

The Bulwark

JUNE 4, 2023

“ANOTHER GENERATION AROSE...”

A recent assessment was released by the National Center for Educational Statistics that proved to be extremely bleak. Only 13% of 8th graders performed at or above proficient levels with respect to history and civics. This prompted Peggy Carr, the commissioner of the National Center for Educational Statistics to state, “These data are of national concern.” Why the decline? Some speculate it is due to lack of critical thinking skills on the part of students. While others may argue that educators are putting a premium on other topics and issues. There is precious little doubt that attitudes in America are changing, and not in a positive fashion.

We are at a critical moment in time, not only with respect to geopolitical concerns but also concerns of a spiritual nature. “Thus says the Lord, ‘Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk in it.’” (Jeremiah 6:16) In the next verse is found the statement, “We will not listen”. It is the responsibility of those that are older, and in theory wiser, to teach the younger, both physically as well as spiritually. For the sake of our thoughts here, the focus will be on those things spiritually.

“And even when I am old and

gray, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Thy strength to this generation, Thy power to all who are to come.” (Psalms 71:18) Factor in Psalms 48:12-14. “Walk about Zion, and go around her; count her towers; consider her ramparts; go through her places; that you may tell it to the next generation.” The Lord’s church is the spiritual Zion (see Hebrews 12:22-24) We have the responsibility to make certain that the “old paths” are respected and obeyed as well as passed down to the younger generation.

Referring to those that have a few years under their belt, notice what the psalmist notes in verse fourteen of the ninety-second psalm. “They will still yield fruit in old age; they shall be ‘full of sap and green’”. A question may arise as to how and where one can be of service, the answer is provided in Joel 1:3, all one has to do is open their eyes. “Tell your children about it, let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.”

“We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength, and His wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers,

that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children” (Psalms 78:4-6)

It is disconcerting to say the least to hear of congregations of the Lord’s people wandering away from truth. Having at one time been ensconced in God’s word but a new generation has come along that is lacking. It reminds one of Judges 2:10, “another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord...” The onus falls squarely on the shoulders of each one to be about the process of educating the next generation. Let us accept the challenge to ground the next generation: mark well the bulwarks. (wbe)



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