

Newsletter February - March 2016

Remember and Give Thanks!

Robert Laurence Binyon (1869-1943) wrote his famous poem, "For the fallen" in the middle of September 1914 just a few weeks after the outbreak of the First World War. In those first few weeks the British Expeditionary Force had suffered casualties following its first encounter with the Imperial German Army at the Battle of Mons on 23rd August, its rear-guard action during the retreat from Mons in late August and the Battle of Le Cateau on 26th August, and its participation with the French Army in holding up the Imperial German Army at the First Battle of the Marne between 5th and 9th September 1914.

"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them."

These words of the fourth stanza have become especially familiar and famous, having been adopted by the Royal British Legion as an Exhortation for ceremonies of Remembrance to commemorate fallen Servicemen and women.

In Psalm 78 Asaph tells us something we must not forget to do in raising a generation that honours God. The testimonies of God that we have experience and or were passed down to us must be transmitted to future generations to keep them healthy in all their ways.

"Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! I will open my mouth in a parable; I

will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done." (Psalm 78:1-4 ESV)

Reading the rest of psalm 78 reveals the horrors of forgetting the wondrous works and goodness of God!

A genuine heart of thanksgiving keeps aglow the joys of a gift received, and of a sacrifice made on our behalf.

Earlier in the history of Israel we see the courageous stand of Joshua. His second and final farewell message was replete with tangible demonstrations of God's sovereignty in His dealings with His covenant people (Joshua 24:1-15):

God took your Abraham their father from the other side of the River, led him... and multiplied his descendants (v. 3),

God gave them inheritance (v. 4),

God sent Moses and Aaron as deliverers (v. 5),

God brought them out of Egyptian bondage, carried them through the red sea and the terrible wilderness; brought them into the Promised Land (vv. 6-8),

God would not listen to the curses of Balaam, but instead commanded blessings (v. 10),

God delivered their enemies into their hands (v. 11),

God sent His stinging air force and drove away their fearsome enemies (v. 12)

God gave them a land on which they had not laboured and cities that they had not built, and a great harvest they did not work for (v. 13)!

Joshua concluded that such a God is to be feared and obeyed (v. 14).

Joshua was horrified with the realisation that the people of Israel decidedly rejected their covenant God! So in verse 15 Joshua challenged them to choose between the gods which their ancestors had served in Mesopotamia and the gods of the Amorites that they had found in Canaan. Everybody worships something! You decide the gods you worship and commend to your future generations!!!

Joshua left them in no doubt as to his allegiance. He made a bold stand on his own in declaring: ***"As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."***

Three burials are mentioned in the last five verses of the last chapter of the book of Joshua: Joshua's (vv. 29-31), Joseph's (v. 32), and Eleazar's (v. 33). All three were buried in Joseph's territory. All three had served their God and their country well. Joshua and Joseph were great deliverers during their lives, and Eleazar was a deliverer in his death, for he was the high priest and his death set free all who had fled to a city of refuge (Joshua 20:6).

Charles Wesley truly noted that "God buries His workmen but continues His work."

When you're gone will the Lord's work continue in your lineage?

"As for me and my house, we will remember the "glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done" and "we will serve The LORD."

Thanks for standing with us in this work of ***"Building Strong Families and Raising Godly Children."***

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