

The Good Old Days

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Oh, for the good old days! When we returned to standard time in November, I saw numerous posts on my friends' Facebook pages saying, "I hope we change time back to when people respected others" and similar sentiments.

Others comment occasionally about wishing prices for gasoline, groceries, etc., were back to what they used to be a few years ago. Or we long for the days when we didn't even worry about locking the doors of our house. Yes, those were the "good old days"!

Or were they? No doubt every time in the history of humanity has had its good points. But only in Eden were there no drawbacks. We can't go back that far, but we look forward to being free from all that is negative when we're with the Lord in Heaven!

Meanwhile, do you really want to go back to a time when we didn't have antibiotics? Do you want to return to having no indoor plumbing? Do you want to give up air conditioning and everything else that operates on electricity? No? Neither do I! Despite all the issues we find to complain about, in many ways our days are the good old days!

The wisest man who ever lived (except Jesus, of course), wrote this: "*Do not say, 'Why were the former days better than these?' For you do not inquire wisely concerning this*" (Ecclesiastes 7:10). Even nine centuries before Christ, people were pining for the good old days! But Solomon said it's not smart and we ought to stop it.

We live in the here and now; trying to live in the past is an exercise in futility! Our duty is to glorify God by seeking and using every opportunity to keep His commands and bless the lives of those around us.

Jesus Didn't Quit

Jesus did not quit meeting with His disciples, because Judas was a thief, or because Peter was fickle at times. He did not quit preaching and living right, because some of His brethren were unforgiving and unkind. He did not quit His post of leadership, because He had in His presence the adulterous woman, a gang Pharisees, nor narrow-minded demon worshipers. Jesus did not quit.

Have YOU quit? What is the reason for it? Any reason you might name; Jesus could have given the same. He had every reason to be discouraged. His own disciples were so slow to learn. His enemies were so bent on His destruction. But He did not quit. He said, "*Know ye not that I must be about my Father's business?*" (Luke 2:49). And when the end of His earthly life was in sight, Jesus said to His Father, "*I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do,*" (John 17:4). He did not quit. He finished His task.

When YOU come to the end of life, will you say, "I finished the work God has given me to do?" Or will you be compelled to say, "I started, but quit"? Will you stand before the judgment bar of God and admit that you were a quitter? Eternal life is promised to those who endure to the end (Matthew 10:22). There will be no consolation in the judgment day to point back to your baptism unless you can also point back to a life of faithful endurance.

--Raymond C. Kelsey (deceased)

Decisions, Decisions!

"I do not get up every Sunday and decide whether to go to church or not. I made that decision fifty years ago."

--Gus Nichols (deceased)

The Hall of Pilate

**"They tried my Lord and Master with no one to defend;
Within the halls of Pilate He stood without a friend"**
(from the first verse of the hymn, "I'll Be a Friend to Jesus")

My first trip to the Bible lands was in 1978. On our way to a mission trip to India, we stopped off to visit Jerusalem.

I will never forget my first glimpse of the city. We rounded a hill high above the valley below and we could see the ancient walls surrounding Jerusalem. What a sight!

As we visited Bethlehem, Jericho, the Dead Sea, Masada, and took a boat trip on the Sea of Galilee, I learned the truth in what Marshall Keeble had said long ago: "They will take you to places and say this is where this or that happened, and you don't know if that is true or not, but this I do know: My Lord was here." While many of the locations are obviously not the original scenes of Bible events, some are.

One such place was the Praetorium, Pilate's judgment hall. After centuries of being covered under mounds of dirt, archaeologists had dug down to find a yellow floor which was now polished to a glistening sheen. We were told that this was the location where Jesus stood before Pilate and proclaimed Himself to be a King (John 18:33-37).

He is still King of all!

--Sellers S. Crain, Jr. (via *Power for Today*)

Life is not fair.

But God is always faithful.