

Records Do Not Lie

Events often take place in our lives that should be recorded. Mental recordings are O.K., but often fail with time. However something written down or filmed can make events, and the circumstances surrounding them, have a timeless impact.

I recently watched a documentary on the murder of John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963. The purpose of the broadcast was to look at all the film taken in Dealy Plaza on the day in Dallas, Texas when many say America lost her innocence. Photos, as well as video, taken by spectators that day were examined in the hour long special. Three dimensional models were produced to show the angles of every available picture, along with detailed analysis of each. Efforts were made to see if Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the shooting, or if Kennedy's death was a conspiracy. At the end of the report, all the pictures and video were put together in chronological time leading up to the now famous Abraham Zapruder film of the actual, and very graphic, shooting of the nations thirty-fifth president. It was a remarkable process and documentation of the event.

How important it is to be able to see how things actually happened, and be able to learn from them. Paul said, "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope," Romans 15:4 (ESV). The entire Bible, though filled with directives for mankind, is a veritable treasure trove of information linking the past with the present.

Sadly, many miss the value of examining and re-examining the events of the past because they are "too busy" living in the present and thinking about the future. Yet, present living and future considerations are fraught with pot-holes of struggle that could be avoided with a ready knowledge of events of the past.

What was God thinking when He had all the events of the past recorded? The Psalmist summed it up this way, "Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet to be created may praise the Lord," Psalm 102:18 (ESV). God has given humanity a marvelous record of events of the past. Blunders, trials, conflicts, and successes have been endured and experienced by thousands of people that you need to examine, and by which to be enriched and enabled to praise the Lord.

When we do not continue to examine the records as they happened, we place ourselves in a position where we can be influenced to believe lies. It may be hard to believe, but there are some real shysters out there who make statements about what God wants without having scriptural documentation to prove their assertions as being right or wrong. Well meaning and good hearted people will sometime accept those assertions because of an emotionally based feeling that people in leadership roles would not willingly stir anyone wrong. That is why the church is being led so easily by some who say that the church of Christ has been wrong for years about Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage, or

about Instrumental Music, or about fellowship with denominations. People do not check THE Record! Remember: Just because a preacher says something is true, does not make it true!

Was there a second shooter behind the fence on the grassy knoll? With the evidence and technology now available to examine it, no one can know for certain. Theories are advanced with great certainty on the part of those who make them, but the evidence available leave undeniable conclusions impossible. Just because professionals say their assertions are solid do not make them so.

The Bible does answer empty emotion laden ascertains with the truth! But who is brave enough to "Let God be true though everyone were a liar?" Romans 3:4 (ESV). Search the Record! Study the Word! Research the evidence! Know the Book of books so that you may be able to "withstand in the evil day," Ephesians 6:18.

—Scott