

THE BAPTIST LANDMARK

"REMOVE NOT THE ANCIENT LANDMARK, WHICH THY FATHERS HAVE SET." PROVERBS 22:28

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TEACHING OUR CHILDREN

by H. B. Little

I thank God...when I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also. 2 Ti 1:3,5.

Paul writes this salutation to Timothy in his last inspired letter. He writes from a Roman dungeon awaiting execution. He is to be martyred for the faith and for his faith in Christ. While in hold, he reminisces over his time with Timothy. He recalls the faith that Timothy has and his faithfulness to God. He seems comforted that he has committed his doctrine to a faithful man who shall teach others after his death.

Yet this passage is more than a mere salutation or a commendation. It is inspired scripture and is profitable for instruction in righteousness. In the passage, we receive some instruction for how to perpetuate the faith and subsequent generations of our Baptist churches. Timothy is set before us as an example.

No doubt, Paul had a great impact on the life of Timothy. Timothy was Paul's son after the faith. Timothy accompanied Paul and Silas on their missionary journeys. Timothy heard Paul preach and teach. Timothy was with Paul when he wrote the Roman, Corinthian, Philippian, Colossian, Thessalonian, and Philemon epistles. What an education in the ministry Timothy received from Paul!

Yet when Paul recalls the unfeigned faith of Timothy, he does not think at first of his impact upon his student. He does not think at first of the impact of Lystra Church upon the man. He recalls the faith that was first in Timothy's grandmother and in his mother. Timothy's faith was a result of theirs. That's not to say that he was a child of God because he was a child of Lois and Eunice. God's children are not born of blood (not by family). God's children are born of Him when they believe on the name of His Son. See John 1:12-13. But Timothy knew from his youth the scriptures that taught the way of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

FOLLOWER OF JESUS

by M. A. Brawner

Everyday is a blessing when one can wake up and know for certain that they are a born again, child of God. It is important to add "born again" in the sentence because there are so many who have adopted the idea that being a creature who bears the image of God outwardly also makes them a child of God inwardly. While it is true that all of mankind bears the outer image of God, it must be recognized that there is an inward part of man as well. The inward man is what "must be born again" in order to become a true child of God. So, while we all may say that it is a wonderful blessing to be a creature of God who bears the outward appearance of God, it is those who have been born again who can humbly rejoice at their condition. Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man [of the born again, child of God] is renewed day by day, 2 Cor 4:16.

The born again, child of God has reason to be thankful to God when they remember what it took so that they could be born again. They know that they were unable to pay for their own salvation. They were unable to live good enough to earn it. Salvation was something others talked about possessing. They spoke of the reality of how it felt to have it. All doubt about salvation being real was taken away. Yet to actually receive it, the born again had to realize that God would have to save them. They were unable to do it on their own. What made this possible is that Jesus Christ, the only begotten of the Father, gave Himself in their place. The Lord Jesus Christ did for mankind what they were unable to do for themselves. So then, when the born again remember these things, they have great reason to be humbly thankful to God.

When God revealed the plan of salvation, He taught everyone what true love for others really is. This love has been demonstrated personally by God our Maker and His only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. God demonstrated

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

LET US NOT ROB GOD OF HIS HONOR

by Henry Smith, 1992

And Samuel said unto the people, It is the Lord that advanced Moses and Aaron, and that brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt. Now therefore stand still, that I may reason with you before the Lord of all the righteous acts of the Lord, which he did to you and to your fathers. When Jacob was come into Egypt, and your fathers cried unto the Lord, then the Lord sent Moses and Aaron, which brought forth your fathers out of Egypt, and made them dwell in this place. 1 Sa 12:6-7.

Moses and Aaron were successful in their mission in leading the people out of the bondage of Egypt, but they were just instruments in the hands of the Lord in accomplishing this mission. Sometimes we marvel at the way God does His work, and the type of people He chooses.

