

Remembering our Way to Victory

It is the New Year and Americans are being bombarded with the usual chatter about forgetting what happened in 2014. We are being told to “shake it off.” “Make new plans.” “Turn over a new leaf.”

But like most “Holiday Wishes” and New Year’s Resolutions”, most of the talk seems to ring hollow in a culture that is spinning out of control. Could it be that simply forgetting our problems from last year and moving on may not change things? In fact, could it be that if we are to have real hope for the future, we must not forget but *remember* the past?

The idea of forgetting the past is certainly not a Christian idea. Christianity doesn’t rest on mystical rites or rituals, but calls all people everywhere to remember all that has happened in the past. The Bible, the Word from God to His ultimate creation, man and woman, is predominantly filled with history. In fact, the Old Testament is the primary source for anyone, including atheist archeologists, to know what happened in the ancient world.

And most importantly, Christianity is grounded in the historical birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of the real historical person, Jesus Christ. All of human history is divided by His life, B.C. and A.D. All the sermons in the book of Acts, are historical sermons, calling all people to repent based upon God’s wonderful deeds in history. The great hope for this coming year is not in the

creation of a new widget or government program to save us. Our real hope is in remembering the unchanging biblical principles of the ages that have been the bedrock of all moral and just civilizations. As Dr. Peter Hammond says, “The Bible has inspired the greatest literature, the greatest art, the greatest examples of architecture, the age of exploration, world missions, the rule of law, the separation of powers, checks and balances,

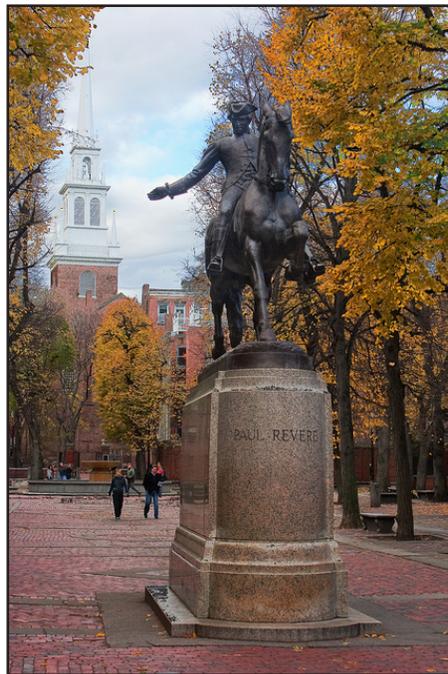
representative government, the sanctity of human life, and so much more that we take for granted.”

If we are losing some of the great blessings mentioned above, and we are, then doesn’t great hope lie in remembering how the Christians of the past built these liberating institutions and accomplishments and then follow their example and rebuild on their legacy?

That is exactly what Jesus Christ taught the rebellious church at Ephesus in Rev. 2:5. He said, “*Remember* from where you have fallen, *Repent* and *Repeat* the deeds you did at first.” Christ’s answer for a rebellious church or to a wayward nation in trial is the same.

Real restoration, according to Jesus begins, not with forgetting, but with *remembering*.

The people who want us to forget the past are those who are running from history into their own unreality, like the founder of communism, Karl Marx. Marx was trying to convince a Christian Europe of the 19th Century to accept his



A time capsule was discovered this month by "chance" that had been buried by Paul Revere in 1795. Could this be a reminder to remember?!

utopian, violent views. These views included the forced redistribution of wealth through class warfare. Marx envisioned a coming world war in which an entire class of people would be “righteously” exterminated worldwide by the “dictatorship of the proletariat.” The two world wars of the 20th century, which devastated Europe and emptied the churches, fulfilled his vision.

Centuries before Marx, a Christian Europe had experienced the impact of biblical principles which led to the creation of modern science, the industrial revolution, the beginning of civil freedom and prosperity as never before seen in history. How did Marx and a small cadre of fellow reprobates in the next generation, convince most Europeans to give up this heritage? Why would they abandon fifteen hundred years of Christian progress for a “lollypop village”? Marx declared the first step in his strategy to destroy Christendom with these words. “The first battlefield is the re-writing of history.”

In other words Marx and his followers had to clear the “main frame” of the minds of the people from their true history. And then their task was to communicate a false narrative of the past that debunked the truths and benefits of Christianity. Marx called religion the “opiate of the people” and attempted to supplant the impact of the Bible with his own supposed “moral high ground” by claiming to stand for the poor and against the powerful.

Sadly, the anti-Christian, distorted view of history of Marx and the social progressives who

followed in his footsteps made its way into the history classrooms in schools all over Europe . . . and then on to America. The Millennial Generation has been inundated with this historical revisionism due to the lack of oversight and involvement by parents, pastors and many Christian educators. This helps to explain why most Millennials have grown up expecting that the welfare state will feed and clothe them through the “lollypop village” of the forced redistribution of wealth.

What is the solution to our cultural freefall? We have painted ourselves into a corner like the children of Israel under King Jehoshaphat in II Chronicles 20. Outnumbered and encircled by their enemies, the Hebrews finally turned back to God. As Jehoshaphat said to God, “We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.” As God’s people repented and followed God’s instructions, The Lord then destroyed their enemies by turning them on one another in their own camp leaving God’s people safe and untouched. Like the Hebrews, our problem is not our enemies but our need to turn back to God and His ways.

We, as believers, as ambassadors of the true Ruler of the nations, have the God who rules history leading our victorious cause. **Covenant keepers win and covenant breakers lose.** That is the great message of history that we can remember and dwell upon as we enter this New Year. God says it best. “. . . *Know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments. . .*” Deuteronomy 7:9

-Dr. Marshall Foster