



August 28, 2009

Dear Friends:

THE SAME OLD SONG

The boys and I were watching one of the old Churchill/WW2 newsreels on the History Channel when I launched into one of those obligatory parental, "Back in the day" speeches about folks getting their news from those newsreel reports at the movie theaters. They weren't listening. Geoff's thumbs were blazing across his Blackberry and Tyler was equally engrossed checking out the Yankees game with the new baseball app on his iTouch gizmo.

Closer to my remembrance, it wasn't that long ago that we had to wait until 5:30 each evening for Huntley and Brinkley to tell us if Khrushchev or Castro had landed in Picayune yet.

Today, our news and information is instant and at our finger tips. In fact, CNN was waiting for our soldiers on enemy shores (guess they felt at home), as they landed for the Gulf War and we watched in our living rooms.

Weather wise, I also remember huddling around the black and white TV, with the rabbit ears and the pliers to change the channels, waiting for Nash Roberts, with trusty grease pen in hand, to warn us about Hurricane Betsy. (Linda was only three then). Now I check the US Weather Service radar at my desk to see if it's raining on the Causeway. At times though, I still think 'ole Nash might have been more accurate.

Our boys are in a different world that doesn't relate to the Cleavers or Ozzie and Harriet. Tyler has never used a pay phone and they both make fun of my picture on my old vinyl records. Thank God I didn't have any 8 tracks; they would have had a field day with such primitive technology. And, although they both have internet, iPods, PlayStations and 125 channels in their rooms, once in awhile, they have the nerve to act bored.

I'm not here to moan about all those changes. In fact, I really enjoy the blessings and progress of today but, you have to admit, ain't nobody gonna be humming today's Top 40 in 20 years.

With all of the great changes and inventions, you'd think that our lives and our world would mirror the progress of technology thus making us all joyfully happy. NOT!

Intertwined in this thought is the old, "The more things change, the more they are the same" adage. This is especially true regarding the journey of carnal man and his depraved folly. Smart man, without the boundaries and the core compass of the Word might say, "Smart" when he looks in the mirror but the "Spirit of Stupid" (I think Paul preached about that) is hovering just above the whiz kid.

Face it, a laptop, iPhone, electric car and a GPS might signal inventive progress but it hasn't done anything to dispute the ancient but accurate words of Moses, Solomon, David, Paul and all the Holy Bible boyz. Their words need no updating or rebooting. Just a few of the things we have witnessed in the last few months makes my point...our "thinking" is out of whack.

The economy continues to tank with unemployment doubling in just six months and the weekly upward revising of the deficit (Now running to 9 Trillion) gets more wretched by the day. So, what do we do? We reappoint the Federal Reserve Chairman for another term. Wasn't this one of the guys, appointed by the last President, who was at the throttle as the Economic Engine careened off the tracks? It reminds me of the FEMA guy being told he was doing a good job while a bunch of us down here were still swimming in the streets and eating MRE's.

In another fun topic, Michael Vick is back on the field and emotions seem much more intense on this subject than of the intentional scheme to dismantle our country.

First off, what Michael Vick did was reprehensible. Deep seated emotional issues must be addressed and he needs direction along with a supernatural touch from God. He did the time prescribed by the law and deserves a right to

ply his trade. If he were a plumber or electrician, he'd be allowed to go back to work. On a positive note, I was pleased to see him publically asking forgiveness and embracing the counsel and Godly mentoring of Coach Tony Dungy, a man of impeccable integrity. He has a long way to go so let's watch him closely and pray that he will follow through and become a great testimony of restoration and healing. But, that will never happen if the PETA wackos have their way.

They will do their antics and get plenty of media face time in the process. I heard one of them justifying their crusade, "It is much worse to kill an animal because they haven't sinned". Any way you work that, that genius needs to stay away from sharp items and needs to get his meds refilled ASAP. I just wonder why they can't feel this way about a baby who gets an ice pick to the base of the skull before getting sucked out of its Mother's womb?

Speaking of life and death, the media is back with lopsided "wall to wall" homage regarding a man who was in the Senate for over 45 years. So much for term limits. As I write, he is getting eulogized as a lion, a hero and patriot. While we should be prayerful and sympathetic to a family loss, I have mostly heard repetitive pontificating lament about the compassion and all of the wonderful things the Senator did and how he would have been President if it were not for just one misfortunate accident. The PETA, ACT UP, ACORN and NOW mobs stayed strangely silent although a human life was gone. The Senator got cited for "leaving the scene of an accident" and got re-elected. Conversely, Poor Plaxico shot himself in the leg and got two years. Go figure.

And then there was Michael Jackson.

An undeniably talented but tragic young man whose real Neverland was in his mind, and again, the media melodrama soared with unbalanced Messianic platitudes. Truthfully, he was done a great disservice by the "hanger ons" but ultimately, he was a man who was accountable to God for himself. Sadly, without the money, the moonwalk and the music, he would likely have been one who was ordered to send postcards to the neighborhood schools. As of today, Mike is still on ice and Mom visits him regularly.

I rest my case.

We are enjoying the (slipping away) blessings of liberty and have a teeming array of technology to supposedly make our lives better but we will end up off some bridge if we, in our arrogance, continue to refuse to honor God, seek His touch and His wisdom in our lives. It is clear; man keeps trying to tinker with the Truth that will never change. The real updating of our lives needs to begin on the inside.

It's easy as A-B-C. Life for The Man in the Mirror can be a Thriller but if he's been Bad, Father God will just say, "Beat It!"

Michael

The
LifeGate