

Thought for the Day

November 7 – November 11, 2011

November 7, 2011

*R*EMEMBER YOUR MISSION

Television journalist Charlayne Hunter-Gault, one of the first black students at the University of Georgia, recalls the early days of the Civil Rights struggle. Ruby Doris Smith, a member of the Atlanta Student Movement, was often the glue that held everyone together. Once during sit-ins in Atlanta, a hostile crowd began tormenting the students. Some of the students wanted to retaliate. But Rudy Doris kept walking the line, whispering, “Don’t forget why you’re here.”

Hunter-Gault says that she has carried that message with her over the years. “Whenever I am closest to being the best reporter I can be, it’s because I hear Ruby Doris whispering to me, “Don’t forget why you’re here.”

That’s a great daily thought for a Christian. Why are you here? To serve the living Christ who purchased your salvation on a cross.

November 8, 2011

THERE'S A CATCH TO IT

A denominational expert on stewardship visited a small country church and gave the congregation the full treatment in terms of what the Bible says about giving. After he had finished his lengthy presentation, he asked if there were any questions. At first there was just silence. Finally an elderly farmer stood up and said, "There's a catch to it." "No," said the expert. "Everything I shared with you is biblical and above board." "Yes," said the farmer, "but there's a catch to it. If we go along with this plan we're going to have to pledge more and give more than we intend to."

Unless one's heart belongs to Christ, giving is a grim duty. But when one's heart is full of gratitude to Christ, giving is a holy privilege and is done cheerfully. As the Bible declares, "God loves a cheerful giver" (II Cor. 9:7)

November 9, 2011

THEY ALL GOT NAMES

Bishop Gerald Kennedy used to tell a story about an enthusiastic census-taker who stopped at a small, unpretentious house and was met at the door by a weary mother. "Lady," he said, "I am a census-taker and I want to know how many are in this family." "Well," she said in a leisurely fashion, "there's Johnny, Matilda, Reginald, Charles..." "No, no, no," interrupted the canvasser, "I don't want their names, just their number." Indignantly she replied, "They ain't got no numbers. They all got names!"

Surely that is God's attitude toward all persons. Each one is a precious creation, designed to become one of his children. God not only knows each one's name; he has even counted the hairs of our heads.

November 10, 2011

A CASE OF NERVES

A young skater was having a bad case of butterflies before an event. She told her coach she was just too afraid to go out onto the ice. “You’re not afraid, you’re just nervous,” said the coach. “There’s a difference.”

He explained it this way: “A man goes into a restaurant and orders a \$100 meal. He’s nervous because he ordered such an expensive meal, but he is not afraid because he knows he has over \$100 in his pocket. Fear, on the other hand, is going into a restaurant and ordering a \$100 meal, knowing that you have no money in your pocket.” Then he looked straight at the skater and said, “I know that you have the needed resources in your pocket. Now just go out there and prove it.”

The skater went out and finished first in the competition.

November 11, 2011

*E*XPECTING HIS RETURN

On one of his expeditions to the Antarctic, Sir Ernest Shackleton left some of his men on Elephant Island with the intent of returning for them in a short time. But he was delayed. By the time he could go back for them the sea had frozen and he had no access to the island. Three times he tried to reach them, but was prevented by the ice. Finally, on his fourth try, he broke through and found a narrow channel to them.

Much to his surprise he found the crewmen waiting for him, supplies packed and ready to board. They were soon on their way home to England. He asked them how they knew

to be ready for him, especially since he had been so long delayed. They told him that they didn't know when he would return, but they were sure he would. So every morning the leader rolled up his sleeping bag and packed his gear and told the crew to do the same, saying, "Get your things ready, boys, the boss may come today."

That's a marvelous attitude for Christians. We don't know when Christ will return, but we are sure that he will. Our task is to be ready, and it could be today!