Moses was as capable as any other, even more so, for this mission to Egypt. He had grown up in that country, spent forty years of his life there, and was trained in all the wisdom of the Egyptians. "Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds," Acts 7:22.

Before the Lord called him to go back to Egypt, He wanted this man to be with Him for forty more years in a quiet desert land for His kind of training. And in this lonely desert land, the Land of Midian, God called to Moses out of a burning bush. It was God's time for him to go. Sometimes urgency is necessary, but not always. Moses was now eighty years old, but the Lord had him in mind for this mission when he was a baby. He preserved the life of this little baby, Moses, and let him grow up in the palace of a king. "The mills of God grind slowly, but very fine."

With all the learning Moses had, when it came time for him to go back to Egypt to lead the people out of that terrible bondage, he felt he was too small. The Lord said, "Come now therefore, and I will

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

TEACHING OUR CHILDREN

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

salvation. 2 Tim 3:15. He was raised on the scriptures. He had a religious education. He received it from two godly women: his mother and grandmother. This is an important lesson from 2 Tim 1:5. The first means of perpetuating the faith and our Baptist churches is a Christian influence in the home.

This principle is as old as the Bible itself. Moses commanded the Israelites to learn and keep the ways of God, and teach them to their children. Deu 4:10. He placed the burden of religious education upon the parents, not the priests, rabbis, or prophets. Moses said teach them when you are sitting in your house, when you are walking down the road, when you get ready to lie down at night, and when you get up in the morning. Solomon said a child trained in the way he should go would not depart from it when he is old. Pro 22:6. The perpetuation of the ways of Israel was dependent on a persistent religious education by parents in the home.

The ways of God have not changed. As it was for Israel, so it is for the Lord's church. Paul told the parents of the Ephesian Church to bring their children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Eph 6:4. He placed the burden of religious education upon the parents, not the pastors, preachers, deacons, or teachers. So then, what should we do as parents to ensure that our children are instructed in the ways of the Lord?

First, we should make our faith a staple in our own lives. We should make attending church services a high priority too. We should take our children to church. It is important that they hear the gospel and at a young age. When they get saved, we should keep taking them to church. How many parents see their children saved, then quit carrying them to the house of God? We should impress upon them the importance of church membership and the duties of church membership.

We should live Christian lives before our children. We should display a godly deportment in the home. We should pray at home. We should read our Bibles at home. We should apply Biblical principles to our lives. By the time our children are old enough to be taught, we should have plenty of practice discerning good from evil using our Bibles.

Then, we should establish godly rules for our home. We should teach our children right from wrong. A child left to himself brings his parents shame. Pro 29:15. The world calls evil good and good evil. Our children need to know that right and wrong are established by God and not society.

We should pray with our children. We should teach them to pray and what the Bible says about prayer. We should tell them about times we found help, courage, comfort, grace, and mercy through prayer. We should tell them to pray for those things as well. They need to know that when we can't help them, then the Lord can. Psa 27:10. We should tell them to pray over big decisions in their lives, and little ones too—to acknowledge the Lord in all their ways. If they do, He will guide them. Pro 3:6.

We should read our Bibles to our children. We should look for opportunities to help them apply Biblical principles to their everyday lives. We should teach them what the Bible says about love, honesty, family, friendship, marriage, childrearing, business, work ethic, finance, etc. They need to know that the Bible is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction. We should teach them that God's ways are the best ways and that His ways are not suggestions. We should teach them that there are consequences for not doing things God's way. They need to know that they will be judged by the words of God's book.

Your pastor or Sunday school teacher cannot cover all of these things. There's not enough time on Sundays. We parents are saddled with the task. It is daunting, I know. But with effort, prayer, and God's help, we can do it.

When we do these things, it will not guarantee that our children will serve the Lord. After all, Cain and Abel were raised by the same parents. But when we do them, we give our children the best opportunity to lead a Christian life. And we give our churches the best opportunity at perpetuity.

