

The Example and The Ensamples: Where Are Our Godly Role Models?

Isaiah 3:1-5 For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water, 2 The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, 3 The captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counsellor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator. 4 And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them. 5 And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable.

1 Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

History is a teacher to those who will listen. That is what God's Word is in many ways, a Divinely Inspired History Book.

When I read 1 Corinthians 10:11, I understand one MAIN reason WHY God included a LOT OF HISTORY in His Bible. As ENSAMPLES: AND THEY ARE WRITTEN FOR OUR ADMONITION.

Most preachers will tell you “Ensample is just an old way of saying Example.” That's not entirely true, for in 1611, we find there were definite understandings in regards to these two words and their useage in various passages in the Bible would be lessened if we neglected the truths of these words. One defines them as follows: An “example” is an outward sample, while an “ensample” is one that can be internalised through specific personal knowledge of the object looked at.” To me I see a “sample” from “outside” a group. Example has the EX translated from Greek where it is: EK = Out yet it sounds the same. Now Ensample is the INSIDE sample to those “IN” the same group.

Philippians 3:17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.” See Paul tells the Believers at Philippi to follow HIM....as an ENSAMPLE. For Paul is a believer as they are. But in 1 Peter 2:21-22 we read: ”For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: 22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth.” Here we find Jesus has left the believers – you and me – an EXAMPLE. We are outside His group for one reason – We're not 100%, we're not God in the flesh. Yet Jesus DID show us how to live.

So we understand that when we look in History we are seeing “HIS” “STORY” played out in the lives of men and women throughout time.

Some people get “worried” when preachers mention others than Jesus. If that be the case we ought never to speak of Paul or Peter or Moses or Noah. But that isn't what we do. Again, all these lives broadcast the story of Christ and the Will of God not merely in the Bible, but also even in our lives.

Now, granted some people go overboard, almost as if they are worshipping other subjects rather than Jesus Christ. Now, that is a BIG no, no. I get that feeling a lot of times when I see our black brethren “celebrating Michael Lucifer King Day, did I say that right? But if you're gonna “lift” up some man as an ensample, or hero or role model you could do a better job than the so called “Martin Luther King, Jr.” then again he did say I have a Dream and Jeremiah 23:25 says: "I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed."

But then again, why ARE our children looking up to Barack Hussein Obama, Selena Gomez, Oprah, Miley Cyrus, Beyonce (who has her own CHURCH now), Brittney Spears (a half eaten sandwich of hers sold for \$500 on Ebay), Ellen DeGenera did I say that right? (openly a Sodomite) and Michael Sam (the first Sodomite Football player) and other ilk?

Well, I think I have the answer for that: Look at Isaiah 3:1-5 For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water, 2 The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient, 3 The captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counsellor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator. 4 And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them. 5 And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable.

Now let me interpret that first verse: The Stay is the Portion. The Staff is Food that Supports one (see Lev. 26:26). So of the 13 famines in the Word of God Isaiah is stating here that that is going to befall the nation of Judah, also all the leaders, military leaders and men of God are going to be gone from the land and from the posts of leadership and then the Prophecy states that children and babes would be their princes and rulers. The people will be oppressed and those in authority will act proud and haughty towards the former rulers and those who are honourable (in God's sight).

Now let's apply that first verse: In Amos 8:11 we are told: "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:" The Bible and the Gospel is also described as 'water' in John 7:38 & Ephesians 5:26.

So as the Word of God gets scarcer and scarcer in the land so too will Godly Leaders, Military Men and Heroes. Our nation is going downhill in a hurry. Sin is abounding everywhere and churches and Christians are compromising the Faith on every hand. Beloved I'll tell you what Preacher James Melton told his people: We cannot expect to live like Hell, Have Angels to run the country and Have it look like Heaven! So many ask God to Bless America, He cannot when America has no sound Christian leaders or role models! So where are the Godly Men in our National Leadership today?

I'm sorry to say that I don't see any there. This is why God tells us in His Word we have to look to the past. So it is that while Monday, the Banks were closed, the Mail didn't run and the Federal Government was shut down to honour a Communist, Antichrist they call Martin Luther King, Jr. and then in Columbia, SC Hillary Clinton said: "How wonderful it is to be here together without the Confederate flag overhead, That flag always belonged in a museum, not at the statehouse."

Then, Tuesday, yesterday not hardly a word was said about the 209th Anniversary of Robert E. Lee's birthday. Tomorrow will be the 192nd Birthday of Thomas J. Jackson, better known as "Stonewall" Jackson.

