

The Lakeview Lamp

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”-Psalm 119:105

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Being Reminded of What We Know

J. F. Dancer

Often after someone preaches a sermon on “first principles” or on some topic pertaining to the life of a Christian, such as giving or attendance, someone may be heard to comment, “It was the same old thing we have heard all our lives.” And it may well have been—but there is a need to hear “the same old thing” over and over again that it may become deeply implanted in our hearts.

In 2 Peter 1:12, Peter said, “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. ”Note what Peter said: (1) he was not going to neglect the teaching of certain things, (2) the people to whom he is writing had already heard (maybe many times) the things he was telling them, (3) they knew them and were (4) well-established in them. We learn things as a result of repetition. Only very seldom do we learn something the FIRST TIME we are exposed to it (or hear it). So there is a need of things to be repeated.

The person who is constantly looking for something “new” should take a good look at their reasons for such. Is it because they are so well acquainted with the “old” things that they can teach them to others without any problems? Is it that they are selfish and are always expecting the lesson to deal with a particular item in which they have a special interest?

I am not trying to justify the person who goes over the same material because he is too lazy to study (and prepare) something different. I am simply setting forth the fact that learning comes as a result of repeated exposure to various facts. Those who have had military training know there was repetition, repetition, etc., because those in authority knew it was necessary to learning. Those who are professional teachers know

this is important to learning. God knew this before man—thus Peter said he would not neglect to remind folks of what they knew. Neither can we!

“I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving.”—Psalm 69:30

“Consider What Great Things He Has Done”

Troy Nicholson

While speaking to the Israelites concerning the Lord, Samuel said, “For consider what great things He has done for you” (1 Samuel 12:24c). Do we give enough consideration to the Lord and all that He has done? Isaiah tells us that God blesses people “that they may see and know, and consider and understand together, that the hand of the Lord has done this, and the Holy One of Israel has created it” (Isa 41:20).

Moses told the people to “Consider the years of many generations” before them and how the Lord had blessed them (Deut 32:7). As part of what the people needed to consider, Samuel said, “It is the Lord who raised up Moses and Aaron, and who brought your fathers up from the land of Egypt,” and he reasoned with them “concerning all the righteous acts of the Lord...” (1 Samuel 12:6-7). Today we have even more generations to consider and see what great things God has done.

We also need to consider what the Lord will do. Jeremiah said, “The fierce anger of the Lord...will fall violently on the head of the wicked...In the latter days you will consider it” (Jeremiah 30:24). May we not be among those who wait too late to properly consider the Lord. He will destroy those who do “not consider any of His ways” (Job 34:25-27). “Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness” (Romans 11:22).

When we take the time to consider the Lord as we should, what effect will it have on our lives?

Fear Him

Samuel told the people if they would consider what the Lord had done

that they would “fear the Lord” (1 Sam 12:24a). When considering God’s greatness, Job said, “Therefore I am terrified at His presence; when I consider this, I am afraid of Him” (Job 23:15). “All men shall fear, and shall declare the work of God; for they shall wisely consider His doing” (Psalm 64:9).

Serve Him

Samuel also said that considering God’s greatness would lead the people to “serve the Lord...in truth with all your heart” (1 Sam 12:20, 24b). When they considered the great things God had done, they would realize how much they needed Him and how worthy He was of their service. David said to the Lord, “When I consider Your heavens,...what is man that You are mindful of him?” (Psalm 8:3-4). Considering the vastness of God’s creation helps to keep us humble and remind us who is really in charge. When we know who is in charge, we know who we need to serve.

When we “do not regard the work of the Lord, nor consider the operation of His hands,” we set up ourselves for failure (Isa 5:12). We need to do as Job’s friend Elihu suggested: “Stand still and consider the wondrous works of God” (Job 37:14).

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"This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it"
(Psalm 118:24).