

And Peter Remembered The Word of Jesus

The poignant words that serve as our title were taken from **Matthew 26:75**. They are found in a passage that will serve to recall the situation to the mind's eye. "And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out and wept bitterly." Doubtless the great fisherman apostle never forgot that moment. Tears and time did not erase the agony and remorse of the regretful event.

Perhaps there is no connection; it may be but a coincidence of Scripture, if there be any such thing, but in the second epistle by the same apostle we find the repetition of the word "remembrance." "Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance. . . . Moreover I will endeavor that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance" (2 Pet. 1:12-15). "This second epis-

By Larry Ray Hafley

tle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye may be mindful" (2 Pet. 3:1, 2). Peter once forgot the word of Jesus. It came crashing to his remembrance in a painful manner. When the Lord looked at him after that rooster crowed the third time, it pierced his heart, "and he went out, and wept bitterly."

Could it be that Peter wanted no one to endure the thing that haunted him? He knew what it meant to be reminded of the words of Jesus. He understood the way of sin when the word of Jesus is forgotten. Therefore, he was not negligent to put the brethren "always in remembrance" of the word of God as delivered by the apostles and prophets. It is an engaging and intriguing thought. But regardless of whether or not that was the compelling idea behind Peter's words, let us not fail to do as he urged, that is, remember the word of Christ. "Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psa. 119: 11).



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Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

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When Tragedy Strikes

By Doy Moyer

What exactly does one say to another when tragedy strikes? We all wish that we had the perfect words that will appropriately capture what everyone is feeling, words that will comfort and encourage even the most downtrodden. We want to come up with deep statements about how "this is life" and "here is what you should be thinking at this time." The reality is that we feel at a loss, unable to speak what we are feeling deep inside, unable to communicate what we think those who are suffering need to hear when likely they don't want to hear anything at all. Bumper sticker philosophy and theology hardly provides much comfort when our hearts have been torn by real tragedy. Likely, the silence before we speak is going to be the most profound and appropriate response, at least initially.

Job's friends understood this at first. When Job suffered his astounding tragedies, one after the other and no break between, his three friends came to com-

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fort him. For a full week they sat there with him in silence, unable to capture in words what they were witnessing and unwilling to say what they were thinking. Yet it was during this time that they were their wisest and the most comforting to Job, for after they began speaking, Job could only say that they were miserable comforters.

Silence is sometimes the best response. Once we have had time to reflect, however, we usually can find important lessons

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GOD OFTEN USES OUR DEEPEST PAIN AS THE LAUNCHING PAD OF OUR GREATEST CALLING.

Thoughts to Ponder

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

(Colossians 3:1)

Elders
Walker Davis (334) 703-0050
Larry Rouse (334) 734-2133

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
Sunday
Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

E-Mail:
larryrouse@aubeacon.com

Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

Find us on the Internet: www.auchurch.com and www.aubeacon.com

Classes This Week

Sunday 5:15 Kid's Class in the Auditorium	Sunday 7:45 Samford Lawn Singing	Tuesday 8:00 PM Truth Seekers in room 2326 of the student center	Thursday 7:00 PM Ladies' class on "Seasoning your Words" at home of Jordan Flatt
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Lisa Carter (Luke's mother)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father and Mac's grandfather)	Nell Holcomb (Ben's grandmother, Joannetta's aunt)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Jamin Hymel (Chad's son)
Madeline Morton (Greg Lanier's g'daughter)	Alexander Locke (Jeremiah's cousin's son)	Betty Bradford	Hazel Gilliland (Toni's relatives)
Ricky Tucker (Tyler's cousin)	Ermogene Laxson (Sara Lail's grandmother)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	William Smith (Ken Sullivan's brother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Arabelle Rich (Joannetta's aunt)	Sasha Rozier (Makenzie Reynolds' cousin)	Eva Jean Cavender (Matt's grandmother)
Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)	Howard Vaughan (Mary Ann's Granddad)	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	Maria Aragon (Liseith's Mother)

October Birthdays

- 1-Aiden Hahn
- 3-Jennifer Hasty
- 3-James Malloy
- 4-Jordan Corneil
- 6-Jessica Anderson
- 6-Josh Hartsell
- 7-Molly Borden
- 8-Heath Fowler
- 12-Stacy Norman
- 17-Abbie Harrison
- 18-Eric Shotts
- 20-Evan Pender
- 20-Keith Bailey
- 21-Zac Slay
- 22-Christopher White
- 24-Sara Beth Roberts
- 24-Suzanna Roberts
- 26-Palmer Daniels
- 26-Esther Biddle
- 29-Belle Johnson
- 29-Matt Hall
- 29-Julie Britnell
- 29-Madi Luther
- 29-Stewart West
- 29-Abby Ambrose
- 30-Caleb Gandy
- 31-Kitty Tam

News and Notes

- ☒ - Our singing night is tonight!
- ☒ - Please pray for our expectant mothers: Amanda Stephens and Cristin Chavez.
- ☒ - Please pray for Hayden Phillip's grandmother as she continues in rehab.
- ☒ - Please continue to keep Toni Herd's sister, Carol, in your prayers as she is being tested for some health concerns.
- ☒ - Please keep those in your prayers who are in the adoption process: Kevin and Jessica Anderson.
- ☒ - We rejoice with Leighton Daniels as he was baptized into Christ last week!
- ☒ - Larry and Yvette's granddaughter, Fiona Marlene, was born recently and all are doing well.
- ☒ - Please keep the family of Alex Nguyen in your prayers in the loss of his great-grandmother this week.
- ☒ - Welcome new members of the Jerkins' family: Braiden and Trinity!
- ☒ - Please continue to park in the grass when possible at all services.
- ☒ - All audio is immediately posted to www.auchurch.com

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that will be embedded in our minds from then on. If we can learn those lessons, then we can be the better for it.