While you and I look to Jesus Christ as our supreme Example to model our lives and our steps by, I cannot help but get ENCOURAGEMENT from reading about people in the Past WHO FOLLOWED IN HIS STEPS! I receive as 1 Corinthians 10:11 says: an Ensample – a sample from my own group (so I can see that it's possible) and then I get an admonition (Godly Counsel).

I get GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT when I read the life of Pastor George Muller, the Life of Sgt. Alvin C. York, the Life of Theodore Roosevelt, the Life of George Washington, Life of Jefferson Davis, the Life of Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. So for a few moments let me share some Biblical Truth with you and some illustrations from the lives of Generals Lee and Jackson. As a matter of fact, President Theodore Roosevelt described General Robert E. Lee as: "the very greatest of all the great captains that the English-speaking peoples have brought forth."

What a compliment! Now why do we as Southerners hold Lee and Jackson in so high regard? It isn't just because they were Soldiers. Consider that just before the Civil War, Scott, who would become General In Chief of the Army, told a close friend: "I tell you, sir, that Robert E. Lee is the greatest soldier now living, and if he ever gets the opportunity, he will prove himself the greatest captain of history." When President-Elect Lincoln asked Scott who ought to lead the US Armies, Scott told Lincoln it ought to be US Colonel Robert E. Lee. On April 18, 1861 – the day after Lee's Native State Virginia Seceded (He lived in Maryland at his Wife's ancestral home – Arlington) Lee was requested to come to the home of Francis P. Blair who told him of Lincoln's proffer of a promotion and command of all Union Armies. Lee replied that he could not draw his sword against his native state. On July 20th he resigned his Colonel's commission and cast his lot with the South. He would ever be our beloved General, as would Jackson. but again, WHY are men like Lee and Jackson esteemed so highly?

1. The Example & Ensamples Show Us The Path To Fear God

a. The Example of Jesus by His Actions caused the People to Fear (Respect) the Lord:

- i. Luke 5:26 And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to day.

b. The Ensamples followed that admonition to Feared the Lord & Caused Others To!

- i. One evening during a council of war, Jackson listened intently to various options presented by his subordinates. After they had concluded, he thanked them for their efforts, but added that he would present his own plans in the morning. Leaving him to ponder their strategies, Lieutenant-General A.P. Hill said, "Well, I suppose Jackson wants time to pray over it." Later that night, Hill's counterpart, General Richard S. Ewell, returned and observed his superior through the tent flap, on his knees praying intensely for guidance in the difficult movements that lay before them. Upon hearing the excitement in Jackson's voice and witnessing the sincerity in his heart, Ewell said, "If that is religion, I must have it." Up to that point, Ewell did not own a Bible and he had cynicism. He later attributed his own discovery of the Gospel and profession of faith to the influence and example of his commander. Following the untimely death of Jackson, and the South's surrender, Ewell continued to practice his faith and eventually became a member of an Episcopal Church in Columbia, SC.
- ii. After the Battle of Second Manassas, Dr. Hunter McGuire, Jackson's medical doctor, said that the battle's outcome "had been won by nothing but stark and stern fighting." "No," replied Jackson. "It has been won by nothing but the blessing and protection of Providence."
- iii. Robert E. Lee said: "I tremble for my country when I hear of confidence expressed in me. I know too well my weakness, that our only hope is in God."
- iv. "...I cannot express the anguish I feel at the death of our sweet Annie. To know that I shall never see her again on earth, that her place in our circle, which I always hoped one day to enjoy, is forever vacant, is agonising in the extreme. But God in this, as in all things, has mingled mercy with the blow, in selecting that one best prepared to leave us. May you be able to join me in saying 'His will be done!' ...I know how much you will

grieve and how much she will be mourned. I wish I could give you any comfort, but beyond our hope in the great mercy of God, and the belief that he takes her at the time and place when it is best for her to go, there is none. May that same mercy be extended to us all, and may we be prepared for His summons." - Robert E. Lee, writing to his wife Mary. From a letter dated October 26, 1862 discussing their daughter Annie's death. Robert E. Lee's faith in God is shown in his words.

2. The Example & Ensamples Show Us The Path To Be Saved or Be Born-again!

a. The Example of Jesus showed us to share the Messiah, Preach & Preach the Gospel.

