THINKING ON THINGS OF YESTERDAY

Deuteronomy 32:7-11

 Moses encouraged the people to remember the days of old. He said to ask the elders concerning the days of old to see what God had done in their lives. I think that is good advice for us. We miss much of that by not visiting as we used to. We miss a lot by not having that front porch time of just talking and hearing the stories of the old times in our churches. Moses encouraged the people to once again hear the story of the founding of Israel by the hand of God. He had found them in a howling wilderness but had led them, instructed them and kept them as the apple of his eye.

 We need the same remembrance of the Church. It is important to remember that we have been bought with a price. Jesus blood has been shed on Calvary’s Cross to purchase our redemption. Every member of this glorious church was a sinner deep in sin until Jesus lifted us from sin and set our feet on a solid rock. That Rock is Jesus! So this Church that did not exist, now is alive and thriving because of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

 It is good for us to be reminded of the beginnings of our local churches also. I recall while I was at Twenty-Fifth Avenue that they would tell of how a group of believers met in a man’s carpenter shop to worship and later organized as Twenty-Fifth Avenue Baptist Church. That man’s son was still a member there when I pastored at Twenty-Fifth. It was good for us to see where God had found them; how he had led them; how he had instructed them and kept them as the apple of his eye.

 The first two churches I pastored, early records had been destroyed by fire, or other things, so that there were no records of how the churches were organized. No one was alive that could tell how the churches were started. Through the generations there wasn’t enough interest to ask or seek about the churches beginnings. There is something missing when we do not know how God found them; how he led them; and how he had always instructed them and kept them as the apple of his eye.

 In 1929, seventeen people met in a home and prayerfully decided to establish a church which was organized as Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church. What a blessing to see how God found us, led us, instructed us and has kept us as the apple of his eye! Let us treasure our history for it is God at work. To God be the glory! Great things he hath done!

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram