



# Daily Reflections

**March 7, 2018**

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## Scripture

### **Deuteronomy 4: 1, 5-9**

Moses spoke to the people and said:

"Now, Israel, hear the statutes and decrees which I am teaching you to observe, that you may live, and may enter in and take possession of the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you.

Therefore, I teach you the statutes and decrees as the LORD, my God, has commanded me, that you may observe them in the land you are entering to occupy.

Observe them carefully,

for thus will you give evidence

of your wisdom and intelligence to the nations,

who will hear of all these statutes and say,

'This great nation is truly a wise and intelligent people.'

For what great nation is there

that has gods so close to it as the LORD, our God, is to us whenever we call upon him?

Or what great nation has statutes and decrees

that are as just as this whole law

which I am setting before you today?

"However, take care and be earnestly on your guard

not to forget the things which your own eyes have seen,

nor let them slip from your memory as long as you live,

but teach them to your children and to your children's children."

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

In his speech to the Israelites as they prepare to enter the Promised Land, Moses teaches them that they have a purpose. They are to give "evidence" of how they have been blessed by God. What does this mean for us today? Businesses, colleges, even atheists put up billboards to advertise their products. You, me, all of us who are believers are called to be God's living breathing billboards in a world that does not know Him. The great missionary St. Francis of Assisi once told a group of friars who were about to be sent out to witness to Jesus: "Go out to proclaim the Good News...use words only when necessary."

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## **Food for your Journey**

Justin Martyr paid for his energizing witness with his life as did many other early Christians for whom the earliest Christian creed, "Jesus Christ is Lord," was a political statement as well as a theological one. John M. Buchanan analyzes how this early creed really energized the church with the resolve not to let the emperor or the state take precedence over God.

"And in that simple affirmation, Christianity deprived the emperor and every totalitarianism in history, from Nero to Hitler, to failed Marxist regimes in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, the Soviet Union, of the one thing totalitarianism must have, and that is the unquestioned loyalty and obedience of its subjects. 'Jesus Christ is Lord' was first of all a political statement. And people who said it were not scolded for their misguided theology. They were executed for treason."

--John M. Buchanan,

Chicago, Ill.,

3 July 1994.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Good and Holy Father, I'm so grateful for all that you have done for me, so honored that you would love me and be mindful of my needs. On my best days, when I am at peace and rest confident that You are in charge and that

I need not worry, I know how blessed I am. Help me live like this each day. Help me show others that You are there, that You care, that You are always in charge. Let people see by my faith that I have confidence in You, that Your ways are always the best, always the wisest. Amen