their commitment to it (29:1). But, it wouldn't be easy...

- I. THE DILEMMA OF SPIRITUAL DEADNESS (29:1-9)**
 - A. What their Eyes Had Seen (2-3, 5-9)
 - B. How They Should Respond
 - 1. To Know God (6b)
 - 2. To Obey God (9)
 - C. Their Dilemma (4)
 - 1. Spiritual Deadness
 - 2. Spiritual Blindness
 - 3. Spiritual Deafness
 - 4. Human Helplessness (Isaiah 6:9-10, Mt. 13:14-15, Eph. 4:17-19)

- II. THE CALL TO SPIRITUAL RENEWAL (29:10-15)**
 - A. The Current Generation (10-11)
 - B. The Covenant (12-13)
 - C. The Future Generations (14-15)

- III. THE WARNING AGAINST SPIRITUAL WAYWARDNESS (29:16-28)**
 - A. Their Vulnerability (16-17)
 - B. Their Responsibility (18-19; Hebrews 12:14-15)
 - C. Their Penalties (19b-28)
 - 1. The Defilement of Sin (19b)
 - 2. The Individual Consequences for Sin (20-21)
 - 3. The Long-term Consequences of Sin (22-28)

- IV. THE WISDOM OF OUR GOD (29:29)**
 - A. He understands what we do not.
 - B. He reveals what we need to live for Him.
 - 1. Treasure His Revelation.
 - 2. Transfer His Revelation.

Prone to wander, Lord I feel it (ch. 29)... Here's my heart (ch. 30)... Lord I need You, O I need You...

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR OCTOBER 2, 2022

- 1. Why is it often difficult to admit our tendency to wander from God?
- 2. Read Deuteronomy 29:1-9. Name some of what God had done for Israel in their recent past. Now can remembering God's goodness to us fortify us against wandering from God?
- 3. Why do we so easily forget or take for granted God's blessings to us?

4. Read Deuteronomy 29:16-19. Why does God's Word give such blunt warnings against wandering into sin?
5. What is most helpful to you in combating your tendency to go astray from God?
6. Read Deuteronomy 29:29. How is it helpful to remember that God has kept some parts of His plan "secret," calling us to trust Him for those things we do not yet understand. Read Psalm 131 and discuss how this short Psalm connects with this same truth of trusting God even when we don't understand His plan.

FOR NEXT TIME—Read Deuteronomy 30, *HOPE!*