When the Twin Towers in New York City were taken down by terrorists, people were in shock. It was an unbelievable event. Nearly three thousands lives were taken in one day, and the heart of the United States country was struck hard. What were we going to demonstrate that we were made of? For a time, there was a pulling together of the citizens. More importantly, there was a general recognition of the need to turn to God. Sadly, much of that faded over the years, but this is why we need to be reminded of difficult events and the lessons that come out of them.

When tragedy strikes, we are forced to consider several important issues:

1. Why? It is not trite to say that sin has caused the tragic problems of this world. Once sin came into this world, everything changed. Everything became subject to futility (**Rom 8:20**). The mark left by sin is tragic and ugly. This is the reason the gospel is such an important part of our understanding.

2. The Relative Value of Material stuff. What does it profit us if we gain the whole world and lose our souls? (**Matt 16:24-27**) Losing stuff isn't as much a problem when we put it into perspective.

3. The Value of Loved Ones. People are always more important than things. When tragedy strikes, we look for the people we love first. This is as it should be.

4. The Value of Time. Tragedy will force us to prioritize our time, reconsider how we are using it, and try to use it wisely from then on (**Eph. 5:15-17**).

5. Our Relationship with God. Must we be reminded that there is no more important relationship than that with God? Will we use tragic events as an excuse to run from God, or will we use them to draw closer to Him? (**Psalms 73**)

6. The Importance of Eternity. What we can see is temporary; what we cannot see is eternal. Therefore, we must look to the eternal and recognize that our real goal is to please God because one day we will be brought to judgment (**2 Cor. 4:16-5:10**).

7. Our Perspective on Everything. How will we react to difficult times? What will say to others? What will we do to cope? Will we pray? Will we meditate on God's word? Or will we be anxious, worried, and troubled? See what Jesus says about worry and anxiety in **Matthew 6:24-33**. How much we are willing to trust God speaks volumes about how we deal with matters that cause anxiety. That may be "easier said than done," but it is the perspective we are taught to embrace.

Terrorism. Natural disasters. Crimes. Heartaches at every turn. What does it take to wake us up and make sure that we are right with God?

Tell your family that you love them. Quit the quibbling and fighting. Who cares who started what? Let's get over ourselves and seek the welfare of one another. Let us humble ourselves before God and make sure that our priorities are where they should be.

"Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory" (**Col. 3:1-4**).



Some Marks Of God's People

By Virgil Hale

Malachi 3:16 reads, "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name." In this text there are three characteristics given concerning the people of God that I want us to study, and then we will observe the blessing that followed. There are great lessons in this text for all of God's people today.

In the first place it says that they "feared the Lord." This in and of itself does not make one a child of God. It is said of Cornelius that he "feared God with all his house..." (**Acts 10:2**) and that he was "a just man and one that feareth God..." (**verse 22**). At the time, Cornelius was not a Christian, and he had to obey the Gospel in order to become a child of God. The kind of fear under consideration is not a fear that causes one to shudder at the very thought of God, but it is a reverential awe and respect for God and His will. In speaking of God David wrote, "He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant forever: holy and reverend is his name" (**Psa. 111:9**). The writer of the Hebrew letter said that we are to "serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear" (**Heb. 12:28**). It is evident that most people have little or no respect for God or His Word. According to Solomon, the whole duty of man is to "Fear God and keep his commandments" (**Eccl. 12:13**). Peter made this statement at the house of Cornelius, "...Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him" (**Acts 10:34-35**). There is no way that one can be a faithful child of God if he has no reverence and respect for God and His will.

Secondly, it is said in our text that these people of God "spake often one to another." This implies that they had fellowship one with another, that they cooperated one with the other, that they were mutually helpful to each other. The word fellowship carries with it the idea of joint participation. We are told, "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works" (**Heb. 10:24**). Paul wrote that we are "workers together with him..." (**2 Cor. 6:1**) and that "we are laborers together with God" (**1 Cor. 3:9**). The Psalmist wrote, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" (**Psa. 133:1**). Some things might be pleasant that are not

good for us, and some things might be good for us that are not pleasant, but unity is both good and pleasant. Christians are to "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another" (**Rom. 12:10**). Paul wrote, "Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." (**Phil. 2:2-3**). Love for one another lets the world know that we belong to Christ (**John 13:34-35**). The early church certainly fit this pattern (**Acts 2:44-45; 4:34-37**).

Thirdly, it is said of God's people that they "thought upon his name." This implies that they meditated upon God and His will, and that they were devout worshipers of Him. Do you enjoy studying God's Word, and are you a faithful worshiper of God? The "Blessed" man of Psalms chapter 1, is one whose "delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his Law doth he meditate day and night." Paul wrote, "Study to shew thyself approved of God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth" (**2 Tim. 2:15**). What do you think about most? We are products of our thinking (**Prov. 23:7; Rom. 12:1-2**). We cannot rise above our thinking!

Finally, notice the results of the preceding, "and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them..." Rest assured that God does not forget His people. Paul spoke of people "whose names are written in the book of life" (**Phil. 4:3**). We need to remember that God has said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (**Heb. 13:5**). Because of that promise we can "boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me" (**verse 6**). Rest assured "our labor is not in vain in the Lord" (**1 Cor. 15:58**). "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister" (**Heb. 6:10**). Do we really believe these promises? I hope that we do, because God cannot lie (**Tit. 1:2; Heb. 6:18**). May we strive to have the characteristics that we have discussed in our lives, and heaven will someday be our eternal home.