- i. John 4:25-26 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. 26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.
- ii. Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
- iii. Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. (Don't forget in John 3:7b ...Ye Must Be Born Again!)

b. The Ensamples followed that call to be saved, born-again & to share the Gospel

- i. Jackson was asked about the denominational qualifications for Chaplains in his Corps – to which Jackson replied: “Does he preach the Gospel?”
- ii. Always eager to share his relationship with the Father, Jackson wrote a letter to his sister, and summarized his faith: You wish to know how to come to God; so as to have your sins forgiven, and to receive “the inheritance which is incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away.” Now my dear sister the way is plain: the savior says in Mark 16th chapter, 16th verse “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.” But you may ask what is it to believe. To explain this I will quote from an able theologian, and devoted servant of God. To believe in the sense in which the word is used here, “is feeling and acting as if there were a God, a Heaven, a Hell; as if we were sinners and must die; as if we deserve eternal death, and were in danger of it. And in view of all, casting our eternal interests on the mercy of God in Christ Jesus. To do this is to be a Christian.”
- iii. Lee & Jackson encouraged preaching to the troops. Whenever Chapel was held or prayer services were conducted they were present. Now, after the war, Lee became President and instructor at Washington College (later renamed Washington & Lee University) in Lexington, Virginia. He told one of the local pastors: “I shall be disappointed, sir; I shall fail in the leading object that brought me here, unless these young men become real Christians; and I wish you and others of your sacred profession to do all you can to accomplish this.” He said to another: “I dread the thought of any student going away from the college without becoming a sincere Christian.” After Chaplain William Jones, preached at the college, General Lee told him: “I wish, sir, to thank you for your address; it was just what we needed. Our great want is a revival which shall bring these young men to Christ.” Before Lee died, he said to one of the professors of the college: “Oh, doctor! If only I could know that all the young men in the college were good Christians, I should have nothing more to desire.”
- iv. J. William Jones, who was Lee’s chaplain at Washington College, wrote: “If I ever come in contact with a sincere, devout Christian—one who, seeing himself to be a sinner, trusted alone in the merits of Christ, who humbly tried to walk the path of duty, ‘looking unto Jesus’ as the author and finisher of his faith, and whose piety constantly exhibited itself in his daily life—that man was General R. E. Lee.”
- v. Robert E. Lee said: “I am nothing but a poor sinner, trusting in Christ alone for salvation.”

3. The Example & Ensamples Show Us The Path To Being Bible Believers

a. The Example of Jesus showed us we CAN believe the Bible.

- i. Matthew 23:35 That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.” (Abel – Gen. 4:8 & Zacharias – 2 Chronicles 24:20 & Zechariah 1:1)
- ii. John 5:46-47 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. 47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?
- iii. Mark 12:24 And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?

b. The Ensamples followed that admonition to Be a Bible-Believer

- i. They believed the KING JAMES BIBLE!
- ii. “You must not suppose that I would like you to profess religion without possessing it. A hypocrite is in my opinion one of the most detestable of beings. my opinion is, that every one should honestly and carefully investigate the Bible; and if he can believe it to be the word of God, to follow its teachings.” (March 1, 1851)
- iii. Lee said: “There are things in the old Book which I may not be able to explain, but I fully accept it as the infallible word of God, and receive its teachings as inspired by the Holy Spirit.”
- iv. Lee also said: In all my perplexities and distresses, the Bible has never failed to give me light and strength.
- v. After the War, he was offered and accepted the presidency of the Rockbridge Bible Society in Lexington, VA whose primary objective of the Bible Society under his leadership, according to his own words, was to place a Bible in every home in the South. He admonished folks to “read the Bible, read the Bible.”

4. The Example & Ensamples Show Us The Path To Being Humble

a. The Example of Jesus showed us True Humility.

- i. Matthew 23:12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.
- ii. Philippians 2:5-11 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

b. The Ensamples followed that admonition to Be a Bible-Believer

- i. Here is a great quote from Stonewall Jackson in which he is speaking of the almost idolatrous way people elevate fellow human beings: “The manner in which the press, the army, and the people seem to lean upon certain persons is positively frightful. They are forgetting God in the instruments He has chosen. It fills me with alarm.”
- ii. 'My religious beliefs teach me to feel as safe in battle as in bed. God has fixed the time of my death. I do not concern myself with that, but to be always ready whenever it may overtake me. That is the way all men should live, and all men would be equally brave.’’
- iii. Robert E. Lee said: My chief concern is to try to be an humble, earnest Christian.

