

“MONUMENTAL” LESSONS (2)

David Halbrook

A 2012 movie (“Monumental”) focused on the need for America today to follow our founders, exemplified by The National Monument to the Forefathers (Plymouth, MA).

In spiritual things, that is our purpose in these articles. We appeal to you to follow the founders of salvation--the Father, Son, and Spirit and their messengers, the apostles and prophets (Eph. 3:5; 4:4-6). Over the past two thousand years, many changes have been slowly made to Jesus’ ways.

Why do we preach faith, repentance, and baptism for the remission of sins? Because the founders did (Lk. 24:47; Acts 2:38). Why do we break bread, pray, sing, give, and teach/learn every first day of the week? The founders taught and did so (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2; Eph. 5:19). Why do we object to the many different teachings and practices that exist? The founders did (1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Jn. 9-11). Why do we preach about and claim to be the church of Christ? The founders taught and did so (Matt. 16:18; Rom. 16:16; 1 Thess. 2:14; Acts 20:28).

If you and your church do not teach and practice these things, why not? Open your Bible and follow the founders!

Editor’s note: Consider using this week’s *Arkansas Weekly* article to help someone think on spiritual things. Whether you hand it to someone, leave it with your tip at a restaurant, or use it in some other way, let’s maximize the usefulness of this space that we purchase. Can you in good conscience keep the truth to yourself?

We assemble each Sunday at 10AM, 10:45AM, 5PM & Wednesday at 7PM

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The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

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WHY STUDY CHURCH HISTORY?

Wayne Goff

- To understand the church built and established by Jesus Christ, Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:38-47.
- To understand how the pure church fell away by corruption in church organization, Acts 20:28-31.
- To see how continued corruptions took place in the following centuries in teaching, practice, and organization, 2 Thess. 2:7-12.
- To see how corruption led to the Roman Catholic Church, 606 A.D.
- To learn why religious men became grossly dissatisfied with “the church” and how they attempted to “reform” it (1200-1600 A.D.).
- To see how the efforts of Martin Luther, John Calvin and other protestors of the Roman Catholic Church ultimately led to Protestant denominationalism (1400-1900 A.D.)
- To learn the organizational and historical connections between various denominations we see today. One may not know that the Episcopal Church in America stems from the Church of England, or that the Methodist Church is connected to the Pentecostals, the Church of God, the Assembly of God, and the Nazarenes!
- To understand what is meant by the term “Restoration” as it applies to those men who came out of denominationalism. Their plea was “back to the Bible” for all things religious. If any doctrine, practice, worship, or name was not found with biblical foundation, then it was discarded.
- To come to know why one does not have to trace his religious roots back down through Protestantism and Catholicism to the Lord’s church in the first century to be a valid church of Christ.

•To understand why the churches who attempted to “restore” New Testament Christianity once again became divided religiously over erroneous beliefs, practices and organizations.

•To learn why we must continue to examine everything we do and say in the light of New Testament Scriptures to be sure that we are true to the Lord Jesus, Who is the Head of His church, 1 Pet. 4:11; Col. 3:17; Rev. 22:18-19.

We did not choose the religious landscape into which we were born. There has always been the pure, New Testament church, which is the kingdom of God which shall stand forever, Dan. 2:44. But a large segment of the church denigrated into an apostate church which then became the “mother” of all protestant churches we see today. These things affect us religiously today just as surely as air pollution affects our breathing today. We must be aware of our surroundings and take the necessary precautions to stand fast in the liberty by which Christ has set us free, Gal. 5:1. We do not desire to return back into the “yoke of bondage.”

The church built by Jesus Christ is neither “Catholic” nor “Protestant.” It is Divine, biblical and perfect. When Christians today try to go back to the Divine Pattern for all that we say and do religiously, we are not partaking in the errors of Catholicism and Protestantism, but seeking to go back before those errors and restore New Testament Christianity. It can be done because the Word of God is the “seed” (Lk. 8:11) planted in good and honest hearts which makes a Christian, and only a Christian. Then when Christians gather together to do together what God has commanded should be done together, you have a New Testament congregation.

The better we understand the religious landscape about us today in so-called “Christendom,” the better equipped we will be to be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks us a reason of the hope that is in us, 1 Peter 3:15.

“O LORD, GIVE US FATHERS”

Joe R. Price

Father’s Day began in America around 1910. Most credit “Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, whose father, a Civil War veteran, raised her and her five siblings after their mother died in childbirth” for beginning its observance (“Father’s Day,” History.com). Father’s Day was a religious holiday before being commercialized by greeting cards and gifts. It became a national holiday in 1966, and in 1972 the third Sunday of June was officially designated Father’s Day.

The Bible teaches the value of fathers. Far more than mere progenitors, fathers shape future generations and thus, nations and the world (not to mention churches).

Their value cannot be overstated. We thank God for the gift of godly fathers and ask Him to continue to bless us with faithful fathers.

O Lord, give us fathers who will listen. We need fathers who listen first to God and hear from His Scriptures the words of wisdom needed to direct their households in the path of righteousness. We pray for fathers who listen to their children to hear their hopes and dreams and to encourage their aspirations – and for fathers who hear their children’s cries for help in times of doubt and despair. We pray for fathers who listen to their wives, the mothers of their children, and glean from them wise counsel as a trusted companion (Prov 31:10-12).

O Lord, give us fathers who will learn. How we desperately need fathers who will learn the word of God, live it before their children and also teach it to the next generation (Psa 78:1-8)! We need fathers who are humble and willing to learn; who rely on God’s truth to guide them as they nurture their children in the training and admonition of the Lord (Eph 6:4). Fathers are needed who will pray with Manoah, “O my Lord, teach us what we shall do for the child” (Judges 13:8).

O Lord, give us fathers who will lead. We need fathers who willingly accept their role as leaders of their families, accepting the responsibility and the sacrifice that comes with it. These fathers are a blessing to their families (Eph 5:23; 6:4; 1 Tim 3:4).

O Lord, give us fathers who will love. We plead for fathers who fully love the Lord and who teach their children to love God (cf. Deut 6:4-9). We need fathers who love their children by correcting them in love (Heb 12:5-7). Fathers are needed who love their children’s mother and by that love show their children how to love their future spouses.

Faithful fathers deserve our honor every day: “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mothers...that it may be well with you...” (Eph 6:1-2)

Editor’s Note: Our current Sunday morning series on the home makes this article timely, though we are not in the holiday season. It will compliment Rick Clark’s lesson on “Imitating God As Parents.”

Future lessons will be “Letting the Lord Build Your House” (Jason Henley), “How To Balance Work & Family” (Jesse Fleming), “What A Christian Does When Their Spouse Fails” (David Moore), “Serving the Lord When You’re Single” (Joey Stagner, Tristian Comer, Kyle Sutton) and “Serving the Lord Without a Christian Spouse” (Dino McLaughlin). This series of lessons will continue through November 24. Pray for and thank these men who have set time aside to build us up.