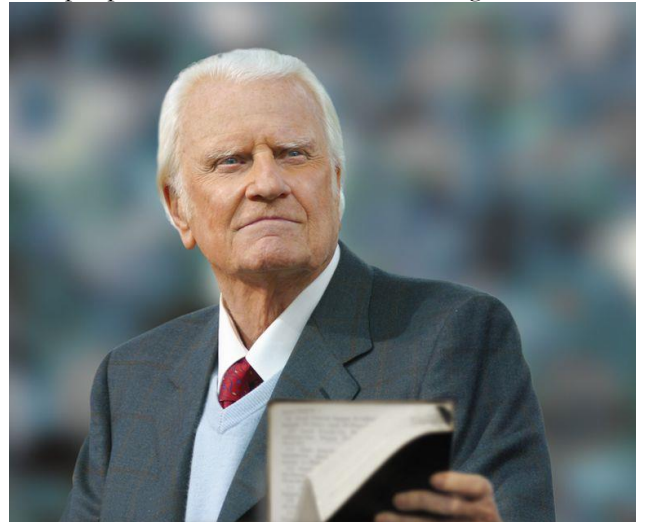


The Greatness of Jesus Christ, Not Man

The world was saddened by the recent passing of Rev. Billy Graham. He reached the age of 99, having served in ministry for more than 70 years. He led crusades for Christ, speaking to over 210 million people in 185 countries around the globe. His message of hope was even a lifeline to believers in communist countries of the world. Because of his integrity and wisdom he was invited to be a spiritual advisor and confidant to Presidents from both sides of the aisle. He was a champion for God's love for all people. When our nation was consumed with racial tensions in the 1950's and 60's he wouldn't speak to any group that wasn't integrated. He was affectionately known as America's Pastor. He was known through the years as not only a world renowned powerful evangelistic speaker, but as a kind, non-judgmental, accepting, and humorous soul.



One could go on and on about the accomplishments of Billy Graham. He wouldn't want that, however. His goal was to introduce the world to Christ. Being a modest man he wasn't about tooting his own horn. He lived modestly but, instead, spread God's Word abundantly. He was all about serving and helping others. He said, "God has given us two hands, one to receive with and the other to give with."

It has often been said that you can tell if a person is a true disciple by whom he gives credit for everything. For Billy Graham, it was about Jesus Christ, and never about himself. His goal is to lead people to Jesus Christ. His message is timeless, powerful, and relevant for today. His favorite catchphrase, "the Bible says," clearly shows the source of his wisdom, preaching and teaching. Scriptural basis for all comments resounds throughout his sermons, and the truth he preached for years still transcends all barriers of denominational differences, age, nationality, and culture. It has stood the test of time and generations, pointing millions to Christ.

Even though he spoke to millions he wanted people to know that God is a personal Savior for individuals willing to accept Him into their life. He said, "Christ not only died for all: he died for each."

He encouraged people to live a good life and show God's love through them. He said, "We are the Bibles the world is reading; we are the creeds the world is needing; we are the sermons the world is heeding." As a person of faith how you lead your life makes a difference for the acceptance of Christ by others.

Billy Graham's ministry has never been about him. He would be embarrassed by the accolades said about him if they didn't point others to Jesus. He said, "I haven't written my own epitaph, and I'm not sure I should. Whatever it is, I hope it will be simple, and that it will point people not to me, but to the One I served."

Death is a natural progression to receiving salvation from God. Billy Graham said, "The moment we take our last breath on earth, we take our first in heaven." And he is well known for saying, "My home is in Heaven. I'm just traveling through this world." During his travels on this earth he did wonderful things to bring others to Christ.

The news media says that Billy Graham died on February 21, 2018. If you listen to his teachings of God's Word you know that isn't true. Billy Graham has just changed addresses. He will be in the presence of the Lord.

Scripture: *Give praise to the Lord, proclaim His name; make known among the nations what He has done" Psalm 105:1). Turn to Me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other"(Isaiah 45:22)*

Question: How have you been inspired by great teachers of the faith? In what ways have you tried to share your faith with others?

Prayer: Dear Lord. We thank you for the ministry of Rev. Billy Graham, who is now with you, Lord. We pray that we can learn from their teachings to strengthen our faith so that we can be a positive influence on others. Amen.