5. **The Example & Ensamples Show Us The Path To Being A Church-Goer & Supporter**

a. **The Example of Jesus showed us we need to go to & Support the Church.**

- i. Luke 4:16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.
- ii. Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
- iii. Ephesians 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.
 - He supports the Church folks. He founded it, He nourishes it even as a Husband nourishes and loves his wife.

b. **The Ensamples followed that admonition to Be a Church-Goer & Supporter**

- i. Whenever possible, a strict schedule of morning and evening worship on the Sabbath, as well as **Wednesday prayer meetings**, was adhered to at all costs. One of our local Fredericksburg preachers, the chaplain Reverend Tucker Lacy routinely led the services, which were often attended by General Lee and his staff.
 - THIS IS WHY WE MEET HERE TONIGHT!
- ii. General Jackson was careful to tithe everything. He also founded and taught a Sunday school for black people in Lexington.
- iii. Chaplain Jones said that Lee "was a most liberal contributor to his church." Not only did he tithe of his income, but it was not unusual for him to ask how much the balance was for a certain need of the church and then give the amount needed to make up for the lack of funds. - as a matter of fact it was in this form of supporting that contributed to his death. On Wednesday, September 28, 1870 a meeting was held in regards to the rebuilding of the church edifice and increase of the rector's salary. The minister's (J. William Jones) salary still lacked a sum greater than General Lee's proportion of the in view of his frequent and generous contributions to church and other charities but just before the treasurer announced the amount of the still remaining General Lee said in a low tone "I will give that sum." after the meeting was over and he arrived home he soon thereafter grew sick and then had a stroke. On October 12, 1870 he died.
 - The day after his death, the New York Herald, a northern newspaper, wrote the following words in an obituary: "The expressions of regret which sprang from the few who surrounded the bedside of the dying soldier and Christian on yesterday will be swelled today into our mighty voice of sorrow, resounding throughout our country and extending over all parts of the world where his great genius and his many virtues are known. For not to the Southern people alone shall be limited the tribute of a tear over the dead Virginian. Here in the North, forgetting and forgiving all the years of bloodshed and agony, we have long since ceased to look upon him as the Confederate leader, but have claimed him as one of ourselves . . . for Robert Edward Lee was an American, and the great nation that gave him birth would be today unworthy of such a son if she regarded him lightly."
 - Proverbs 16:7 When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.
- iv. During the War, Lee would stop along the roadside to join his troops in prayer services. Once he came upon a group of soldiers kneeling in prayer on the eve of a battle. He rode up, dismounted from his horse, Traveller, uncovered his head, and knelt in reverence to engage in prayer with them and their chaplain.
- v. "General Lee was a most active promoter of the interests of his church, and of the cause of Christ in the community; and all of the pastors felt that they had in him a warm

friend.” Jones remarked. He said Lee: “was a most regular attendant upon all the services of his own church. His pew was immediately in front of the chancel, his seat in the chapel was the second from the pulpit, and he always seemed to prefer a seat near the preacher’s stand. He always devoutly knelt during prayer, and his attitude during the entire service was that of an interested listener or a reverential participant.” While at Washington College, his seat in the chapel was never empty when services were being held.

- vi. Generals Lee and Jackson took heed to Hebrews 10:25 – “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”

6. The Example & Ensamples Show Us The Path To Clean-Living

a. The Example of Jesus shows us He was without Sin & we ought to live right.

- i. Hebrews 4:14-15 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.
- ii. Matthew 19:17-19 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. 18 He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, 19 Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

b. The Ensamples followed that admonition to Clean-living

- i. Jackson after he was wounded said: Nothing justifies profanity.
- ii. Jackson said: I am more afraid of alcohol than of all the bullets of the enemy.
- iii. Again Jackson remarked: I like liquor — its taste and its effects — and that is just the reason why I never drink it.
- iv. Even Lee remarked along the same lines: I like whiskey. I always did, and that is why I never drink it.
- v. General Jackson and Lee did not smoke, drink, curse or indulge in crude humor. Once a soldier asked if there were any ladies present before he started to tell a dirty, off-color joke. Lee said, “There are no ladies present, but one gentleman is.” Needless to say, the joke was never told.

7. The Example & Ensamples Show Us The Path To Being a Forgiver

a. The Example of Jesus showed us we ought to Forgive

- i. Matthew 6:14-15 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: 15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
- ii. Matthew 18:21-22 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? 22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.
- iii. Luke 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

b. The Ensamples followed that admonition to Forgive.

