

THE VALUE OF THE TWO-WAY LOOK

Mendell Taylor

". . . as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee; I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of a good courage." (Josh. 1:5-6)

The month of January on the calendar was named for the Roman god, Janus. He was known as the gate god, and an image of him was placed at the entrance gate of each city. The reason Janus received such honor was because he had two faces. This meant that he could see in two directions at the same time.

In the first month of January we need to take a two-way look so we can have a proper appreciation of the past and a bright outlook for the future.

I. THE TWO-WAY LOOK WILL GIVE US THE ASSURANCE OF HIS PRESENCE. "As I was with Moses, so will I be with thee." As He accompanied those of the past in doing exploits, He lets us know that He will be just as near to us as He was to them.

One of the most important pieces of equipment for driving our car safely forward is the rear-view mirror. It gives us a chance to observe what is behind us so we can determine the procedure for moving ahead. In the same measure we need to take inventory of what is behind us by way of the Lord's doings so we can move forward with full confidence of His accompanying presence.

II. THE TWO-WAY LOOK GIVES US THE ASSURANCE OF CONTINUING PROGRESS. "I will not fail thee." When the Lord is our Partner we can make our plans big. He can do anything but fail.

One of the favorite water sports today is operating a sailboat. This conveys an important lesson. The spread of the sails must be balanced by the ballast on board the vessel. If there is too much spread of the sails without enough ballast, the boat topples over. If there is too much ballast and not enough spread of the sails, there is no progress.

In the spiritual realm the ballast furnished ^{by} up the acts of God in history lets us know how the broad we

^{spread} can set our sails for future advancement.

III. THE TWO-WAY LOOK GIVES US THE ASSURANCE OF ADEQUATE PROVISION. "Be strong and of good courage." The Lord has proven again and again that He has enough power to make His servants irresistible in doing incredible deeds for Him, and dauntless in their courage to tackle the impossible.

One of the vital lessons learned from looking at the God of Moses, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Augustine, Luther, Wesley and Bresee is to discover that little is much when God is in it. They worked on the principle of engaging in the extraordinary by letting God be God. As we face the future, we can say, "When God guides, God provides."

In this first month of the New Year let us take inventory of what is in our past so we can plan for the future. Let us take inventory of our heritage so we can pass something invaluable to our posterity. Let us focus our attention on our hindsight, so we can refine the priorities of our foresight.

LOOKING AHEAD

January 18 -- ⁴luncheon/meeting. Marilyn Olson, President of SNU Alumni Association, will introduce the EnDow Fund plan the Association is sponsoring.

Make your reservations before 10 a.m. Friday, the 15th. Call Elbert (789-6400, x6578--office, 789-7645--home) or Vada Lee (787-4351).

February 15 -- ⁴luncheon/meeting. Prof. Ray Moore will present the program. Hymnology is one of his specialties.

March 22 -- ⁴luncheon/meeting. Program to be announced.

April 19 -- ⁴luncheon. Annual meeting.

WHITHER BOUND

So many of you have expressed an interest in travel that I am including several items from The Travel Center Update:

June 15-29, 1993--14 day full escorted Scandinavian Tour with Globus Gateway sponsored by Travel Center and Milton Sonnevik. See Milton for details.

July 20-30, 1993--Nazarene General Assembly in Indianapolis. Make your flight reservations EARLY.

January 15-22, 1994--7 nite Caribbean Cruise hosted by Bro. Sam Stearman and Dr. Ponder Gililand for "Nazarenes and Friends." Call the Travel Center (789-7716) for brochure. Brother Sam will probably be here for our January 18th meeting.

At our January meeting we will schedule a time to meet and organize the Travels Interest Group.

THANKS

The gift certificates to Queen Anne's cafeteria provided two delightful dinners with friends during the holidays. Thanks for your generous outpouring of your love and appreciation. You're a congenial group to work with. It's an honor to be your president.

SNU SCHOOL OF MUSIC UPCOMING EVENTS

January 25	Jodi Miller, Faculty Soprano 8:00 p.m. Cantrell Hall
February 1	Canadian Brass 8:00 p.m. Putnam City North
February 5,6	Songs of Romance, Univ. Singers 7:30 p.m. Cantrell Hall
February 25	The Debussy Trio 8:00 p.m. Cantrell Hall

PROBLEM-SOLVING TECHNIQUES

1. Define the Problem
2. Generate Possible Solutions
3. Evaluate the Solutions
4. Decide which Solution is best
5. Determine how to implement the Decision
6. Assess how well the Solution solved the Problem