



Memories!

Last-Saturday-in-February Meeting: 2025
Caleb Speer, John Buttrey, Scott Young

Speaker for Today
 Thank you, Alexis Brown

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
 Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
 Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Website:
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Preacher: Vacant

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Indio Informer

Vol. 36 No.9
 March 2, 2025

***"Trust in the Lord with all
 your heart and do not lean on
 your own understanding."***

Proverb 3:5

- ***"Fight the good fight"***
- ***"Keep the faith"***
- ***"Finish the course"***

Lost and Found

By Bruce Evans



The cupboards were “festooned” with post-it notes in the kitchen and bathrooms. In the hallway more notes could be seen attached to closet doors. Even still, she struggled with where things were and where things went. Sadly, some days she was so confused/forgetful she had to be directed as to where her bedroom was located. It was heart breaking to be sure. At one time, not so long ago her mental acuity was intact, but now she had to be watched constantly for her own well-being. So, when it was discovered that she wasn’t to be found anywhere in the house and had somehow gotten outside, panic ensued. An immediate search began, some on foot and her grandson set out in his car. They canvased the entire neighborhood. Calls were made to neighbors asking if she had been seen, and to keep a look out for her. The

weather was crisp and the longer the search went on, the depth of concern was noticeable. The search area expanded. Finally, after what seemed to be an “eternity” she was spotted. She was disoriented and weeping, but thankfully she was safe.

This precious one was lost but found. It brings to mind the teaching of Jesus as seen in Luke the fifteenth chapter. The Pharisees were once again grumbling over what Jesus was doing, whereupon He then presented to them the parable of the lost sheep. *“What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture, and go after the one which is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”*

Remembering back to this event, I can recall the phone call that was made informing me (as well as a host of others) that this woman had been found. What a sense of relief and then true joy over receiving such wonderful news. This woman suffered from advanced dementia at the very least, but while not meaning any disrespect we can use her as an example to present a powerful spiritual truth.

Jude in his epistle made the following observation, *“save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.”* (v 23) He saw that within the household of faith there were those who had wandered away, disoriented, confused and in need of being brought back to safety. Peter on his part wrote, *“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”* (2 Peter 3:9) Indeed we have a responsibility to seek out all that are lost.

“Then He said to his disciples, The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” (Matthew 9:37-38) What joy it is when another beloved one is found and brought back to the loving Shepherd. The word of the old hymn rings so true, *“Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me, I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.”* No confusion, no distortion; clarity. Loved, cared for and protected. Lost but found!

Focus

By Andrew Beasley

Leaving the past behind frequently is among the greatest challenges a Christian may face. I imagine for the Apostle Paul, leaving the memories of his former life behind were a challenge as well. Think, for a moment, of what Saul of Tarsus was guilty of. He is the authority figure responsible for the murder of Stephen (Acts 8:1) as well as for the persecution of countless other Christians (Acts 8:3). It would be no surprise if his past actions weighed heavily on his soul. Yet as a Christian he recognized the significance of leaving that all in the past.

In the same way, we cannot dwell on the former things either. Sometimes Christians are guilty of romanticizing the life that they used to live. Others are guilty of allowing the disappointments of their past to become stumbling blocks for their future. Paul seems to recognize the significance in leaving the glorification of our past, or the wallowing in sorrow over our past, behind and instead focusing on what matters: Christ, and the prize that accompanies following Him. Just a few verses earlier Paul said he desired to know Christ, the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His suffering that he might attain the resurrection from the dead (Philippians 3:10-11).

One thing Paul did, and one thing we must do, is focus on what lies ahead. Focus on the goal of going home to heaven. In order to do so, we must leave the past in the past.