

The Old Paths

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“A Date Which Will Live In Infamy”

Jarrod Jacobs

73 years ago, the U.S. was bombed by the Japanese at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. In response to this act of war, something President Roosevelt called, “a date which will live in infamy”, our nation assembled and united against a common enemy; an “axis of evil” in the Orient and in Europe. We ought to remember and respect the sacrifices of so many who lived during those turbulent times and made it possible that we, now 73 years removed from those events, still live in freedom.

Yes, it was an “infamous date” when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor; but is there not also an “infamous date” that each person faces when we choose to serve Satan instead of God? You see, there is a date in everyone’s life (if we live long enough to make independent decisions) where we chose to follow Satan (Rom. 3:23). James wrote, “*But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death*” (Jas. 1:14-15). This has happened to each one of us at some point in our lives.

Whether or not we can remember the date we first committed sin, we know God can remember it. That time is a “date which will live in infamy” in our

lives. This is because on that date we yielded to temptation and succumbed to the onslaught of Satan. In so doing, we then belonged to the “*kingdom of darkness*,” and died to God that day (Eph. 2:1-3, 4:17-19; I Pet. 2:9b; Col. 1:13).

This date will “live in infamy” because those of us who have learned better realize that it is for this cause, our sin, that Christ came into the world (I Tim. 1:15). He who committed no sin (I Pet. 2:22) came to this world and offered Himself as the supreme sacrifice so that men might be saved (Matt. 20:25; Jn. 1:29; Lk. 19:10; II Cor. 5:14-15).

What have we done? We turned from God, yielded to temptation, and sinned. From the very first time we sinned, we were separated from God (Isa. 59:1-2). As we continued living in sin, we moved farther and farther away from God. Yes, the date we first sinned is a “date which will live in infamy” because from that time forward, we are lost, undone, and have no hope of Heaven (Eph. 2:12). We have been taken captive by Satan, and have no promise of eternal life with Christ. How tragic!

Sadly, unlike WWII, which lasted only a relatively short amount of time (The US was involved from 1941-1945), our war with Satan continues so long as this world stands! He has been fighting with God for the souls of men since

Genesis 3, and will continue until the end of time. Therefore, we have to be ever-vigilant (I Pet. 5:8), and ready to “*fight the good fight of faith*” (I Tim. 6:12).

How can one fight against Satan? We begin by turning back to Christ and receiving remission of our sins through faith in Him, repentance of sin, confession of our faith and baptism (Jn. 8:24; Lk. 13:3; Rom. 10:10; Mk. 16:16). In becoming a Christian, we are no longer separated, but “*reconciled*” to God (II Cor. 5:17-18; Eph. 2:13), and in this relationship we may “*fight the good fight of faith*”, wearing the “*whole armor of God*” (Eph. 6:13-18).

Yes, there is a “date which will live in infamy” in all of our lives; but in Christ, the sin can be forgiven and this date can become a distant memory when we are baptized and wear Christ’s name (Acts 22:16, 11:26). Have you done this?

Thoughts From The Past

“Error never dies a natural death, it has to be killed with the sword of the Spirit I do know this, nothing, but nothing, beats old time gospel preaching and hard-nosed Bible study. This is what it will take to keep the church on the straight and narrow path. When we depart from the fundamentals, we take our first step toward apostasy. Could it be that we are more concerned about being politically correct than with being Scripturally correct?”

(James P. Needham, *Guardian of Truth*, November 16, 1995, p. 11).

TIME

Aric Russell

Our time is one of our most valuable possessions. What we do with our time says a great deal about our character. Do we use our time wisely, or do we waste our time? How much time do we give to God? Do we read and study His word as we should? Let us use the word "TIME", and from this word, learn four lessons in regards to spending time in our Bibles.

Take time to read your Bible. The Bible puts a lot of emphasis on reading. Revelation 1:3 says, *"Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophesy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near."* Are you reading your Bible as you should?

Investigate it. In Acts 17:11, we have the example of the Bereans as they searched the scriptures daily to find out if the things spoken were true. We can learn a lot from their example. We need to search the scriptures and learn the truth for ourselves.

Meditate on it. In I Timothy 4:15, Paul told Timothy to, *"Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all."* We are to meditate on the word of God. Think about it and allow the truth to be seen in us. This leads to our last point.

Exemplify it. Matthew 5:16 says, *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."* We must follow the word and live our lives by it. We must be an example to all by following the manner and conduct we find in the scriptures.

Let me ask you again. How are you using your time? Are you reading and studying God's word as much as you should? Are you pushing it to the side because you think you don't have time to read and study? Let us all work to **T**ake time to read our Bibles. **I**nvestigate the scriptures. **M**editate on the words; and **E**xemplify the word in our lives.

It is not well to try to move faster than God moves. Some mistakes have been made along the line by good men and women. Abraham and Sarah tried to hurry up the fulfillment of God's promise that a son should be born to

Abraham. They tried to move faster than God, and got into trouble.

"Take time to be holy" is good advice. It took a long season of quiet living and meditation for Moses to become fitted for his work. People sometimes get in such a rush about the Lord's work that they have little or no time left in which to think of him and to meditate on his word and his ways, or to give him much consideration. And that grows on people till doing things becomes more important to them than humble obedience to God. "Wait for Jehovah: be strong, and let thy heart take courage; yea wait thou for Jehovah" (Ps. 27:14).

(R.L. Whiteside, *Reflections*, p. 226).

Something To Consider ...

" 'Everybody does it' does not justify your behavior. This excuse simply says you're as wrong as everyone else!"

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