

**“IMPLANTING REMAINS” – by Rt. Rev. Bradley D. Heinrichs**

**Lesson 1 – Deuteronomy 6:1-13**

*1 "Now this is the commandment, and these are the statutes and judgments which the LORD your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess,*

*2 "that you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.*

*3 "Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you;...*

*4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!*

*5 "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.*

*6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.*

*7 "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.*

*8 "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.*

*9 "You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

*10 "So it shall be, when the LORD your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build,*

*11 "houses full of all good things, which you did not fill, hewn-out wells which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant; when you have eaten and are full;*

*12 "then beware, lest you forget the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.*

*13 "You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name.*

**Lesson 2 – Mark 12:28-34**

*28 Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?"*

*29 Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.*

*30 'And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.*

*31 "And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."*

*32 So the scribe said to Him, "Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He.*

*33 "And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."*

*34 Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."*

### **Lesson 3 – Arcana Coelestia 1906**

[1] *Remains are...all the states of the affection of good and truth with which a person is gifted by the Lord, from earliest infancy even to the end of life. These states are stored away within him for the use of his life after death, for in the other life all the states of his life return in succession, and are then tempered by the states of good and truth with which he has been gifted by the Lord.*

*The more remains therefore that a person has received in the life of the body, that is, the more of good and truth, the more delightful and beautiful do the rest of his states appear when they return. That this is really so may be evident to everyone, if he will consider.*

*When a person is born he has not a particle of good of himself, but is wholly defiled throughout with hereditary evil, and all that is good flows in, such as his love for his parents, his nurses, his companions; and this from innocence. Such are the things that flow in from the Lord through the heaven of innocence and peace, which is the inmost heaven, and thus is man imbued with them in his infancy.*

[2] *Afterwards, when he grows up, this good, innocent, and peaceful state of infancy recedes little by little; and so far as he is introduced into the world, he comes into its pleasures, and into cupidities, and thus into evils; and so far the celestial or good things of the age of infancy begin to disappear. Yet they still remain, and the states which a person afterwards...acquires are tempered by them.*

*Without them a person can never be truly human, for the states...of evil, if not tempered by states of the affection of good, would be more atrocious than those of any animal. These states of good are what are called remains, given by the Lord and implanted in one's natural disposition, and this when the man is not aware of it.*

[3] *In later life he is also gifted with new states; but these are not so much states of good as states of truth, for as he is growing up he is imbued with truths, and these are in like manner stored up in him in his interior man.*

*By these remains, which are those of truth, born of the influx of spiritual things from the Lord, man has the ability to think, and also to understand what the good and the truth of civic and moral life are, and also to receive spiritual truth or faith. Yet he cannot do this except by means of the remains of good that he had received in infancy.*

***“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up”*** (Deut. 6:4-7).

These words spoken by Moses to the children of Israel just before they entered the land of Canaan under Joshua’s leadership were a part of his farewell address. They came immediately following a restatement of the Ten Commandments, and so the impact of them is magnified considerably.

Think about it. Moses had been like a father to them, guiding them and leading them through all kinds of trials and temptations. And now he was giving them some last words of advice from the Lord before they set about their conquest of Canaan. Specifically, he told them that they should acknowledge the one and only God and love Him with all their heart, soul, and strength. And that all the words he commanded them today, namely the Ten Commandments, should be continually in their hearts. This was the necessary key to their successfully entering Canaan, just as with us it is the key to successfully entering heaven.

Now, considering the baptism that we had the pleasure of celebrating this morning, note in particular the instructions to the parents that followed. ***“You shall teach [these things] diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”***

What an incredible message to reflect upon! Notice, it did not say that we should make a passing attempt at teaching our children the Ten Commandments, or occasionally mention that the Lord should be loved above all things.

It said that these things should continually be before the eyes of our children, frequently talked about and discussed, until they become indelibly written on their hearts. This commandment of the Lord in His Word is directed specifically to us as parents, because the Lord knows that this is vital in the raising of our children to become angels of heaven. This is a very tall order and a huge responsibility that we take on as parents when we bring our children to be baptized, and so in celebrating today's baptism it is useful for us to reflect upon on how successfully we are following these instructions.

The Heavenly Doctrine frequently states that the Lord's primary goal in creation is a heaven from the human race. In order to accomplish this end, he has provided for two loves which flow forth from Conjugal Love – the love of procreating and the love of protecting what has been procreated (CL 385).

It is obvious that both of these loves flowing forth from Conjugal Love are necessary in providing for a heaven from the human race. For if a couple procreates and produces a dozen children but fails to protect them from evil influences, or to raise them to obey the commandments, then they will not necessarily choose the life that leads to heaven. Therefore, if we have had the privilege of becoming the parent of a child in this world, then our work has just begun, because now we have the responsibility of protecting them and raising them to become angels of heaven.

So what does the Heavenly Doctrine say about how we can go about successfully achieving this task? The first proactive step we can take us parents is providing for the implantation of remains from the Lord in our children. Now our third lesson described remains as *“all the states of the affection of good and truth which a person is gifted by the Lord, from earliest infancy even to the end of life”* in this world (AC 1906:1). It points out that without the implanting of these good, peaceful, and innocent states to counterbalance our hereditary evil we would be worst than wild beasts!

