

Thank You for Your Service

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Hebrews 11:4, "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh."

Have you thought much of men like Abel, Paul, and the many other men and women who, through the centuries have lived for God? Most of them we have not even heard of, yet we owe them a great deal of thanks. Not only of those who have passed on but also those who we have known in our lives who have served the Lord. Think of those who have encouraged you, helped to teach you, both by the word and by the example of their life.

Think of the efforts that they have made to serve the Lord. For most of us the church that we attend was started many years ago by those who have since passed on. As the older ones passed from this life new believers came and continued the work of God. They kept the place of worship open and they taught the word throughout the years. It was not always easy, but in faith they continued and folks like you and I came

and heard the gospel.

I'm sure that they never thought that they were doing so much for the Lord as what they did. It was by their efforts that there was a place of worship where the sinner could hear of the word of God. Year after year they worshiped the Lord and by example they showed both saint and sinner that they believed the promise of God. **Philippians 4:9**, "Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."

We often learn by watching others and as we have seen Christians living and holding onto their faith in the midst of trials and have been inspired by them. I'm sure that we can call to mind various individuals that gave us help and taught us much by their wonderful example. I'm not saying that these people were perfect in every way, no more than we, or anyone else. Sometimes they gave a good example of how to deal with a failure by admitting that they erred and striving to do better. Some have been mocked and ridiculed for their faith and I have witnessed several incidents of this before I became a Christian. How they handled it made an impression on me. **Philippians 1:12-14**, "But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the

furtherance of the gospel; So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places; And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear."

Now, how about you and I and the example that we set before others? Someone is observing our lives and we may not even be aware of it. I hate to think that maybe in a moment of weakness I have said, or done, something that may have offended someone. All we can do is to ask God to forgive and to help us to do what is right, not as we think, but as his will is. I have met those who tried to present an image that they were perfect and knew everything. They only fool themselves because Jesus is the only one that is without sin.

I think of those who have gone on to be with the Lord who helped in some way to encourage me, and other young Christians. Also, I am thankful for those who serve today and are a great help in the Lord's work. Today many of us who used to be the young believers are now the older members. Let us try to be helpful to others and be an encourager of the younger believers. To those of the past I am thankful for what they did, and to those serving today I say, "Thank you for your service."

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of I Samuel intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

SAMUEL AND SAUL

IN HIS OLD AGE, THE PEOPLE HAVE SHOCKED THE PROPHET SAMUEL BY ASKING HIM TO APPOINT A KING TO RULE OVER THEM....

MAKE US A KING TO JUDGE US LIKE ALL THE NATIONS!

I WILL SPEAK UNTO THE LORD!

... SAMUEL GOES TO PRAY TO THE LORD.

HEarken UNTO THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE...

... THEY HAVE NOT REJECTED THEE, BUT THEY HAVE REJECTED ME, THAT I SHOULD NOT REIGN OVER THEM!

Next Week THE ANSWER!

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