

**LOOKING BACK AT THE GOOD OLD DAYS!  
PSALM 143:5**

**Introduction:**

What comes to your mind when you think of “*the good old days?*”  
Most of the time **we remember the good things** about the good old days to the exclusion of the bad things don’t we!

The Children of Israel were that way in *Numbers 11:5* as they looked back to life before their redemption—“*We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic: 6But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.*”

They seemed to forget how bad that they suffered at the hands under the harsh bondage of the Egyptians.

The psalmist said in *Psalms 77:5*—“*I have considered the days of old, the years of ancient times.*”

**Spiritually speaking**, I think it does **us good to consider the days of old and years of ancient times...** both the good and the bad! I believe that it is from considering those days of old and ancient times that **we can catch a glimpse of how we got where we are today in our walk with God.** We can look back and **understand what works and what doesn’t.** We can also understand **what gets us in trouble with God and what glorifies God.** **Hopefully we’ve all learned some significant things from our past!**

**This Church was conceived in late August of 1985 when God moved on the heart of Bro. Charles Baker. The Church was actually birthed when it was organized 30 years ago on August 15, 1987.**

**Let me share with you a list of the conditions as they were in 1987.**  
*I had been Pastor at my first Church, Friendship Baptist Church in Jasper, FL, for 1 year.*  
*The population of the world was 5 billion people. (7.525 billion now)*  
*Ronald Regan was the President; George Bush was the Vice-President.*  
*Federal debt: 2 1/3 trillion (Now stands at almost 19 ½ trillion – almost 8 times higher)*  
*Cost of a first-class stamp: \$0.22 Cost of a gallon of regular gas: \$0.95*

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*The Cosby Show was the #1 TV program.*

*Personal computers had only been out about 2 years and we were using an IBM PC Jr. that had no hard drive and only had 128 kilobytes of memory and NO INTERNET and NO E-MAIL!  
(I now have 1 terabyte hard drive and 8 gigabytes of RAM )*

We could be here all day discussing **whether those good old days were good or not** and **what aspects of them were good and bad.**

I think we all can understand that **our society has made a lot of advancements that have made a lot of things better than they once were.** (Medicine, technology)

But I think we all can also understand that **our society has also lost a lot of things that have caused us to not be better off in some respects.** (Especially when it comes to spiritual things.)

Nevertheless, I want us to look at some things about “*Looking Back At The Good Old Days.*”

- I. BECAUSE OF SOME OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS WE CAN BELONG TO GOD!**
  - A. Think About What God Himself Did For Us In The Past!**
    - 1. He Foreordained Christ!**  
*1 Peter 1:20—Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you”*
    - 2. He Chose Us In Christ! (Ephesians 1:3-5)**
    - 3. He Gave Us Christ!**  
*John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

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**B. Think About What Others Have Done For Us In The Distant Past!**

**1. The Prophets and Apostles and Others of Old Time. (Hebrews 11:32-40)**

*Ephesians 4:11—“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;”*

*Ephesians 2:20—“And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.”*

*1 Corinthians 3:10-11—10According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. 11For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”*

**2. Think Of Those God Used To Preserve His Word!**

Many paid the price with their very lives so that you and I could have God’s perfect Word!

**3. Think Of Those God Used To Give Us Our Freedoms Including Our Freedom To Worship!**

Those who came to this country and forged the way for others who stood against tyranny and fought to establish this country! Others who have fought since then to retain the freedoms we have!

**4. Think Of Those God Used To Spread The Gospel!**

Those who were obedient to the Great Commission that the Lord Jesus Christ gave to the Church!

**I’m glad they didn’t drop the torch that was passed to them! When must not drop the torch that has been passed to us!**

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*(What God Did...What Others Have Done In The Distant Past...)*

**C. What Others Have Done In The Recent Past!**

**1. Those God Used To Plant Churches.**

**Bro. Charles Baker** and those who helped plant this Church and other Churches that have influenced our lives for God!

**2. Those God Used To Reach Us Personally!**

Think of those who were involved in you personally receiving the Gospel of Christ and coming to Christ and growing in Christ!

*BECAUSE OF SOME OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS WE CAN BELONG TO GOD!*

**II. BECAUSE OF SOME OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS WE HAD BETTER TRUST GOD! (Luke 11:47-51)**

**God has a will for our lives! To bring honor and glory to Him!**

*Ephesians 5:17—“Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”*

**God has provided the Way for us to come to Him!**

*Hebrews 2:3—“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;”*

**God has given us so much! We have Churches galore, we have multiple copies of God’s Word, we have multiple media from which the Gospel goes forth!**

**And those who God has given much, He expects much! That is called stewardship!**

*Luke 12:48— “For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.”*

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**III. BECAUSE OF SOME OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS WE HAVE  
BECOME BETTER THROUGH GOD!**

God has used and still uses all different kinds of circumstances and things in our lives to bring us into His likeness. (*Deuteronomy 8:2-3*)

*Ephesians 4:11-12—“And he gave some, apostles; and some prophets; and some evangelist; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfection of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”*

**IV. BECAUSE OF SOME OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS THAT WE  
HAD BEST STAY TRUE TO GOD!**

*“Methods are many, principles are few...methods sometimes change, but principles never do!”*

*Proverbs 23:10—“Remove not the old landmark;”*

*Proverbs 22:28—“Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.”*

*Hebrews 2:1—“Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.”*

**We need to hold true to the great things of old that have been  
passed down to us!**

*Jude 3—“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”*

**We need to pass those old truths to future generations!**

*Deuteronomy 6:6—“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”*

**Conclusion**

BECAUSE OF SOME OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS THAT WE CAN BELONG TO GOD! Because of what God did. . .Because of what others have done in the distant past ...Because of what others have done in the recent past. Let me ask, Do you belong to God?

BECAUSE OF SOME OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS WE HAD BETTER TRUST GOD! (It's a matter of stewardship!) Have you placed your faith and trust in Him for salvation? Are you trusting Him to guide you in your life?

BECAUSE OF SOME OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS WE HAVE BECOME BETTER THROUGH GOD!  
We need to honor the past, but press on to the future!

BECAUSE OF SOME OF THE GOOD OLD DAYS WE HAD BEST STAY TRUE TO GOD!  
What about your life? Has it remained steadfast and true?

Have you been growing and gaining ground in your spiritual life?  
Adding to your faith?

Or is your life one that has shifted to neutral and is drifting from where it should be. . .from where God would have it to be?