

(13)

Oct. 4-2015

We would like to welcome everyone into God's house this morning for this special occasion - Family - Friends from Around the County - From this Neighborhood - Friends of Early Childhood. Some of my coworkers over the years - Dr. Red Johnson & his family from Florida & N.C. - And many other special guests that I am very close to. Each one of you has a special place in my heart - I especially want to thank all of you from this church who have worked so hard to make this possible - I am aware of what each of you did to make this possible - The putting the program together - The food - The flowers and soon the trips that some of you made to get here - This is an occasion where you might say that Today is the first day of the rest of my life, whether its one day - one year or 15 more years -

(1A)

IT'S ALSO A sad day, But, it is also a happy day As I Look Back over the years And Realize how God led me to Edgfield County and watched me in two careers And gave me good health over the years, giving me a good mind to work in the careers that He gave me after much prayer and consideration I am making the decision on my own with Gods guidance, to Be A class member Rather than the main teacher - I AM Not going anywhere, But feel that it is time to take a different role

God Also gave me the determination and the ability to teach this Adult Sunday School Class for 16 years and to take part in other important work and projects of this church - I give God all the credit for all of this Because I couldn't have done it on my own.

To give you a little background of my life, I spent the first 21 years on our 350 acre farm in Beach Island, SC, about 10 miles out of Augusta, GA in Aiken County - In 1951, the residents in our area were told that a government project called "The Barn Plant", later named the Atomic Energy plant, would be built a few miles below our farm and it would take several thousand acres of land - Naturally, developers started looking for land to put houses on for workers coming from other states and since the four lane highway, leading to the plant, was constructed right through the middle of our farm, my mother and father decided to move back to this area, where both were from - My wife, Carolyn and I decided to come back with them - Lucy, our oldest daughter was only a few months old - Dario had not been born yet. She was born several years after we settled in Edgefield County - Also, in 1954, I started my career with The Security Bank in Edgefield and eventually became manager or president - To make a long story short, I stayed as City Manager thru two bank mergers and retired after 33 years - After I opened a Real Estate Company and selling Real Estate for 28 years - Enough of that.

In 1954, after having attended Red Oak Grove since we came to Edgefield County ^{in 1951}, I was asked to be the Adult Sunday School Teacher and was also elected Deacon that year. What did I know about teaching adults in Sunday School? Was there a chance that I could learn how to teach and in the meantime, I had to be Deacon several weeks each year to attend the Leadership School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, WI (1951-1954). Also several other Banking Schools in NC and Augusta, Ga., But, I decided to accept the calling.

In the meantime, Diane was born in 1955 and Leroy was 3 or 4 years old and I had to put all these things together to make it work.

Why did I continue to teach 61 years? Because of the encouragement that I received from Leroy, Diane, my wife, my son-in-laws, and others in this church and community - I had other members of my family, also, to encourage me - some who have gone on to be with the Lord.

Larry and Irene were brought up in this church AND Both of them married, Brothers By the way AND I now have 10 grandchildren AND 20 spouses of grandchildren AND 10 great grand children AND most of them are present here, today - Thank you for being here, today. - Also Jerry, Larry's husband and Diane Johnny.

Nurses ^{work dry} Now, Let's talk about this church and how I feel about my dedication to it.

I asked the Lord to direct me in what to do about keeping the job of teaching the Adult Sunday School Class at Red Oak Grade and he insisted that I continue every year, so I listened to him to continue and that has been 61 times. - But, you know there comes a time when we all need to slow down. And the Lord told me in no uncertain terms that its time for you to slow down. So at 85 I'm slowing down, I think.

The teacher job will be turned over to my very capable Son-in-Law, Johnny Mirell.

I understand that I will be his assistant teacher, But, I won't have to prepare the lesson But a few times per year.

(12)

Several people, including our Pastor, Steve, has said that I have opened the Bible to Read A few Verses to more people than several Preachers put together - I may have opened the Bible to many people over the years, But, I haven't touched the Tip of the Iceberg As far as the Truth and messages that we can receive from God's word.

Where else can you find more help and satisfaction in life than in the Bible, reading God's word and joining with other fellow friends and God's people.

Just think about when we leave this Earth, we are going to meet our loved ones in heaven and I want to listen to God's instructions while I'm on this Earth so I can be with my loved ones in heaven - Wow! That be a glorious day?

(5)

You know I have often thought of the first question that I am going to ask when I get to Heaven And That is "Why did you choose me to teach these wonderful people when probably many of them know far more about the Bible than I do." I have thought about that question a great deal, But I know also that God knows the answer.

Every day many of you serve Christ far more faithfully than I have done and I cannot help wondering why God entrusted the Adult Sunday School class to me to administer to and entrust to me.

One of the joys of heaven, I am sure, will be discovering the hidden ways that God in His sovereignty acted in our lives on earth to protect us and guide us so as to bring glory to His name, in spite of our frailty.

As I look back over the 61 years of teaching in front of this church to the adult Sunday School class, my deepest feeling is gratitude to you for sitting there listening to probably 200 or so lessons that I prepared

(6)

I cannot take credit for bringing these
Lessons to you probably ~~3/17/50~~ ^{3/17/50} Sondays -

I was God that brought me to Edgefield
County And Red Oak Grove Area And I
thank Him for directing me to this Church
And ask to the two professions that
make my career

I give credit to my mother, Father,
Sister, my wife Carolyn, my daughters Laverne
and Diane ^{+ husband} and to many other relatives and
friends for encouraging me

If I had it to do over, I would spend
more time in spiritual prayer to get
closer to God and I would spend
more time studying the Bible and
meditating on its TRUTHS, not only
to help with the lessons, But, to apply
its message to my life

(A) Teacher can teach before as many people as can pack into the church building but until a person commits his or her life to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior God's gift of salvation does not become ours until we accept it and make it our own - God has done everything possible to provide salvation, but we must reach out in faith and accept it.

God know, one of the best known verses in the New Testament states the gospel when it reads, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life - For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but, to save the world through him -

(I) APPRECIATE MY ANCESTORS WHO HAVE PLAYED A BIG PART IN THIS CHURCH OVER THE YEARS, ESPECIALLY MY GRANDFATHER EVER MORGAN AND MY FATHER, FOSTER MORGAN, WHO HELPED BUILD THIS CHURCH BUILDING - FOR ALL OF YOU VISITORS, TODAY, BEFORE YOU LEAVE, LOOK AT THE BOARDS ON THE FLOOR FROM ABOUT MIDWAY TO THE FRONT.

Every 8 inches, the Boards were slightly SAWN so they would have a CURVE in them - (My) Father said that was the Children's jobs to saw the Boards - (He) was one of the Children about 12 years old - (Look) at the Boards Before you leave -

Again your presence is very much appreciated. Family, Friends, Sons-or-Laws, Daughters, Grandchildren, great-grandchildren and all your many visitors -

(To) you members of my class, Johnny was elected the new teacher and he will be bringing you good lessons - so, please give him the dedication that you have given me over the years.

(I) have enjoyed preparing & presenting these lessons to you each Sunday for 61 years -