

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

SOME THINGS THAT HAPPEN ONCE

John Edwards

There are some things that happen only once. Let's take a look at some one-time happenings catalogued in the Scriptures.

THE GREAT FLOOD. The great flood of the Old Testament was sent by God to destroy all flesh from the earth (Gen. 6:13-17). The Lord promised, “...*the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh*” (Gen. 9:15).

MAN’S EARTH LIFE. Man only lives once! The Psalmist penned, “*The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away*” (Ps. 90:10).

PHYSICAL DEATH. Death is a separation. Physical death is when the spirit separates from the body (Jas. 2:26). The Hebrew writer stated, “...*it is appointed unto men once to die...*” (Heb. 9:27). Physical death will come only once. Are you ready?

THE SACRIFICE FOR SINS. The sacrifice of Jesus for sins was a one-time thing. “*So Christ was once offered to bear*

the sins of many...” (Heb. 9:28). Also, “...*we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all*” (Heb. 10:10). Under the law, a sacrifice for sins was made every year (Heb. 10:3). Christ died once for all time!

THE FAITH DELIVERED. Jude exhorted, “...*earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints*” (Jude 3). The faith has been delivered once for all! Once a thing has been delivered, it does not need to be re-delivered! God has revealed all the truth!

TRIBUTES TO THE BIBLE

George Washington: “Above all, the pure and benign light of Revelation has had a meliorating influence on mankind, and increased the blessings of society.”

Thomas Jefferson: “I always have said, and always will say, that the studious perusal of the Sacred Volume will make better citizens, better fathers, better husbands.”

Zachary Taylor: “It was for the love of the truths of this great book that our fathers abandoned their native shore for the wilderness.”

Abraham Lincoln: “I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. Take all of this book upon reason that you can and the balance by faith, and you will live and die a better man.”

Ulysses S. Grant: “Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet anchor of your liberties; write its precepts on your hearts and practice them in your lives. To the influence of this book we are indebted for the progress made, and to this we must look as our guide in the future.”

Woodrow Wilson: “A man has deprived himself of the best there is in the world who has deprived himself of this (a knowledge of the Bible).”

Calvin Coolidge: “The foundations of our society and of our government rest so much on the teachings of the Bible, that it would be difficult to support them, if faith in these teachings should cease to be practically universal in our country.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt: “I believe that all the differences that rend the world today would find speedy solution if men and nations would but return in all humility to the plain teaching of the Sermon on the Mount. There, indeed, are the truths that set men free.”

Benjamin Franklin:

“Young man, my advice to you is that you cultivate an acquaintance with, and a firm belief in, the Holy Scriptures. This is your certain interest.”

Sir Isaac Newton: “We account the Scriptures of God to be the most sublime philosophy. I find more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history whatever.”

General Douglas MacArthur: “Believe me, sir, never a night goes by, be I ever so tired, but I read the Word of God before I go to bed.”

General Robert E. Lee: “The Bible is a book in comparison with which all others in my eyes are of minor importance, and which in all my perplexities and distresses has never failed to give me light and strength.”

WONDERFUL PLACES TO PUT YOUR MIND

John Edwards

It matters where we put our mind! The wise man said, “*For as he thinketh in his heart, so is*

he...” (Prov. 23:7). Our thoughts are made up of what we hear and see. What we put in our mind will eventually come out in what we say and do. Paul said, “*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things*” (Phil. 4:8). Here are some wonderful places to put the mind:

TRUE THINGS. A lot of what we hear and see today is false. We must be careful lest we be described as “*...men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth...*” (1 Tim. 6:5). Put your mind in the word of God as it is “*...true from the beginning...*” (Ps. 119:160).

HONEST THINGS. Many put their minds in dishonorable places. We should think on things that are worthy of respect and reverence. “*God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him*” (Ps. 89:7).

JUST THINGS. Do we think on things agreeable to justice and law? Much of what is promoted today is unrighteous. The Lord “*...blesseth the habitation of the just*” (Prov. 3:33).

PURE THINGS. We are charged to keep self pure (1 Tim. 5:22). This begins with pure thoughts. Jesus said, “*Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God*” (Mt. 5:8). Paul wrote, “*Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled*” (Titus 1:15).

LOVELY THINGS. The mind should be set on that which is pleasing and exhibits love toward all. “*Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives...*” (2 Sam. 1:23). Does that describe us? We need to abound in love toward all men (1 Th. 3:12).

REPUTABLE THINGS. There are actions which are regarded as virtues. The Christian should be a pattern in them all (Titus 2:7). If we want a good reputation, then we must think on things of good report!

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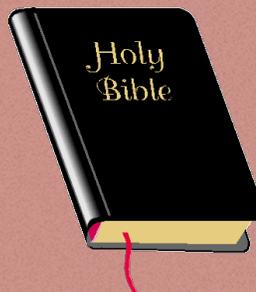
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