

"Things That Matter"

by Lucien Coleman

Our children really ought to be told that George Washington's birthday is not just another sale. We're a little short on heroes today, especially when it comes to great national leaders. That makes it all the more important to keep alive the memory of our great heroes of the past.

Everyone knows, of course, that Washington was only human, and had his share of faults. The debunkers have seen to that. For example, some of his biographers tell us that Washington had rather rigid ideas about relations between the landed gentry (of which he was one) and the lower classes. He even took on certain characteristics of royalty when he was President, they say. For instance, he did not like to be touched, and when he assumed the highest office in the land he laid down a rule that people coming to see him should remain standing in his presence.

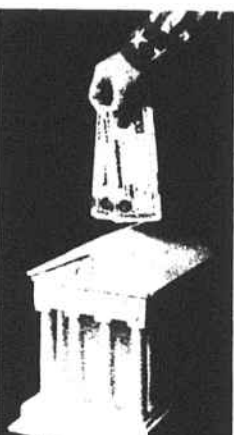
And we are told today that the boy Washington never did chop down that cherry tree.

But those things have nothing to do with Washington's true heroism. That came out at Valley Forge during that awful winter of 1777-1778, where Washington was camped out with his troops.

The annals of military history contain few cases of greater suffering than those scraggly American troops suffered during that bleak winter. The snows came early. When the supplies ran low they had to forage for hickory nuts, just to stay alive. To Washington's everlasting credit, he refused to commandeer the surrounding villages, for he knew the inhabitants barely had enough for their own survival. His troops were virtually without medical services to check the terrible ravages of disease that set in. Many of them died of typhus, smallpox, dysentery; some died of starvation.

Later on, when Congress ordered Washington to plunder nearby farms for food, he still refused, feeling that it would be an unjust thing to do to his fellow Americans.

Despite everything, Washington held. He had to. He would not let the enemy troops overrun the fertile Pennsylvania farmland. That could have made the difference between winning and losing the war. In the last analysis, one dominant characteristic in the man overshadowed everything else. Washington's sense of duty. He had given his word that he and his army would hold. And he did. It is fitting that his monument in our nation's capital is made of granite.



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Saturday, February 27, 305 Bethune Ave., off 401 near J's Pizzeria. 44P

Sunday School

Background Scripture:
Mark 13: 24-37; Luke 21: 25-32.

Devotional Reading:
Psalms 119: 113-125.

The latter portion of Mark 13 is one of the hardest portions of the gospels for us to understand. Jesus warns of both dark days ahead and "the Son of man coming in clouds with great power and glory" (13: 26). The vision is concluded with this picture: "And then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven" (13:27).

What is really confusing to us is the statement that: "this generation will not pass away before all these things take place" (13:30). How shall we understand this? We know that "these things" have not taken place yet, let alone within "this generation," (referring, of course, to those who heard him). On the basis of those words many Christians have claimed to know precisely when the promises were to be fulfilled. To date, all of these predictions have proven to be in error, although almost every day we read of another group or prophet warning us of the eminent demise of the world.

We can spend hours and hours speculating and arguing over these words or we can concentrate on the words we do understand: "But of that day or that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father" (13:32). If Mark 13 can teach us anything it is the truth of that statement. Only God knows when and how those promises will be fulfilled. It is therefore fruitless for us to continue to dispute and speculate on this subject.

The purpose of Christ's warning about the "Son of man coming in clouds with great power and glory" is, not to make the church a debating society, but to keep the followers of Christ vigilant to the judgment of God in Christ. The key to this whole passage is found in this admonition: "Take heed, watch; for you do not know when the time will come" (13:33). In other words, we are to live our lives as if the day of judgment and the return of Christ were likely to be this afternoon. Then we will be motivated to do what he has commanded.

The proper activity of the follower of Christ will not be passive waiting upon some mountaintop, but active discipleship and witness after the example which Christ set before us. We are to be vigilant "lest he come suddenly and find you asleep" (13:36). To be found "asleep," is not to be physically asleep, but spiritually. If we are spiritually awake and alert, we will be found by him in the midst of the work of his kingdom. We will be ministering to the needs of others; we will be witnessing, not to the bad news of Armageddon, but the Good News of God's redeeming love in Christ Jesus.

IRS TAX TIP

For Single Taxpayers

If you receive alimony, it is considered taxable income to you. On the other hand, if you are required to pay alimony you may deduct these payments from your gross income. You need not itemize deductions to claim alimony payments.

A public service message from the Internal Revenue Service

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FOR RENT: Office Space with Conference Room Privileges, Manufacturing/Assembly and Warehouse Area. Pilot Equities, Inc., 227 N. Main St., Raeford, N.C. 875-4870. TFC

FOR SALE: Thomasfield area. One acre wooded lots, public water, financing available, no city taxes. Pilot Equities, Inc., 875-4870. TFC

28 Acres cleared land, 7,201 lbs. tobacco, 3/4 miles on paved road, 54,000. 47 Acres, 30 acres cleared, pond, 2 bedroom mobile home. 9 miles from Raeford. \$55,000. Lots suitable for Farmers Home Administration homes, 11 miles from Raeford. Wood land, 10 to 20 acres on paved road 11 miles from Raeford, \$550 per acre; We have other listings, homes and land. Brick Home: 1 acre, air/cond., oil duct heat, 14 x 24 shop. \$37,000. Restaurant: 1 year old, Highway 15-501. \$27,000. Older home: Highway 211 near Raeford, 2 acres, shop, 660 feet road front, \$42,000. 11.77 acres, 550 ft. road frontage, 2800 lbs. tobacco. \$14,000; 50 acres, \$990.00 per acre. Hubert M. Moss Building and Realty, 2490 E. Indiana Ave., Southern Pines, N.C. 944-2050. TFC

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Sincere thanks to my friends for their many deeds of kindness shown to me during my recent stay in the hospital. Jane Leach. 44P

CARD OF THANKS
Words cannot adequately express my appreciation for all your pretty cards, flowers and above all your prayers during my recent stay in the hospital. Thank you for everything. Delia Raynor. 44P

CARD OF THANKS
I would like to thank you for all the cards, flowers, visits, and prayers I received during my stay in the hospital. May God bless all of you. The Jannette Jackson family. 44P

CARD OF THANKS
To Whom It May Concern: With Christian love and appreciation we wish to express to everyone for cards, phone calls, flowers and all other ways of communication to us during my stay in the hospital and now at home convalescing. With Christian love, James E. Byrd and family. 44P

CARD OF THANKS
Words cannot adequately express our gratitude to those who expressed their sympathy and helpfulness to us so beautifully at the time of our recent sorrow. May God bless you all. The Henry Leak Family. 44P

NOTICE

All classified advertising must be paid for in advance unless you have an established advertising account. Classified ad rates are 10 cents per word with a minimum of \$1.50. The classified advertising deadline is 2 p.m. each Tuesday.

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Sun room Sale: electric hedge mower, ladies shoes, purses, clothing size 14-16, kitchen appl. & more. 48 Cole Ave., Ext., 875-4967. 44P

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1963 Chevy Impala, 2 door hardtop, new tires, new mags. Good mechanical condition. Phone 875-5793. 43-44P

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