- i. Prior to the Battle of Fredericksburg, General Maxy Gregg of South Carolina had brought formal charges (that could lead to court-martial) against Jackson because Jackson had arrested 2 of Gregg's Colonels. At the request of Lee, Gregg dropped the charges and was ill and cantakerous towards Jackson. On Dec. 13, 1862, General Gregg was wounded. Upon being informed of this, Jackson rushed over to the hospital at 4AM. Upon seeing Jackson enter, Gregg began to weep, begging Jackson's forgiveness to which Jackson replied all was forgiven and said: “The

- doctor tells me that you have not long to live. Let me ask you to dismiss this matter from your mind and turn your thoughts to God and to the world to which you go.”
- ii. After Pickett's Charge during which Lee lost over 6,000 men (In all of the 3 days' worth of fighting Lee lost 23,231 men) So you can imagine the strain upon Lee's shoulders. Years later, Marcus J. Wright related the following: “I was at the battle of Gettysburg myself, and an incident occurred there which largely changed my views of the Southern people. I had been a most bitter anti-Southman, and fought and cursed the Confederates desperately. I could see nothing good in any of them. The last day of the fight I was badly wounded. A ball had shattered my left leg. I lay on the ground not far from Cemetery Ridge, and as General Lee ordered his retreat, he and his officers rode near me. As they came along, I recognized him and, though faint from exposure and loss of blood, I raised up my hands, looked Lee in the face, and shouted as loud as I could, ‘Hurrah for the Union!’
 - iii. The General heard me, looked, stopped his horse, dismounted and came toward me. I confess that I at first thought he meant to kill me. But as he came up he looked down at me with such a sad expression upon his face that all fear left me, and I wondered what he was about. He extended his hand to me, and grasping mine firmly and looking right into my eyes said, “My son, I hope you will soon be well.”
 - iv. If I live a thousand years I shall never forget the expression on General Lee's face. There he was, defeated, retiring from a field that had cost him and his cause almost their last hope, and yet he stopped to say words like those to a wounded soldier of the opposition who had taunted him as he passed by! As soon as the General had left me, I cried myself to sleep there upon the bloody ground.”

Now 2 months prior to Gettysburg, Stonewall Jackson was accidentally wounded by his own men (North Carolinians) on May 2, 1863. His Left Arm would be amputated and he was beginning to recover. Soon thereafter Pneumonia set in and by May 7th it was apparent that he would not recover. On Sunday May 10, 1863 he would pass on to Heaven. While behind the lines in a home, Jackson said: “I consider these wounds a blessing they were given me for some good and wise purpose and I would not part with them if I could.” On Sunday the 10th the physician had given up hope of his recovery and Mrs Jackson informed the dying chieftain that the time of his departure was at hand On Sunday morning it was plain to all that he could only survive a few hours yet his mind was clear and still on his Master's business. He asked Major Pendleton his Adjutant General Who was preaching at headquarters that day. Mrs Jackson remained with him in his last moments and he conversed freely with her and said “I know you would gladly give your life for me but I am perfectly resigned Do not be sad I hope I shall recover Pray for me but always remember in your prayers to use the petition Thy will be done. In case of his demise he counseled her to return to her father's house and said You have a kind good father but there is no one so kind and good as your Heavenly Father.” Soon before his death he said: “It will be infinite gain he said to be translated to heaven and be with Jesus.”

A lasting tribute to a man of sterling Christian character and Southern patriotism, Benjamin Harvey Hill spoke before the Southern Historical Society on February 18, 1874, just four years after Lee's death:

When the future historian shall come to survey the character of Lee [and I might add Jackson], he will find it rising like a huge mountain above the undulating plain of humanity, and he must lift his eyes high toward heaven to catch its summit. He was a foe without hate, a friend without treachery, a soldier without cruelty, a victor without oppression, and a victim without murmuring. He was a public officer without vices, a private citizen without wrong, a neighbor without reproach, a Christian without hypocrisy, and a man without guile. He was a Caesar without his ambition, a Frederick without his tyranny, a Napoleon without his selfishness, and a Washington without his reward.

So what has happened folks? As America has departed the Lord's Word, so too have our Godly Heroes been hard to find in the contemporary world. So we look up to Christ everyday to lead us and at times we can look back and find a few Godly men who loved their Lord, their Bible, their family and their nation and were not afraid to follow Christ anywhere even into the thick of battle.

So what if everybody tried to emulate our Ensamples General Lee & Jackson who tried to emulate our Example of Examples the Lord Jesus Christ?

Then everybody would be – God-fearing; Born-again; Bible-believing; Humble; Church-going; Soul-winning; Clean-living, Forgiving Christians .

If those men did these things in the crucible of death, war, victory and defeat and showed us that living for Christ is doable, and furthermore since the counsel of God's Word tells us in Philippians 4:13 – I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. Not only does the Bible show us this to be true but the lives of Bible-believers testify that it IS true. What if in 150 years folks look at your life and mine will we be heroes or role models to the believers alive then? I hope so. Let's be sure to leave our children a Godly Ensample as WE STRIVE TO FOLLOW OUR EXAMPLE JESUS CHRIST! Let's pray.