

PREPARING FOR CHANGE

Deuteronomy 31

From Pastor Mark

All earthly leaders are temporary. As Charles Wesley stated, "God buries his workers, but carries on His work." Moses saw a generation in the wilderness. In Psalm 90, he lamented some of that sorrow. In Deuteronomy, he poured out his heart to the new generation, calling them to love God and be loyal to His covenant. In Dt. 31, it was his time to pass from the scene and he prepared the people for that transition.

I. Prepare Godly Leadership (31:1-8, 14-15, 23).

- A. The Passing of Leadership (1-2)
- B. The Choice of Leadership (3)
- C. The Preparation of Leadership (4-7)
- D. The Strength of Leadership (8)
- E. The Affirmation of Leadership (14-15, 23)

II. Preserve God's Word (31:9-13).

- A. The Production of God's (written) Word (9a)
- B. The Protection of God's Word (9b, 24-27)
- C. The Public Reading of God's Word (10-12a)
- D. The Purpose of God's Word (12b)
- E. The Passing on of God's Word (13)

III. Plan for God's Faithfulness (31:16-29).

- A. The Unfaithfulness of People (16)
- B. The Faithfulness of God to Chasten (17-18)
- C. The Musical Reminder of God's Faithfulness (19-22)
- D. The Warning based on God's Faithfulness (28-29)

Psalm 90:12-17, Connecting Our Transience to God's Permanence: By Realism (12), By Prayer (That appeals to God's Character, 13-14 and appeals for God's Work, 14-17).

FOR NEXT TIME—Read Deuteronomy 32, "*Heart Song*"

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR OCTOBER 16, 2022

1. What did Charles Wesley mean by saying that "God buries His workers but carries on His work"?

2. Which of the three steps in Deuteronomy 31 are most relevant to your life and to IBC when facing transitions?
 - a. Prepare Godly Leadership
 - b. Preserve God's Word
 - c. Plan for God's faithfulness
3. Paul said to "be imitators of me as I am of Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1). How does this challenge us to learn from human leaders, but to keep our primary focus on Christ? How does this verse encourage you to disciple and influence others?
4. Read Psalm 90:12 (written by Moses). How does this verse challenge you to wisely invest your days and to make good preparations for your future?
5. Read Psalm 90:13-17. How does the prayer of verse 17 recognize our total dependence of God to use our human efforts?
6. Why does knowing that the success of Christ's church depends on God and not any one human leader encourage us as we face the future?