

Things That Will Outlast It *(concluded from page 312402)*

by Bill Crews

Is there anything that we can take with us? The apostle John warned the children of God against loving the world and the things that are in the world. He identified the things that are in the world as *“the lust of the eyes and the vainglory of life.”* After averring that the world and the things that are in it will pass away, he then declared, *“But he that doeth the will of God abideth forever”* (1 John 1:15-17). A record of service to God, of obedience to His will can be taken with us. The rich young ruler was told how to use his riches so as to *“have treasure in heaven”* (Matt. 19:20-21). Paul told Timothy what charges he was to give to those who are rich in this present world that they might lay *“up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on the life which is life indeed”* (1 Tim. 6: 17-19). Jesus in “the sermon on the mount” calls upon men to place more emphasis upon laying up treasures in heaven than upon laying up treasures upon the earth (Matt. 6:19-20). We can and will take with us what we have done with our lives and the persons we have become — with or without the grace of God, with or without the help of our Lord. *“For we must all be made manifest before the judgment-seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad”* (2 Cor. 5:10).

When death comes, when you leave behind your physical body, when you no longer need your earthly house, when you have to give up all your material possessions, what will you have left? When you are raised from the dead and appear before Christ in the judgment, what will you have to look forward to? Be sure that you put things into your life that will outlast it.

How Times Have Changed

by Wayne Goff

I was reading this past week an article by my father on “Changes I Have Seen.” Then I reflected on the changes in my own life. And I saw a **Jeopardy Show** this week where one category was about *definitions* from the 1800’s. The definitions reflected a world in which we no longer live.

The amount of change in the last one hundred years is truly astounding. Electricity is the one common factor that has permitted the amazing changes we have seen. That “power” is behind most all modern “conveniences.” The personal computer and the internet have given us finger-tip access to unbelievable knowledge, information, and convenience. Research can be done in a matter of hours, rather than days! The Bible programs we have available on the computer may have electronic “books” in them that would fill my office! But the irony in all of this is that we are not as smart in the Bible as people were a couple of hundred years ago. We are so caught up in the “busy-ness” of life that we do not set aside enough time to take advantage of the wealth of knowledge that sits at our fingertips! Many of us have gotten mentally lazy.

I read of one brother who took his family to a secluded cabin near a beautiful mountain with the express purpose of **reading the Bible daily for four hours** — without any other Bible aids. His family accomplished their mission and the brother expressed how much they learned from the experience. Yes, they spent their afternoons relaxing, and their evenings eating and playing games with the family. But precious time alone with the Bible had an amazing impact on their lives. They realized how difficult that was to do at home with all the interferences — phone calls, work, school, etc. — and have decided to do the same again in the future.

Arkansas in the early 1900’s produced a good number of Bible scholars, in part perhaps, because the poor folks were not “connected” to the outside world, and spent their time reading, studying and meditating on God’s Word! Yes, times have surely changed.

312403

