
Words of Truth

Do You Remember The Good Old Days?

By: Brian A. Yeager

How many times have you thought about how much better things use to be than they are now? If you were to take a pen and piece of paper, could you make a long list of things that have gotten worse today than they were in the past? Did you know that there is even a magazine that celebrates the good days of the past (<http://www.goodolddaysmagazine.com/>)? I found that interesting myself. In fact, there are restaurants, vacation spots, and a host of other things that celebrate the good old days.

The question is, were the old days really better than today? Notice a Scripture that should, at least, make us think about this a little beyond the surface of the question: *"Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this"* (Ecclesiastes 7:10).

I have spent many times pondering this Scripture and the reality of it. The truth is, things do not really change concerning people. The Scriptures prove this. Notice: *"The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us"* (Ecclesiastes 1:9-10). I have realized, multiple times in contemplating these things that, I often want to remember things better than they really were. However, wanting the past to be better doesn't make it so. For whatever reason, many people do want to think of the past in a better light than it was. Maybe people don't pause to think that as we age, and learn more especially on a spiritual level, we begin to see things as they really are (Hebrews 5:14). The truth is, things are not worse today than the past. In fact, there are many times of the past that are far worse than things are today.

Some Times Of The Past Are Far Worse Than Today

Is today worse than this: *"And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown. And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD"* (Genesis 6:1-8).

Today we see homosexuality in society, but is it worse today than this: *“And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground; And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant’s house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night. And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat. But before they lay down, the men of the city, even the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and young, all the people from every quarter: And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them. And Lot went out at the door unto them, and shut the door after him, And said, I pray you, brethren, do not so wickedly. Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: only unto these men do nothing; for therefore came they under the shadow of my roof. And they said, Stand back. And they said again, This one fellow came in to sojourn, and he will needs be a judge: now will we deal worse with thee, than with them. And they pressed sore upon the man, even Lot, and came near to break the door. But the men put forth their hand, and pulled Lot into the house to them, and shut to the door. And they smote the men that were at the door of the house with blindness, both small and great: so that they wearied themselves to find the door”* (Genesis 19:1-11).

Today we see child abuse, but it is worse than this: *“But they set their abominations in the house, which is called by my name, to defile it. And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin”* (Jeremiah 32:34-35).

I could have hundreds of pages of Scripture quotes to show what we see today may even be better than things that we read about in the Scriptures. Problems in society are not new (Titus 3:3). The world being evil is not new (1 John 5:19). Consider “our” history.

I Call History To Record

In our country Native Americans have been killed with prejudice, humans have been racially killed, racially enslaved, and all manner of sins against humans not realizing we’re of one blood (Acts 17:26). Does the name Adolf Hitler strike a bell for you? He ordered the deaths of millions of Jews and spurred World War 2. In the past ten years children have killed children in schools (Columbine, Virginia Tech, etc.). In fact, U.S. school shootings go back to the 1700’s (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_school_shootings_in_the_United_States). What about the Civil War, the immorality of the “Roaring Twenties”, the atomic bomb, etc.? Do you think pornography is about the Internet? No, such came into the United States in the 1700’s (<http://www.pornographyhistory.com/>). History says the past was full of EVIL!

Conclusion

The days past are not better than the present. For us (Christians), it shouldn’t matter. Our citizenship is in Heaven (Philippians 3:20-21). Our affections should be too (Colossians 3:1-4). Don’t desire the BAD old days; look forward to the good ones to come (John 14:1-3).