

The Bulwark

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A TRULY SPECIAL DAY...

What you may ask is so special about July 10th? After all it isn't like July 4th, which was just recognized and celebrated this past week, is it? Maybe not, but it is a red letter day if it is your anniversary. Then again for people in Dublin, Ireland it is the date the city was founded in 988. Lady Godiva in 1044 went on her memorable horseback ride to force her husband the Earl of Mercia to lower taxes on July 10th. Seven thousand French soldiers arrived in Newport, Rhode Island in support of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War in 1780 on the 10th of July. In 1913 the world's highest recorded temperature was recorded on this date in 1913 in Death Valley, California. "Hard Day's Night" was released by the Beatles, July 10th, 1964.

Okay, so maybe none of these events give you reason to "jump for joy" so to speak and view July 10th as being special. Try looking at July 10th and for that matter everyday, as being special. Here are a few suggestions to help gain full appreciation.

Recognize the truth as seen in the word of the psalmist as he wrote in the 118th Psalm. *"This is a day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."* (v. 24) Each day, in and of itself is extraordinary special. The given day will only come once, and it presents new opportunities in which to praise God.

When Jesus' disciples asked Him to teach them how they ought to pray, He noted the following. *"Give us this day our daily bread."* (Luke 11:3) Note that each day is provided by God and presents to each one to enjoy the blessings given by God. To place our full trust on Him.

Have you awakened to what those in Berea realized? Consider what is found in Acts 17:11. *"Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so."* Each day is unique unto

itself and as a result special. Daily we have the good fortune to examine the Scriptures and the ability to grow in knowledge and insight.



Paul in his second letter to the brethren in Corinth writes in chapter four and verse sixteen, *"Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day."* What a tremendous blessing a new day presents! The chance to be renewed in the inner man. A time of refreshing, and this is brought to us each day we are so fortunate to live and exist.

The dawning of each new day should invoke in each one an attitude of absolute gratitude. Looking with renewed eyes for reasons to praise God. One way to help appreciate how precious each day is, over the next thirty days take time to write in a journal three things for which to praise God daily. Many who undertake such find that in time they are seeing many more things than three, and their hearts open up to find encouragement to God's goodness.

It may be that during the course of the thirty days, some days may present unthinkable challenges. Nevertheless, therein can one echo what Asaph wrote in the 50th psalm, wherein he quotes God as saying, *"And call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me."* (v. 15) Blend this together what is found in Romans, chapter eight and verse thirty-one. *"What shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?"*

Every day is special as long as we are walking with God. *"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!"* (Philippians 4:4) *"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."* (Philippians 4:13) At the risk of being overly redundant, every day is special, inasmuch as it offers the occasion to experience victory. *"But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us."* (Romans 8:37) Indeed today is indeed special. (wbe)