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PREACHER, SAVE YOURSELF

The following article, written by Malcolm Parker, appeared in *The News Examiner*, Gallatin, Tennessee, April 13, 1987.

The old Gallatin cemetery is a place of silence. Here and there a bird sings, a cricket chirps or a tree frog croaks, but the voices of men and women are hushed. This is as it should be, for here, people are asleep and at rest.

One, walking silently about, may read the names of pioneers, of well know statesmen, of heroes who fought in Indian wars, The Revolution, The Mexican conflict and The War Between the States. There is a Governor's grave along with those of famous doctors and lawyers.

Each person, now just a name carved in stone, has his or her own interesting story. One such is Egbert Haywood Osborne, a minister of God's word.

The Rev. Osborne was born in Huntsville, Alabama in 1825. He later moved to West Tennessee where he served as pastor at Baptist churches at Jackson, Bolivar and Brownsville.

When the Civil War began in 1861, he joined himself to the Confederate army, not as a soldier but as a traveling preacher. He went from one command to another, preaching the gospel to any or to all the soldiers that would listen. Faithfully he labored from Nashville to Chattanooga, from Franklin to Murfreesboro and to bloody Shiloh.

He eventually became very weary and longed to see West Tennessee again. He decided to go home for a much needed rest. It was a long and tiring trip. He owned no horse so he walked along back roads. Some days, he found food and overnight lodging at friendly farm houses while on others, he went without food and at night made his bed in deep forests. On one such morning, he was awakened from his sleep by the sound of many voices. He sat up in his bed of leaves and looked around. He was completely surrounded by men in blue uniforms. He knew immediately that he had been found by a Yankee detachment.

"Look, Captain," a soldier yelled. "It's a Rebel spy."

Troops gathered around him and he was told that he was under arrest. He tried daily to impress upon his captors that he

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

FOLLOWER OF JESUS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

this love when "He gave His only begotten Son", John 3:16. The Lord Jesus Christ showed how to love others when "He gave Himself for us", Titus 2:14. In this way, God has taught us that "it is more blessed to give than to receive", Acts 20:35. On the other hand, this fallen world is fully given over to the lifestyle of selfishness and self-centeredness. The devil first taught this lesson of selfishness to man in the garden. As the god of this world (2 Cor 4:4) he is leading it into an ever increasing state of self-centered behaviors. Masses in this current day have come to believe that "if it isn't good for me, then it isn't good at all." Born again people are able to be influenced by these lessons of selfishness and self-centeredness. As self-centeredness increases, love for others decreases. God shows us in the Bible how in the last days sin will abound and love will wax cold, Mat 24:12. Could whole Churches be so impacted by the lessons of the devil that they fail to even pray for their neighbors' salvation? Could they fail to invite the lost to Church? Could they fail to tell others about how they got saved? So then, where would the born again be without the lessons God has taught them about true love for others? The born again must look to the lessons of love taught to them of God while resisting the lessons taught of the devil.

It is important to remember the difference between the nature of the Lord Jesus Christ and the nature of the devil when considering what it is to follow Jesus. The Lord loves mankind with a love so large that He laid down the clothing of the glory of God and put on the garment of a man. He wore that garment and endured the temptations, sufferings, and trials of a man. Then He allowed cruel, lost humanity to brutally torture and crucify Him in an open shame. All this He did out of a love that surpasses any measure that could ever be offered. The devil is far from being so. He was created a creature, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty, Eze 28:12. Where the Lord laid glory aside and humbled Himself, the devil was filled with pride and attempted to exalt himself. The heart of the devil was lifted up because of his beauty and his wisdom was corrupted, Eze 28:17. Those who set out to follow Jesus set out to do the most honorable thing any person can do in this

life. However, to follow Him will be to follow the One Who has an enormous love for humanity. Where the devil would have us thinking only about ourselves, the Lord Jesus would have our minds on others. The Lord gave Himself to change the eternal destiny of mankind. Those who follow Him need to have their minds on the same.

