

The Bulwark

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LIFE: ERASER INCLUDED...



It happens every year about this time. A huge sigh is lifted skyward by parents of school aged children as they wend their way back to the venerable halls of education. The “back-to-school” shopping for a new wardrobe in keeping with whatever is considered “stylish” has put a sizeable drain on parents bank accounts, but that is part and parcel of parenthood, right? But there has also been a trip to Office Depot, Target or some facsimile thereof for the purchasing of all the implements needed for optimum success at learning. Protractor, compass, tablets of lined paper, notebooks, binders, pens and of course a packet of #2 pencils. Last, but not least a quality eraser. The eraser on top of a pencil tends to smudge and if too much pressure is applied, it tears the paper. Hence the need for an eraser that cleanly removes the “faux pas” in such a manner so as to have it appear as if “there is nothing to see here”.

Speaking from experience, I know the value of a good quality gum eraser, especially when it came to math class. In the cartoon above and expression of a deep seated wish is stated and most of us can relate. But, life does come with an eraser. Peter, as seen in the third chapter of Acts is quoted as having said, “Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” (v.19)

Throughout the pages of the Scriptures the appeal is made that God offers to mankind an eraser of sorts. The opportunity as it were to be born anew. Jesus, as He spoke to Nicodemus as seen in John, chapter three, spoke openly about such when He stated, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (v. 3) Nicodemus, who was a “teacher of Israel”, but it is quite clear that he did not grasp what Jesus was talking

about. “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?” (v. 4) Jesus was succinct with His response, “Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again’.” (v. 7)

In his letter to the brethren in Rome, Paul laid out in chapter five the exquisite love God has for mankind; manifested by the sacrificial death of Christ Jesus. “For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.” (v.10) Building on the foundation of Jesus’ death, Paul progresses to show that by one’s obedience to the gospel, there is a born anew state. “Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.” (6:4)

In the first epistle to the Corinthians they were reminded of just how despicable they were (see 6:9-10), but in verse eleven there was a dramatic change seen. “And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of our God.” When they obeyed the gospel, that which was, was no more. It was washed away by the cleansing power of the blood Jesus. Erased. “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!” (2Corinthians 9:15)

As Paul recounted his conversion, he brought forth the question he was asked by Ananias. “And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.” (Acts 22:16) Take a few moments and read over what Paul pens to Titus in chapter three and verses three through six.

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