

My Thoughts for Sunday, 11 September 2015

“Remember When”

“We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.” Hebrews 5:11-14

I am not a writer, by profession, however, I feel I am being led to share my thoughts on this website in an attempt to spark interest in my readers to move on in their daily struggles, finding some solace in God’s Holy Word. In our ongoing study of the book of Hebrews, I came across this passage and felt that it fits so many of society’s searchers of truth and meaning for their lives. In the most recent headlines we see those lost souls with obviously no real meaning to their lives. They, like Vester Flanagan and Chris Mercer Harper, feel that they need to kill innocent people that they might receive publicity and so realize some meaning in their lives by making the national headlines. My heart goes out to the families of these victims and also to the perpetrators of these heinous crimes, who have lost their way in the life that a loving God laid out for them.

If one were to honestly look at our society today they couldn’t fail to see that many have turned away from those teachings from their youth, the milk of God’s Word, for those things that seem to give them more pleasure. Society, with its political correctness, tells us that we are far beyond anything the Bible might tell us about leading a fulfilled life. Is it truly a fulfilling life to be so strung out on drugs that we don’t know who we are or what we are doing? Is it a fulfilling life when students can’t attend a Christian school to learn the truths of God’s Word to be murdered by someone seeking only publicity because the killer feels lost and unaccepted? Is it a fulfilling life when the majority, it seems, continues to turn away from and scoff at the saving words of their loving Creator?

Do you remember when, as an infant, your mother taught you that first song you ever learned and loved so much that you went around the house singing it constantly; “Jesus loves me this I know, For the Bible tells me so”? I am seventy-six years old and still remember it, like it was yesterday. Do you remember all those great children’s stories from God’s Word? Do you remember the one about that young lad, David, who went out and killed the mean giant, Goliath, with his sling and a stone? I remember wanting my own sling-shot to kill giants. Do you remember the story of Moses being left in the basket in the bulrushes so he wouldn’t be killed, then found by Pharaoh’s daughter and saved? There are so many of these stories we were all brought up with by our loving and caring parents. This was the diet of the milk of God’s word we were fed as babes in the Word of God. Were you one of the fortunate children that went to a Christian school to continue with the nurturing that came from His Word, the meat and potatoes of knowledge and understanding? Did you continue on with the solid food that came later from a church you might have attended with your parents? “... *solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.*”

Do you remember when you turned away from the Bible, your church, fellowship with your church family and all those good and pure things you had learned from your Creator/Savior? You found other things that were more enjoyable; things like sleeping in on Sunday mornings with a hangover from the Saturday night party with your friends. Maybe you stopped going to those mid-week Bible Studies

because your friends thought you were weird. Perhaps it was work and earning more money to buy those things you just had to have to keep up with your friends and neighbors. This is what the writer to the Hebrews meant when he wrote, *“In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again.”* All these “more enjoyable things” have one thing in common; they are all things that the devil uses to turn us away from our God. Yes, I did say the devil! You must remember all the warnings you heard about him throughout your earlier years when you were partaking of the milk and solid food of the Word of God. Now is when you need to remember what you read from the apostle Peter; *“Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.”* 1 Peter 5:8-9

I have, to this point, been directing this to those many that have abandoned their walk with God, who are not standing firm in their faith, including the Flanagans and the Harpers of this world that are so terribly lost and alone searching for meaning to their lives. However, this message is for all of us. We all experience those times of backsliding in our lives. Do you remember those times when we would rather sleep in on a Sunday morning, for whatever reason? Do you remember when the job got in the way of your Bible studies, you were just too tired? Now go back a little farther when you didn’t allow these things to disrupt your walk in faith. Remember when you wouldn’t think of missing your Pastors’ sermon? Remember when you wouldn’t think of missing the opportunity to be at the communion table to receive the body and blood of your Savior or just to sit at the feet of Jesus in a Bible Study to learn more of your purpose in and final destiny for your life? Beware! The time is fast approaching when we no longer have another day to turn back to our Lord. The time is coming for each of us when we must face the inevitable, our death or the last day for this world, whichever comes first. At that point, for all of us, we had best be as close to our Lord as we can get. Now is the time to fill up on the solid food of God’s Word. We must be prepared to fight the good fight and win the prize of our salvation. Christ made it all possible as a free gift to us through His life, death on the cross and resurrection. He made it so easy for us, we must believe in this gift He has given us. That’s it, believe. Remember Jesus’ own words to Martha, the sister of Lazarus; *“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.’”*

My dear friends, there you have it, Jesus said we must believe in Him for everlasting life. He did not say we had to do anything else to gain our salvation—this is it. My question to you is; how are you to believe without knowing about Him? How can you know about Him without studying His book, the Holy Bible? It seems we have come full circle, right back to where we started as the writer to the Hebrews gave it to us; *“We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because you no longer try to understand. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”* By his words we need to try to understand. If that means we need to go back to the milk of God’s Word, so be it. But continue in your endeavors to acquire the necessary solid food of His Word that will acquaint us with His righteousness and give us that knowledge to be able to discern good from evil. Only through this perseverance of gathering with fellow believers, studying His Word and partaking of His Sacraments Can we come to a full knowledge of Christ that leads us to everlasting life.