The Lord Jesus Christ calls all of mankind to follow Him. It is easy to see why the Lord sends this call out. When the lost are left all alone, they fall right in to the snare the devil has set. The devil traps them and holds them with their eyes focused on the things of this world. One day the world will be subjected to the flames of the wrath of Almighty God. The devil knows as many as he can hold trapped, they too will suffer those flames for all eternity. According to 2 Pet 1:9, even born again people can become blind and forget that they were once purged from their old sins. The Lord calls the lost to salvation. He then calls the born again to follow Him so that He can help them avoid getting caught in such traps of forgetfulness.

The Lord assembled born again people into a special group of followers while He was here laboring in the world. He called this assembly "My Church," Mat 16:18. The Lord refers to this specific Church as His body, Eph 1:22-23. Born again people become a part of this body, not by being born again, but by being baptized into it after they are born again, Rom 6:3. This assembly of born again people is who the Lord teaches how to follow Him. The Lord calls no born again person to follow Him and be all alone. Born again people are to follow the Lord as part of His assembly. If the born again will truly following the Lord, they will do so as part of His Church body.

To the lost man, the Lord calls them to "Incline your ear, and come unto Me: hear, and your soul shall live..." Isa 55:3. Once the soul of a person has been saved, the Lord calls them to, "...follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men," Mat 4:19. The best life a person can have in this life is as a follower of Jesus. Let's then labor with the Lord so others can take part in such a blessed life.

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LET US NOT ROB GOD OF HIS HONOR

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt. And Moses said unto God, who am I that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?" Exo 3:10-11. He answered the Lord in another place, "I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since Thou hast spoken unto thy servant; but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue." God doesn't accept excuses, but He gives His promises and encouragement. "And the Lord said unto him, who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or the deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shall say." Exo 4:10-12.

Moses felt that he had a bad handicap, slow of speech and a slow tongue, but the Lord said I will be with your mouth. Every man that God calls is not a good speaker, but another person, who has a good command of speech might not be as wise as the person who isn't a good speaker.

Anyway, God became angry with Moses for making excuses. "And the anger of the Lord was kindle against Moses, and He said, is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold he cometh to meet thee; and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart." Exo 4:14. So here God was going to even everything up, using Moses' good knowledge and Aaron's skillful tongue to do the work that He proposed. But, God was going to be the main force. As Moses and Aaron used what they had, their knowledge and their command of language, it was God Almighty that made their mission successful. "It is the Lord that advanced Moses and Aaron, and brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt." So the honor and the glory belonged to Him, and Moses was humble enough to give the Lord all the credit.

After the deliverance from Egypt, across the Red Sea and into the wilderness, Moses' father-in-law came out to meet him. He sat down with Jethro, his father-in-law, and told of the great experience of that mission. "And Moses told his

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

LET US NOT ROB GOD OF HIS HONOR

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

father-in-law all that the Lord had done unto Pharaoh and to the Egyptians for Israel's sake, and all the travail that had come upon them by the way, and how the Lord delivered them. Moses didn't give himself any credit at all. Neither did Jethro give his son-in-law the credit, but here is what he did. And Jethro said, "Blessed be the Lord, who hath delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians, and out of the hand of Pharaoh, who hath delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians." It must have been a great time for Moses and Jethro talking about this great deliverance God wrought.

The Lord will get attention one way or another. He got the attention of Moses by a burning bush. It was a strange sight. The Lord made it a strange sight to attract the attention of His servant, to draw him away from keeping sheep to a mission to Egypt to lead His people out. The Lord has different ways to draw our minds away from things earthly, so He has a chance to speak to us. Sometimes it is by the rod of His wrath, if we don't listen to His tender plea.

We need not expect the Lord to speak to us out of a burning bush, as He did to Moses, nor shine a light around us bright enough to blind us, as He did to Saul of Tarsus. He does have a way to get through to us if we listen. If we are too busy to listen, He might bring some destructive force before our eyes so that we may listen to the still small voice, like He still speaks today, as He did to Elijah.

