

Wednesday, January 31, 2018 - Yes Dad, I Remember

My dad would have turned 87 today. While the special days such as this have gotten easier, since he and mom died in September 2012, God made us in such a way that our memories of times together can give us peace, comfort, joy and the opportunities to remember pieces of wisdom dispensed by parents after they are gone.

My dad never started his day without spending time reading God's word. He forgot more bible than I probably know. One of the great blessings of having a Christian father is that the advice he gave was based on what he knew would please God. It doesn't make sense to live in such a way as to incur the wrath of God when He has provided such a beautiful journey to fulfill living for Him. And while dad was far from perfect, he wanted to please God.

Three things, he taught me and I want to share with you today, have been the tenent (17th century spelling □ ) for how I try to live my life.

1) What God's word says it means. End of discussion.

People in and out of the church try to explain what God really means in His word. God does not need us to do that because He has already stated what He meant in the scriptures! His meaning does NOT change regardless the day and time in which we live!

1 Cor. 14:33 - for God is not the God of confusion, but of peace... While Paul is speaking specifically about the assembly of the saints, this fact applies to God in ALL THINGS.

2 Tim.3:14-17 - 14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; 15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Every scripture includes both the Old and New Testament. All scripture is inspired. Inspired of God means it is God breathed. Inspiration means that the Holy Spirit guided men as they wrote God's truth. The word of God teaches man everything that he needs to know to be the type of person that God wants him to be. Everything that man needs to know in order to be saved, to live right, to worship God and to go to heaven is taught in the Bible.

Jude 3 - Beloved, while I was giving all diligence to write unto you of our common salvation, I was constrained to write unto you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints.

Which was once for all delivered means God's truth has been completely revealed. They must not add to the truth or take away from the truth received (Galatians 1:8-9; Revelation 22:18-19). The truth has been delivered and it will not change.

I say this with great love: when you decide you don't like or you disagree with something in God's Word, as opposed to trying to drag others in the gutter with you, just admit the passage in questions conflicts with something you like, want or desire. Then pray that you might humble your will to God's and do as He has commanded.

2) Stand for God's truth regardless the sentiment of others.

My dad resigned the eldership because he could not serve with men who had children living in sin under those men's roofs. Their children were bringing reproach upon the church. They needed to resign and they would not. Unfortunately, the office of elder to them was a status symbol, as opposed to being scripturally qualified to lead God's flock.

When dad resigned, they offered to provide a nice little write up to send him on his way. The pressure on him was tremendous to "do the right thing." He told them to tell the truth or remain silent. They chose silence.

Acts 7:51-60 - 51 Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Spirit: as your fathers did, so do ye. 52 Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? and they killed them that showed before of the coming of the Righteous One; of whom ye have now become betrayers and murderers; 53 ye who received the law [n]as it was ordained by angels, and kept it not. 54 Now when they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. 55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, 56 and said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. 57 But they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and rushed upon him with one accord; 58 and they cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon the Lord, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. 60 And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Would Stephen have been better off "going along?" The world would say yes, his life would have (maybe) been spared. I suggest he would have lost far more if he

had denied God, who He was, what He stood for and the words which He had breathed into existence.

3) Standing for the right will be the hardest thing you ever do.

What prophet, apostle, man of God hasn't been rejected by the masses at some point in his/her life when having the courage to stand for what is right? Is it hard to do? Not really. Not if you understand that you are standing for the One you has given you everything.

How can I deny Him anything?