

A GRAVEYARD WALK

(Genesis 5)

- ...This past week New York said goodbye to one of their most renown residents as George Steinbrenner breathed his last breath and died. In life he became wealthy not only by owning the Yankees, but also a shipping company. Yet when he died, he left everything behind and entered into eternity. He lived 80 years and he died.
- ...Genesis 5 is a graveyard, a cemetery for the godly. This chapter seems to be God's answer to Satan's lie: "You will not surely die." (Gen 3:4) For 8 times in this chapter the words appear: "and he died."
- ...Martin Luther tells us of this list of men, "we must not think these are ordinary names of plain people...rather they were the most outstanding heroes this world ever produced...on the last days we shall behold and admire their grandeur." These are men that stood for God in an increasingly dark day.

FOUR OBSERVATIONS AS WE WALK THROUGH THIS GRAVEYARD

MOTIVATING US TO GODLY LIVING. The tombstones: "They were born, lived, and died"

I. **God Is Far More Interested In People Than We Are.**

...For, if we had written this chapter, we would probably leave these names out.

- A. The connection between God and man is the link of persons. We are in His likeness...
1. The Biblical importance of this is seen in the use of proper names.
...We are not an accident, a thing, an idea, but rather a person who lives forever.
 2. In the Scriptures, there are whole chapters devoted to long genealogies, most of whom we know almost nothing. But God knows everyone of them.
- B. This ought to encourage us, for just as the people in Genesis 5, we are all equally known and remembered by God in His book. (Psalm 139:1-4)
...The world may not be interested or even know that we are here, but God does.

II. **God Has Always Had His Few.**

...If many do not love and serve the Lord, at least there are some who do. I hope that includes you!

- A. A quick glance at the genealogies found in Genesis 4 and 5 reveal similarities, however do not think there were an equal number of godly and ungodly people at this time.
1. Genesis 4 tells that this was a period of rapid decline, when most "went the way of Cain." It was morally downhill for most of humanity. (Genesis 6:11) "corrupt and full..."
 2. This is evident for when Noah's flood came, though millions of people were living, only 8 people were saved on the Ark. (Genesis 7:13) Only eight!!!!
...This flood was universal in scope with water covering the whole known world.
- B. Elijah, the greatest of the Old Testament prophets, imagined himself to be the only one left in Israel who love and served the Lord...but he was wrong. (1 Kings 19:10, 18)
...God told him He still had 7000 others who had not bowed the knee to Baal. (v.18)
...Today as you love and serve the Lord you too may feel overwhelmed by the godless people around you. Don't be discouraged...it has always been this way. Thank the Lord for saving you.

III. **God Often Uses The Family To Call People To Himself.**

- A. There are 10 men listed in Genesis 5, and they are all part of the same family tree.
...Adam...Seth...Enosh...Kenan...Mahalalel...Jared...Enoch...Methuselah...Lamech...Noah.
1. God's plan frequently uses the family to pass on His truth. God loves the family.
 2. There is one huge exception in the list, Enoch never died. (5:24) So there is one tombstone that only has a birth date on it and no death date! A long hyphen!
- B. Seth is said to be in "the image and likeness of his father." (5:3)
1. This probably means that Seth followed the lead of his father, Adam, in worship.
 2. In any event, Dad you are the key player in this. If you love the Lord and live for Him your children will be impacted by it forever. If not, they will have a hardness...

IV. **God Is Faithful To Do His Word.** "You will die and they did."

- A. God had also promised that mankind's only hope was in "the seed of the woman." (Gen 3:15)
- B. One of the purposes of this chapter is to trace the line from Adam to Noah...as God was faithfully carrying out His promise of a deliverer, even during the dark days prior to the Flood.
...Only He could do this. He is dependable. He always keeps His word. Jesus was the "seed."

LESSONS FOR OUR LIVES: