

## Do We Learn From History?

I recently attended a milestone reunion of my wife's high school. She hasn't lived in this small town since 1967 so, for her, it brought back memories of people and events that helped shape the person she has become.

One of the highlights of the weekend was a downtown parade as part of Prairie Days, a major town street festival. In recognition of this 50<sup>th</sup> reunion, the honored class rode a parade float, waving to the crowd as they traveled down Main Street. Area residents bordered Main Street to get a glimpse of those who were part of the town's history. After the parade I met a lady who had graduated from the same high school 90 years ago. What history that lady had witnessed! All weekend long we heard stories about the characters of Kathy's class of 1967.



Reading the Bible is your lifeline to the historical characters of God's story. The experiences of each biblical character help to tell the enlightening story of God's relationship with the people of His creation. At times it is not a "feel good" story. Since the creation of Adam and Eve man has rebelled against the Creator, causing the "garden" in which we live in to turn from perfection to chaos. If we think about those experiences we can learn from the mistakes of others before us. On the other hand, we can also learn how God has blessed those who make the commitment to follow Him. In the end, it becomes a "feel good" story of God's unending love, in spite of man's shortcomings.

Do we learn from past mistakes? A modern day writer (Wynne McLaughlin) said, "Maybe history wouldn't have to repeat itself if we listened once in a while." Just as we listened to memorable stories of Kathy's high school classmates, listen to the history of God's direction for the lives of His people. At the high school reunion, we all had 20/20 vision about the lessons learned from a half century of perspective. We have an even greater time perspective when we read biblical descriptions about lessons man should have learned from their struggles. *For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope (Romans 15:4).*

God's biblical direction for our life provides both a historical perspective, a real life example in the person of Jesus Christ, and written direction for our life. If we read our Bible in all sincerity it helps prepare us for one final reunion to come. We will be re-united with other loved ones of the faith, for all eternity. The stories told in Heaven will be fascinating and with perfect perspective.

**Question:** How do you seek to learn from the mistakes of others you read about in the Bible?

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father. We thank you for the written Word of our Bible, which outlines the history of mankind, so that we can better understand your desire for our life. Amen.