And that's not the worst of it, another passage points out that without remains a person would be doomed to "*eternal damnation!*" (AC 561). From this it is clear that we should never underestimate the extreme importance of implanting remains in our children.

We're told that there are three different kinds of remains that are implanted during the course of our lives, "*the goods of infancy, the goods of ignorance, and the goods of intelligence*" (AC 2280:2).

First let's look at the goods of infancy. These remains are implanted from birth until the child is beginning to be instructed and to know certain things. Roughly from age zero until age ten. These remains of innocence are implanted by the Lord through the celestial angels primarily through the sense of touch. Nursing at their mother's breast, a sphere of love and affection from cuddling with the child, holding him or her in your arms, hugging them, and showering them with kisses. Also by providing an orderly and peaceful environment in the home, where they feel safe, nurtured, and supported. As you can see these remains the Lord implants is primarily through the actions of the child's parents and their siblings. And these remains are implanted without our conscious awareness, which is meant by the words of our text, the Lord your God will give you "*houses full of all good things, which you did not fill*" (Deut. 6:11).

The next kind of remains implanted are called the goods of ignorance. These remains are implanted during the age of instruction, which the Heavenly Doctrine defines as the ages between ten and twenty years old. Throughout the child's schooling, remains continue to be implanted by parents in the home, and now also many are implanted by teachers and instructors. And we are told these are implanted especially when they are teaching them the stories of the Word, which helps to lend support to the idea that New Church education founded on the Word really is critical to the development of our youth.

Once again these remains, more now of truth in this state of instruction, are implanted without our conscious awareness, meant by the words: the Lord your God will give you ***“hewn-out wells which you did not dig”*** (Deut. 6:11).

The final kind of remains implanted are called the goods of intelligence, from around age twenty and upward. Now, the ability of the Lord to implant remains in us is no longer solely according to the actions of our parents and teachers, but it becomes primarily our own responsibility. We allow the Lord to implant these remains in us when in states of sincere humility and innocence, we reflect upon what we know to be good and true from reading the Word.

Interestingly, these last remains, the goods of intelligence, are called *“the best”* of all the remains implanted, because there is now wisdom attached to the states of innocence (AC 2280:5). But the passage goes on to point out that the remains received in infancy are still absolutely vital, because those initial states of innocence are the building blocks upon which all the other remains to be implanted are founded upon.

So now let's focus in on how the promises a parent makes at a baptism, connect to the words of our text. At the time of baptism, a parent promises that for themselves and for their child they will acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ as the one God of heaven and earth, that evils will be shunned as sins against Him, and that a life of good will be learned and lived.

Our text instructs us as parents to teach loving the one only God above all things and obedience to the commandments ***“diligently”*** to our children. At baptism we bring our children before the Lord and promise to love and acknowledge Him as the one God of heaven and earth and to obey His commandments by shunning evils as sins and living a good life. The sign used in Baptism that we will do these things is the mark of the cross made on the child's forehead and chest.

The mark of the cross being made on both the forehead and chest is a sign that the acknowledgement of the Lord and shunning evils as sins will be done with all our heart and all our soul. Just as our text said: ***“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”***

Now it’s important to note here, that baptism is a sign, as the Heavenly Doctrine puts it, that a person will renounce the devil and all his works, and have faith in the Lord (TCR 685:2). But just as the sign of a handshake given to seal a contract or promise becomes meaningless if the contract is reneged upon or the promise broken, so the sign of baptism becomes meaningless if the promises agreed to are not kept.

Baptism is an important sign that we will do these things for ourselves and for our children, but it does not confer any instantaneous salvation. It merely indicates a contract that we enter into with the Lord, that we will do our best to love Him above all things and to demonstrate that by following His commandments. In short it is a sign that we are willing to undertake the process of regeneration. Meant by the Lord’s words: ***“You must be born again.... Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”*** (John 3:7,5).

Regarding this process of being born again, we are told that *“all regeneration is effected by the Lord by means of the truths of faith and a life according to them”* (AC 10387). This teaching helps to emphasize the importance of the instruction the Lord gives to us as parents, teachers, and adults in our text. ***“You shall teach [these things] diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”***

So let us all use the wonderful occasion of the infant baptism today, as an opportunity for us to reflect the promises we made to the Lord at the time of our children’s baptism and the promises that our parents made for us when we were children.

Are we doing our best to help the Lord implant those goods of infancy, those remains of innocence, by taking every chance we get to kiss, hug, cuddle, and nurture our children? Are we doing all we can to teach them the first and greatest of all the commandments, to love the Lord their God and Creator with all their heart, soul, and strength? Are we actively encouraging them, as frequently as possible, to learn the Lord's commandments and impressing upon them the importance of obeying them? And perhaps most importantly, are we modeling this desirable behavior appropriately for them by doing these things ourselves? In short are we diligently making the worship of the Lord and a life of religion the focal point of our family?

Let us remember well these words of the Lord in our story from the gospel of Mark: ***“To love [the Lord] with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices”*** (Mark 12:33). When we make religion a part of our life by living according to the commandments, we are making the true kinds of offerings and sacrifices that are pleasant in the sight of the Lord. And as we raise our children to do so as well, may our families be able to respond affirmatively to the Lord's challenge, ***“Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve”*** by enthusiastically proclaiming, ***“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!”*** (Joshua 24:15).