

GRAND COMMANDERY OF ALABAMA

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Website: <https://alyorkrite.org/grand-commandery/>

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SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT AS THE NEW YEAR BEGINS:

There are two days in every week about which we should not worry, two days which should be kept from fear and apprehension.

One of these days is "YESTERDAY" with its mistakes and cares, its faults and blunders, its aches and pains. "YESTERDAY" has passed forever beyond our control.

All the money in the world cannot bring back "YESTERDAY." We cannot erase a single word we said. "YESTERDAY" is gone.

The other day we should not worry about is "TOMORROW" with its possible adversities, its burdens, its large promise and poor performances. "TOMORROW" is beyond our control.

"TOMORROW'S" sun will still rise, either in splendor or behind a mask of clouds, but it will rise. Until it does, we have no stake in "TOMORROW," for it is yet unborn.

This leaves only one day --- "TODAY." Any person can fight the battles of just one day. It is only when you and I add the burdens of those two awful eternities --- "YESTERDAY" and "TOMORROW" --- that we break down. It is not the experience of "TODAY" that drives people mad--- it is remorse of bitterness for something which happened "YESTERDAY" and dread of what will happen "TOMORROW."

-- Author Unknown

E-mail Ministry: <http://www.emailministry.org>

FORGIVENESS

One night in a church service a young woman felt the tug of God at her heart. She responded to God's call and accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior.

The young woman had a very rough past, involving alcohol, drugs, and prostitution. But, the change in her was evident. As time went on, she became a faithful member of the church. She eventually became involved in the ministry, teaching young children.

It was not very long until this faithful young woman had caught the eye and heart of the pastor's son. The relationship grew and they began to make wedding plans. This is when the problems began. You see, about one-half of the church did not think that a woman with a past such as hers was suitable for a pastor's son. The church began to argue and fight about the matter. So, they decided to have a meeting. As the people made their arguments and tensions increased, the meeting was getting completely out of hand.

The young woman became very upset about all the things being brought up about her past. As she began to cry, the pastor's son stood to speak. He could not bear the pain it was causing his wife-to-be. He began to speak and his statement was this:

"My fiancée's past is not what is on trial here. What you are questioning is the ability of the blood of Jesus to wash away sin. Today, you have put the blood of Jesus on trial. So, does it wash away sin or not?"

The whole church began to weep as they realized that they had been slandering the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Too often, even as Christians, we bring up the past and use it as a weapon against our brothers and sisters. Forgiveness is a very foundational part of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. If the blood of Jesus does not cleanse the other person completely, then it cannot cleanse us completely. If that is the case, then we are all in a lot of trouble. What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus--end of case!!!

-- Author Unknown

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GOD'S EMBROIDERY

When I was a little boy, my mother used to embroider a great deal. I would sit at her knee and look up from the floor and ask what she was doing. She informed me that she was embroidering. I told her that it looked like a mess from where I was, the underside. I watched her work within the boundaries of the little round hoop that she held in her hand.

She would smile at me, look down and gently say, "My son, you go about your playing for a while, and when I am finished with my embroidering, I will put you on my knee and let you see it from my side."

I would wonder why she was using some dark threads along with the bright ones and why they seemed so jumbled from my view.

A few minutes would pass and then I would hear Mother's voice say, "Son, come and sit on my knee."

This I did, only to be surprised and thrilled to see a beautiful flower or a sunset. I could not believe it, because from underneath it looked so messy.

Then Mother would say to me, "My son, from underneath it did look messy and jumbled, but you did not realize that there was a pre-drawn plan on the top. It was a design. I was only following it. Now look at it from my side and you will see what I was doing."

Many times through the years I have looked up to my Heavenly Father and said, "Father, what are You doing?"

He has answered, "I am embroidering your life."

I say, "But it looks like a mess to me. It seems so jumbled. The threads seem so dark. Why can't they all be bright?"

The Father seems to tell me, "My child, you go about your business of doing My business, and one day I will bring you to Heaven and put you on My knee and you will see the plan from My side."

-- Author Unknown

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