

Making the Past Your Hero

Making the past your hero can ...

IV: Take Away Our _____

Clearly, they were divided. And instead of hearing one voice of joy and rejoicing, there were two voices. While some rejoiced other's mourned; while some were looking back to the "good ole' days" others were saying "*these are the 'good ole' days'!*"

Unity is a ...

A. _____: 1 Peter 3:8-11

Having the mind of Christ equates to having the same compassion, love, humility ... all of which are choices we make.

Unity is ...

B. our _____

We are called to be unified in _____. John 17:11

We are called to be unified in the things that _____
_____. Romans 14:19

We are called to be unified in _____. Phil. 2:2

We are called to be unified in our _____,
_____, and _____.

When one person mourns over the past and another person rejoices in the present, the unification that the Lord desires in His church can be lost.



September 19, 2021

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Ezra 3:11-13

Most of us have, or have had heroes in life. As children our heroes ranged from Mom and Dad to fictitious characters. As teens, our heroes may have coaches or athletes or teachers. And as adults, our heroes are typically those who stand up for and apply the same principles we have developed over life.

And while having the right kind of heroes in our life is good, there are some people or things that God doesn't want us to make a hero.

This morning, as we finish our "Prepare" series we will look at how making our past a hero can hinder God's desire for revival.

Making the Past Your Hero

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I: Take Away Your _____

While the ancient men had every reason to rejoice instead they were mourning. That's because there were two great opposed views as to what was happening.

- A. a view looking to the _____
- most were rejoicing and celebrating the fact that God hadn't abandoned them and had a greater plan for the future.
-
-

- B. a view desiring to live in the _____
- they sought to return to what they had lost ...
 - ...they wept with a loud voice ...
-
-

There is no way to be happy in the present when all we are thinking about is how good things used to be!

Are there not reasons TODAY for us to have joy? If you are saved today you are a child of God. You have a home in Heaven. You are forgiven, redeemed, and spiritually quickened. You have the promise of His presence, power, provision today. Are these all not wonderful reasons to rejoice TODAY?

Revival seeks to move the sinner forward to salvation and the Believers forward in their relationship with the Lord and Christ-likeness. Every day, focus on the blessings of the present AND the blessings of the future. We have many great present blessings but we also have just as many great future blessings.

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II: Take Away Your _____

We don't have to be in church to take advantage of opportunities to praise God.

- A. the _____ opportunity to praise God
- they were involved in a good ole fashioned worship service
 - they had gathered and were singing praises and giving thanks because of God's goodness and mercy.
-
-

- B. a _____ opportunity to praise God
- While many were praising God the ancient men were weeping, crying out, and lamenting those old days in the old Temple.
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God is deserving and worthy to be praised. But when we make the past our hero we are saying to God in our heart ... *what you did in the past was better than right now and it was better than what you can or will do in the future.* When that's our heart we are not giving God the praise He deserves.

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III: Take Away Your _____

While the text does not provide and adequate picture of the service of these ancient men we can reasonably deduce that even though they may have been serving it did not equate to their service in the past.

How does the past keep someone from serving in the present? While there might be a number of reasons perhaps it's because they are worried that anything to they do in _____ might _____ their hero of the _____.