

THE SOUTHEAST SOWER

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“Pompeii’s Sentinel”

Vernon Teagarden

From ‘Gospel Trumpet’ an article entitled, ‘Pompeii’s Sentinel’ reads:

“When Pompeii was destroyed by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius there were many persons buried in the ruins who were afterward found in very different positions.

There were some found in deep vaults, as if they had gone there for security. There were some found in lofty chambers. But where did they find the Roman sentinel?

They found him standing at the city gate where he had been placed by the captain with his hands still grasping the weapon. There, while the earth shook beneath him, there, while the floods of ashes and cinders overwhelmed him, he had stood at his post, and there, after a thousand years he was found.

So, let Christians stand by their duty in the post at which their captain places them.”

As you read the story and you thought about the sentinel, what thoughts first came to your mind? One of the first things that came to my mind was how this man went above and beyond the call of duty in the face of such tremendous danger.

However, as Christians, we too are to go above and beyond the call of duty. From (1 Cor. 15:58) listen to the apostle Paul, he writes: “Therefore my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

The work of the Lord is the work the Lord wants you to do. Such as, spreading the gospel, helping the afflicted, doing good works, etc. Regarding the work that our “Captain” has called upon us to do, we are to “abound” in it. This word, “abounding” implies that we are to try to do as much as our time, opportunity and ability will allow us to do.

The attitude of doing as little as we can get by with is

not to be found in the meaning of this word and really is foreign to the spirit of Christianity.

Further, we are to have this attitude “always” and not just for a few weeks after we have become a Christian. The Christian is one who is constantly and consistently doing all of the work of the Lord which he can possibly do. And yes, even going above and beyond the “call of duty.”

In view of the subject matter in the preceding verses dealing with the coming resurrection and subsequent judgment, and knowing that our labor is not in vain in the Lord, why would we not persevere in the Lord’s service?

Another thought that came to my mind about the sentinel is that he certainly “stood his ground” in the face of such incredible adversity.

But then again, we as Christians are to do likewise. We face numerous obstacles aimed at destroying us spiritually, and yet, what are we to do? Listen again to the apostle Paul. This time from Ephesians 6:14. A verse that finds itself in a context where we are admonished to put on and use the whole armor of God, which He provides for us in our battle against our adversary, the devil.

Paul writes, “Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness.” The Lord is telling you through Paul that you are to “stand your ground!” with the truth

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for your belt.

Did not the sentinel “stand” his ground? Without question he did. We are to do the same. We must if we are going to overcome our adversary, Satan, and win this spiritual war we are in. And made no mistake about it, we are engaged in one.

Further, none of the weaponry which the Lord provides for us will do us any good unless we “stand” our ground and use it. We can put it on, but unless we stand our ground and use it, how has it in any way helped us?

We cannot flee or runaway from our responsibilities as a Christian. No, we must stand our ground and be what the Lord wants us to be.

So, the question is this: “Should the Lord return today and judgment takes place, will He see that we have faithfully “stood” by our duty in the post where the Captain has placed us?”

“In Remembrance of Me”

Eugene Clevenger

Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper as a memorial in remembrance of Him. However, what exactly are we remembering?

We remember His death. The bread is a memorial of our Savior’s body. We remember how He was nailed to a cross for us. We remember that He was the sacrificial lamb provided by God on man’s behalf.

We remember His covenant. Jesus said, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood” Blood was often used to seal a covenant or agreement (hence why we talk about signing our names in blood). The law of Moses was inaugurated by blood. Similarly, blood was used to bring into effect a new covenant, one superior to Moses’ law. That blood was a superior blood used then; instead of the blood of animals, the blood of the very Son of God was used.

We remember His resurrection. If Jesus had simply died, that being the end of things, there would be nothing special, nothing particularly memorable, about the death except perhaps the tragedy of injustice that occurred as an innocent man was put to death. However, because He arose, that death has a unique significance. Because He arose, we know that one day will rise, too.

We remember what He did for us. Why did Jesus come to earth? He came so that we could be with Him one day. He died so that we can live.

Why do we give thanks for the bread and the cup?

Because we need this memorial.

We need to remember Jesus.

We need to remember what Jesus did.

We need to remember what Jesus did for us.

We need to remember what Jesus did for us that we could never hope to do for ourselves.
