

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XIV

October 16, 2005

No. 42

Benefits of Repetition

Jerry Fite

The Texas Tech Red Raiders' football coach has his receivers go through an interesting practice regiment in order to develop in his young receivers “good hands.” The players catch tennis balls from a machine firing at them around 60 miles per hour. The coach believes that he can develop in anyone the ability to receive a football into their hands by practicing with the tennis ball machine.

The success lies in repetition. The ball players practice receiving the tennis balls before and after regular practice. While they may at first have trouble catching the comparatively small projectiles launched at them from 10 to 20 yards at such a high rate of speed, they soon get the hang of it because they do it over and over again.

Can anyone with the ability to know things learn the saving truths of the Bible? I believe so. It may take going over and over the same facts before the truth is ingrained in the mind, but through repetition a responsible person can know and keep the truths of God in his mind for a lifetime.

Peter recognized the benefits of repetition. He writes, “*Wherefore I shall be ready to put you in remembrance of these things though you know them and are established in the truth which is in you*” (2 Peter 1: 12). Peter wanted God's truths to be firmly established in the minds of God's people, though they already knew them and were established in them. Through repetition, he would remind them of their need to grow spiritually, the consequent abundant entrance into heaven for those who do grow, his own eye witness testimony of hearing the voice from heaven attesting to the glory of the Lord and that prophecy had been made more sure through their fulfillment in Jesus (2 Peter 1:5-11, 16-21). While constantly reminding his brethren of these truths while he was in the flesh, the people would remember them after his departure from this life (2 Peter 1:15).

Peter saw another benefit from repetition. By reminding people of important truths, he was able to “*stir up sincere minds*” (2 Peter 3:1). Minds totally focused upon pleasing God still need from time to time stirring up. Repeating a truth of God long ago learned and accepted may be needed in

order to bring the truth to the forefront for application in a new setting. When religious people set a new date for the Lord's return, our minds will no doubt need to be stirred up with I Thessalonians 5:1, where we are reminded that we know *perfectly* well that the Lord will come *as a thief in the night*, or unexpectedly. When wars, famines, earthquakes are reported, our minds will need to be stirred up with the facts that even in the context of prophesying of the destruction of Jerusalem such events were not signs of the end, much less signs of the end of life on earth (cf. Matthew 24:6).

In our repetition we must make sure we are repeating correct things. While “practice makes perfect” is not totally true, “practice” does make “permanent.” So, we must make sure we are repeating over and over again in our minds the actual truth of God. “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...” is what God reveals (Mark 16:16), not “He that believeth is saved and should be baptized” as many have come to believe.