



INFO

Words From The Path.

I was talking this past week with a friend about the good old days and how kids today just don't know what they missed. I attended public school in the middle of the previous century. (That alone makes me sound old!) So we are talking over a half century ago. And yes, things were different, and yes, I long for those days when life was at a much slower and much easier pace. When I attended elementary and high school, there were some very serious discipline problems. We got into trouble for all the major crimes. These were such egregious offenses such as, talking, chewing gum, making noise, running in the halls, getting out of turn in line, wearing improper clothes, and not putting paper into wastebaskets. These were all mis-demeanors by today's standards, but nevertheless, they carried penalties that at the time seemed to be life-threatening. There were also the felony crimes that took place. Putting a tack in the teachers chair or putting a garter snake in her desk drawer. I never committed one of these crimes because I knew for sure that for the one that got caught, the electric chair would be awaiting.

At the time these problems seemed catastrophic, especially when cousins and classmates 'ratted us out' and told our parents the things that transpired during that particular school day. There were times that I would have welcomed the electric chair. At least, I would have been able to sit down. Not so after facing my parents for a crime committed. Sitting down would not happen without some discomfort for several days.

From what I know about life today in schools, the problems faced by teachers and parents are much more complicated. In modern society as opposed to the good old days, students, teachers and parents deal with such things as drug and alcohol abuse, pregnancy, teen suicide, rape, robbery, assault and guns in the school. I think back of how frightened I was at times at the school bully who only talked the talk! I never tested him to see if he could walk the walk! But today, children may carry a gun or knife to school and shoot or stab one of their classmates or a teacher. How things have changed in 50 years. Also this week I heard a report that said 95 percent of high school and college students cheat on exams. That number has risen greatly over the past 50 years I'm sure, but today there are so many sophisticated ways to cheat on an exam. If I could have had access to an I-Phone or Blackberry, I could have been at least aC+ student! (Maybe!)

So how good were the good old days? Well, that would be contingent on which good old days we would be talking about! Let's go back in time not fifty years, but over 2000 years; the era when the disciples were beginning to spread the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ to a world in desperate need of good news. It seems that this would have been an especially exciting time to be alive and be a Christian. But how good were the good old days for a follower of Christ?

Well, let's begin by looking at

By Pastor Ben Murphy

the lives of the first two disciples chosen by Jesus, namely, Andrew and Peter.

Andrew was the brother of the afore mentioned and more well known, Simon Peter. Andrew seemed to take to heart immediately the marching orders of Jesus to go and make disciples. In Matthew 28:19 & 20 we read what we now call, The Great Commission. Jesus said, *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

Andrew and his followers began to go and minister all about the Roman Empire, but the Roman Governor, Aegeus, began to sense that this small group of men was gathering followers throughout his domain. Aegeus persuaded the Roman Senate to force all Christians to sacrifice and give worship to Roman idols. Andrew went before Aegeus and defied the orders vowing to bow to no one save Jesus The Christ! He was ordered not to preach that Jesus was the Son of God or he would be immediately put to death by way of crucifixion. Andrew replied, *"I would not have preached the honor and glory of the cross if I feared the death of the cross!"*

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INFO GUEST COLUMN

By Robin Dotson

“Seven Things To Do”

Newsletter

Articles or information to be published in the Newsletter are due by the third Sunday of the month. Please submit to the church office.

Singers and Musicians

If you are on the monthly music schedule to sing and find you cannot do so, it is your responsibility to find a replacement. Please notify the church office of such a change. Our thanks to each of you who serve.

—The Ministries & Programming Council

When There Is A Death In The Family

If there is a death in your immediate family, (Parent, Sibling, Spouse, Child,) or in the family of a church member, please notify a member of the Benevolence Committee (listed below) so the church may send flowers and for food preparation when applicable.

—The Benevolence Committee

Mona Orr—Chair

Phyllis Belcher

Sue Ellen Fleming

Diania Murphy

Diana Mullins

I consider myself blessed to be able to work with and influence young people through coaching.

Perhaps the greatest coach of all time was Hall of Fame coach John Wooden, who died in 2010 just four months shy of his 100th birthday. He led UCLA's men's basketball team to 10 national championships, including an astonishing seven straight from 1967 to 1973, a stretch that included 88 consecutive victories. That's how he's *most* remembered. But perhaps he'll be *best* remembered as a mentor, a friend, a loving husband and father, and a source of endless wisdom and grace to hundreds of players, thousands of coaches, and millions of fans and admirers through the decades and around the world. Wooden has long said that his wisdom came primarily from two sources—his earthly father, Joshua Wooden, and from his heavenly Father.

