

These Perilous Times
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“Positive Reminiscing”

Through the course of our lives there will be many significant dates and times forever etched deep in our memories-some of the experiences very pleasant, others painful.

Pleasant experiences

On April 28, 1984, I made a prayerful, personal decision and life-long commitment to serve God and was baptized. On July 3, 1985 I made a prayerful, personal decision and life-long commitment, and got married to my lovely wife.

Painful experiences

On October 7, 1978 my dad died of a massive heart attack, at the age of 56. He had given the United States government 35 years of service and after only one year of retirement passed away. He worked hard, and successfully supported a family of nine.

He served in WW II and lost one of his legs protecting our country from the threat of foreign and domestic enemies.

On Memorial day, May 30, 2009 my mom, at age 85 died after a long battle with COPD and

emphysema. My mom also served in the military during WW II as a medic-working to help, and comfort the wounded. She was also a welder in the Philadelphia ship yard, when there was a shortage of men, who were deployed over seas. My mom was a loving, dedicated mom, and hard-working house wife. She gave of her valuable time without restraint or complaint to her family, all the days of her life.

I often wonder, as I reminisce of special times spent with my parents, how might they have influenced my life differently; had both of my parents lived longer lives?

As I was looking back to those not so pleasant dates God's Holy Spirit impressed me to turn my attention to a familiar Bible text; that we as Christians, can all claim during difficult times.

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that **love God**, to them who are called according to **his purpose**.” Romans 8:28 {see also Gen. 45:4-7}

What does this mean for us?

Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season

The Bible speaks of the average length of a person's days to be “threescore and ten years or

perhaps four score if we are strong, {70-80 years} but life is soon cut off.”¹ No one looks forward to dying, but if Jesus doesn’t come soon it is inevitable for some of us. Our life as humans here on earth is very short at best!

However, God, our loving, internal Father, who controls the entire universe, from His heavenly throne room, {when the time was fulfilled},² sent His only Son Jesus to save and protect His Christian family, from the enemy of souls.³

It cost Jesus his life on a lonely cross, but His death was not in vain, He has influenced more lives than any other person in history.

Jesus died of a broken heart, because he was hated and despised by those whom he loved and came to save. Jesus, our Friend and big Brother, got the victory over death and the grave, and is alive for evermore to have a “positive influence” on those whom He loves.⁴

He wants us to show the world the influence He has had on us by following **His example**.

None of us can resurrect our departed loved ones or friends, but we can all show the world the spiritual influence our resurrected Savior has had in us, by the way we conduct our lives.

¹ Psalms 90:10

² Matt. 4:17; Rom. 5:6-8; Gal. 4:4, 5

³ John 3:16

⁴ I Cor. 15:55-59; Rev. 1:18

Christ's Commission

“After the resurrection of Christ, before He ascended to Heaven, He gave to His disciples and through them to all who should believe on His name to the end of time, this commission: ‘Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature...’⁵

“Jesus emptied Himself, and in all that He did self did not appear. He subordinated all things to the will of His Father. When His mission on earth was about to close, He could say, ‘I have glorified thee on the earth, I have finished the work which You gave Me to do.’⁶

And He bids us, ‘Learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart. If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself.’⁷

The next time you decide to reminisce causing you to feel melancholy about some ‘not so pleasant’ experiences, you cannot change-look back to the cross that changed everything!



⁵ E. G. White. Advent Review and Sabbath Herald, Vol. 55, No. 24, Battle Creek, Mich., Thursday, June 10, 1880.

⁶ John 17:4

⁷ Matt. 11:29; 16:24; E. G. White. Thoughts From The Mount of Blessing, pp. 14, 15.