The Lord let a storm, an earthquake, and a fire pass before Elijah. This got his mind off of himself, the fear, and the discouragement that had seized upon him. Then the Lord had an opening to speak directly to His prophet. "And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?" I Ki 19:13.

Elijah was at the wrong place, at the wrong time; and certainly in the wrong state of mind. So the Lord dealt with him to get him where He wanted him. The Lord had a work for him in another place, and one thing He wanted, was for him to go and anoint Elisha to be prophet in his stead.

Elijah recognized the still small voice that spoke to him. He went at His direction and accomplished the Lord's work. Then the Lord took him up to heaven. A chariot of fire and horses of fire parted him from Elisha, and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. He listened to the voice that spoke and gave attention, and what a glorious experience he had! See 2Ki 2:5-11.

There are two verses in Ephesians, chapter three that I would like to call attention to. "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." Eph 3:20-21. Notice, the power is His, and the glory is His. I am convinced that the most beautiful, and the most attractive of all forces in the church is the Lord Himself, working in the hearts and lives of His people and convicting and saving sinners. And when He does His mighty work, by the preaching of His Word and by the mighty power of His Spirit, He is the One who deserves the glory.

Like Moses and Aaron, we are just little instruments in His hand. It is He who does the advancing. We do what we are required to do, and He takes care of the results. That is His part, and we must render honor where honor is due.

PREACHER, SAVE YOURSELF

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

was no spy but in fact that he was a Baptist preacher. He impressed no one but soon found himself before a mock court where in spite of his denial, he was found guilty and condemned to death. The officer in charge of the trial pronounced sentence, "Tomorrow at sunrise, you shall be hung on yonder hickory tree until you are dead."

All night, he lay awake. He knew that he was closely guarded. There seemed no chance of escape. He thought of his home in West Tennessee. He thought of his many friends and the churches that he had pastored. His mind retraced his life even back to his childhood in Alabama. Then daylight came. Soon the sun would rise. He prayed a last prayer that he might die without fear and that his faith might remain strong.

The camp was astir. Many soldiers gathered beneath the hickory tree to

watch the hanging of a spy. A rope was placed about his neck. The moment was near. Osborne noticed that a different captain was on duty. This man now addressed him.

"Do you have any last words?", he asked. "Yes" replied the preacher, "today you are hanging an innocent man. It is only my word. I have no proof but neither have you."

"Perhaps there is something to what you say", said the officer. "I am going to give you a chance for your life. See the big log over there? It is your pulpit. Get up there and preach to these men. If any group needs a sermon this one does. We'll see if you are a preacher, once and for all." The rope was removed from his neck and with a faint feeling of hope, he went to his pack and took out his Bible.

Mounting the log, he read from the book, then he prayed then began a sermon the like of which the soldiers have never heard. The men laid aside their cards. They put away their dice. They crowded nearer and removed their caps. He told them that God loved each and every one of them, no matter what they had done. He told them of Jesus, the son of God, who had died that they might have life. He told them to pray for their enemies and that the war might soon end. They thought of their own homes so far away, of their parents and each of his own church back in Indiana or Michigan or Ohio where as boys they had attended Sunday School.

When he had finished they came forward to shake his hand. There were tears in the eyes of men; hardened by the sight of men dying at Nashville, Franklin and Murfreesboro.

"Not only are you a free man" the Captain said, "you shall have one of our best horses to ride into Jackson."

And so it came about, Egbert Haywood Osborne returned to his preaching.

After the war, he came to Gallatin and served as minister at the Baptist Church in that city. He was filling this position when he died in 1873.

At Gallatin, he preached many powerful sermons. How many souls were saved as a result, I cannot say. One thing we do know, his preaching saved for awhile one human life; that of Egbert Haywood Osborne.