Wooden, a devout Christian, read his Bible daily. His favorite passage was [1 Corinthians 13](#)—truths he especially embraced since the death of Nellie, his wife of 53 years, on March 21, 1985. Wooden often spoke

of the wisdom attained from his father: “When I graduated from our little three-room grade school in Centerton, Indiana, I got dressed up in clean overalls for the big event. My dad gave me something that day that would shape my entire life: my work, my marriage, my goals, my philosophy. It was a card on which he had written a few guidelines. I still carry it with me. On one side of the card, Dad had written out his creed. At the top of the paper, it said ‘Seven Things to Do.’”

Those seven things were:

1. Be true to yourself.
2. Help others.
3. Make each day your masterpiece.
4. Drink deeply from good books, especially the Bible.
5. Make friendship a fine art.
6. Build a shelter against a rainy day.
7. Pray for guidance and give thanks for your blessings every day.

Wooden would go on to expand on his dad's seven points, building his own famous *Pyramid of Suc-*

cess, a “blueprint,” so to speak, for living a life of excellence. Wooden defined success as “peace of mind which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming.”

Wooden's players were the recipients of countless words of wisdom that went on to become somewhat famous Wooden-isms, quotes that were practically a book of proverbs themselves. Three of my favorites are:

“Basketball is not the ultimate. It is of small importance in comparison to the total life we live. There is only one kind of life that truly wins, and that is the one that places faith in the hands of the Savior. Until that is done, we are on an aimless course that runs in circles and goes nowhere.”

“Material possessions, winning scores, and great reputations are meaningless in the eyes of

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Andrew was immediately sentenced to die! As he neared the cross he spoke these words: *“O cross, most welcome and longed for. With a willing mind, joyfully and desirously I come to you, being a student of Him which did hang on you, because I have always been your lover and yearned to embrace you.”*

Then, it was during the reign of Nero that Andrew’s brother, Peter died during the persecutions. Legend has it that Peter at first escaped with the help of the brethren. But as he walked through the city gates, in an image he saw Jesus walking towards him. Peter said, *“Lord, where are you going?”* Jesus replied, *“To be crucified again.”* Peter immediately turned and returned to his captors. As we know, he asked for and was granted permission to be crucified upside-down because he felt himself

unworthy to die the same death as Jesus.

The Apostle Paul also suffered at the hands of Nero. Nero sent two men to seize Paul. The two soldiers arrested Paul and led him from the city and beheaded him. But before Paul died, both guards were converted. Their names were Ferega and Parthimius and of them we know nothing else.

Were these the good old days? Well I don’t know but I know for sure that most of us complain about the weather and make it an excuse often to miss worship services for Christ Jesus. We get a headache and can’t possibly motivate ourselves to go to church on Sunday, but come Monday morning, the miracle of missing church somehow has repaired us in time for work or school. Often

the slightest little aggravation causes us to stray away from our daily Christian walk.

I wonder: are we doing all that we can for Jesus, or would we like for him to come and be crucified all over again? Maybe we need a special visit in an image such as Peter had before we can really be serious about living for Jesus. Maybe that would help us to be more excited about worshipping him!

I would not be surprised that if in my lifetime, these good old days do return where we are persecuted for our beliefs. Should that happen, are we willing to take up the cross for his sake? Are we willing as Christians to *stay on the path with Jesus?*

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the Lord, because He knows what we really are and that is all that matters.”

“There are many things that are essential to arriving at true peace of mind, and one of the most important is faith, which cannot be acquired without prayer.”

In today’s microwave society, many of us in the coaching profession are judged solely by the wins and losses. But what too many lose sight of is that for true success, you must build on a strong foundation, which begins with our faith. John Wooden stood the test of time by building a foundation for success that was centered on his faith in Christ. He never talked to his teams about winning, but won more championships than any other college coach in history. He was adamant that if you

did things the right way that the wins and losses would take care of themselves. Each of Wooden’s “Seven Things to Do” were built on God’s word to us.

What are your “Seven Things to Do”?

Editors Note:

Robin Dotson is a lifelong member of WFCHOG. In the church he is a part of the usher team. He is and has been the head coach of the J.J. Kelley (Now Central Warriors) Girls Basketball team as well as a business education instructor. He and wife Karen have two children, Matt and Sarah.



August 17th

Adventure Club & Youth will begin

Annual Church Picnic
at Camp Bethel
August 28th
3:00 - 7:00 p.m.



Sunday School

Mandy Houston was the winner for the Sunday School attendance drawing for the month of May!

Congratulations Mandy!



During the month of

August

we will continue to collect

School Supplies: Pens, Pencils and Sharpener, Crayons or Markers, Paper or Writing Pads, Solar Calculators, Coloring and Picture Books, etc.