

Bermudian Church of the Brethren

WEDNESDAY'S WORD – a midweek thought from Pastor Larry M. Dentler
to share a word of inspiration ... encouragement ... challenge ... a smile ... in the middle of your week
February 28 in the year of our Lord 2018 - #730

The Season of Lent 2018 – Life Among The Thorns

Remembering Billy...

I'm sure you are aware that we lost a "giant" in the Body of Christ last week ... Brother Billy Graham. His crusade ministry, his teaching, his writing ... have touched and helped the lives of millions of people through the years. And many are believers today because of the ministry of Billy Graham. A few years ago Cathy & I had the wonderful privilege to visit The Billy Graham Library in Charlotte. Amazing. If you ever have the opportunity, don't miss it! Billy Graham leaves some "shoes" that I'm not sure I see anyone filling today. But he was not perfect ... human & frail like each of us ... and he was completely honest about that.

1. He was an absent father, leaving most of the child rearing to his dear wife Ruth, he often spoke of how ashamed he felt of not fulfilling that primary responsibility, and how very thankful he was for Ruth's ministry with their children. He often said that all the credit for their children went to Ruth!
2. He moved among presidents and was an advisor to many of them. But sometimes he got just a little too "cozy" in those powerful circles and he admitted to be trying to "please" when he was caught on tape with Richard Nixon in 1972 making some rather ugly anti-Semitic comments. He deeply regretted his words and repented. A big enough man to be honest about his sin!
3. Later in his life Billy regretted not speaking out more strongly against war and violence. He had the ear of the nation and its leaders and missed the opportunity to speak out for Christ's peace.

On the other hand, no matter how the media wished they could find negativity in his ministry, he lived an exemplary life. Careful with money, careful with relationships, and careful with lifestyle. So many of our "big names" in Christianity today could take some lessons from Billy Graham! Billy Graham encouraged! Gave hope! Comforted! Stood against racism! Wasn't afraid to challenge religious power structures even in his denomination! Called people to the authority of Scripture! Won souls!

Let's remember today some great quotes from his books. Read, reflect & remember.

ON THE CENTRALITY OF THE BIBLE

"The very practice of reading the Bible will have a purifying effect upon your mind and heart. Let nothing take the place of this daily exercise." *Peace With God*

ON GOD'S HOLINESS

"Don't take the holiness of God lightly, for it is the essence of His character." *The Journey*

ON PRAYER

"Heaven is full of answers to prayer for which no one ever bothered to ask!" *Till Armageddon*

ON GOD'S GRACE

"The motive of grace is the infinite compassionate love of a merciful God, but the work of grace was the death of Christ on the cross." *Unto The Hills*

ON THE CROSS

"The cross shows the seriousness of sin – but it also shows the immeasurable love of God."

Billy Graham, Wisdom For Each Day

ON TRUTH

"Because truth is unpopular does not mean that it should not be proclaimed."

Calling Youth To Christ

ON CHRISTIAN LIVING

"Submission ... involves getting rid of everything which hinders God's control over our lives."

Day By Day

ON JESUS' TEACHINGS

"Every word that Jesus spoke was historically true. Every word that He spoke was scientifically true. Every word that He spoke was ethically true. There were no loopholes in the moral conceptions and statements of Jesus. His ethical vision was wholly correct, correct in the age in which He lived and correct in every age that has followed it." *Peace With God*

ON KNOWING GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIVES

"If you are ignorant of God's Word, you will always be ignorant of God's will." *The Journey*

ON SUCCESS

"Our job in life is not to be successful, but to be faithful." *Hope For The Troubled Heart*

ON SIN

"We all have a terminal disease far worse than cancer that will kill us morally and spiritually. It's called sin." *Billy Graham: God's Ambassador*

ON SALVATION

"God doesn't say to be perfect and you'll get to heaven. He says to confess that you're a sinner and come to the cross, and whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." *Billy Graham London Crusade*

Oh my ... I could go on and on. But perhaps these tidbits will give you some reflection today for your journey. When I think of the life of our Brother Billy Graham I think of that familiar verse from the Old Testament prophet, Micah.

“The Lord has told you what is good. He has told you what He wants from you: Do what is right to other people. Love being kind to others. And live humbly, trusting your God.” Micah 6:8 ICB

Lord, thank you for the life & ministry of Your servant, Billy Graham. May his faithfulness inspire us on our journeys of faith! Pastor Larry <><