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PHOTOGRAPHS & MEMORIES

“Photographs & Memories” is the title of an LP as well as one of the songs on the album by Jim Croce, it features his “greatest hits” and was released in 1974, just months following his death in a plane crash. Even as I write this, there is a song being sung by Tami Nielson, entitled “Lonely”, “lonely looks like photographs of when we met” are some of the lyrics. Photographs hold the power to either bring a smile or evoke a tear and everything in between. “Do you remember when?” can be heard when going through the family’s photo album. The memories begin running fast and furious. Those photos, would be worthless to anyone else, but to you they are nearly priceless.

Sometime ago, my wife and I were looking at photos from before 1975 which served as a backdrop for a trip down memory lane. For us they represent B.C. (before Christ). One of my favorite snap shots is that of Linda bedecked in bib overalls, tie-dyed shirt, hiking boots with her hair in pig tails as she wandered down to the pond on the farm where we lived. Seeing that picture triggered the memory of her later that day going up the hill to look at a friend’s log cabin and another one’s teepee he had just gotten set up in which to live. In other photos I am seen with shoulder length hair, full beard wearing patched jeans engaged in various tasks; some of which today I would not be proud of. *“And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.”* (1Corinthians 6:11) The journey down “memory lane” always brings the above noted verse to mind. It helps put things in perspective, that while there has been progress, the journey isn’t completed.

“Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forget-

ting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13-14)



Sadly, looking through more photos there are those that encapsule friends when we first obeyed the gospel. Nearly all of those we thought of as friends broke off their relationship with us. Then there are those who became friends with us, but more than that “*brothers and sisters in Christ.*”

However, so many have embraced a mind set like that of Demas as Paul wrote in his second letter to Timothy, *“for Demas, having loved this present world...”* (4:10) Peter wrote the following which seems so apropos, *“For the time already past is sufficient for you to have carried out the desire of the Gentiles, having pursued a course of sensuality, lusts, drunkenness, carousals, drinking parties and abominable idolatries.”* (1Peter 4:3)

It is so heart-wrenching to look back on those who have squandered their salvation for the elements of the world. A positive relationship with God for that which is far and away inferior. *“It has happened to them according to the true proverbs, ‘a dog returns to its own vomit’ and ‘A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire.’* (2Peter 2:22) Clearly and unsavory sight on both accounts, but isn’t the same true when looking back on those who have rejected a right relationship with God?

Memories. Some more precious than others, but memories none the less. Memories that bring tears as well as laughter. From the perspective of the journey of life and the waiting goal, both are important to consider. We can learn and be taught is so many different ways. When was the last time you sat back and took a good, long hard look at your journey in life?

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