

May 12, 2019

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

Psalm 78

“Investing in Future Generations: Learning from the Past – Part 1”

Title: “God’s guidance of His people in spite of their unfaithfulness.”

Maskil: contemplative, didactic, or skillful psalm

Author: Asaph

I. The Exhortation – v. 1-11

A. The Invitation to Hear God’s Revelation (v. 1-4)

B. The Goal in Hearing God’s Revelation (v. 5-11)

- 1. To perpetuate God’s truth from generation to generation (5-6)**
- 2. To produce children that know & love the Lord**
 - a. Put Their Confidence in God (7a)**
 - b. Not Forget the Works of God (7b)**
 - c. Keep His Commandments (7c)**
- 3. To prevent them from being like the former generations (8-11)**
 - a. Defined (8)**
 - 1) A stubborn and rebellious generation = opposite of 2a**
 - 2) A generation that did not prepare its heart = opposite of 2b**
 - 3) Whose spirit was not faithful to God = opposite of 2c**
 - b. Described (9-11)**
 - 1) Turned back in the day of battle = opposite of 2a**
 - 2) Did not keep the covenant of God and refused to walk in His law = opposite of 2c**
 - 3) Forgot His deeds and His miracles that He had shown them = opposite of 2b**

So what?

Discussion & Application:

1. Read the title of Psalm 78. Share illustrations of the truth of that title from the Bible (besides the ones listed in the rest of Psalm 78). Share illustrations of that truth from your own life. What does (should) a deep understanding of the faithfulness of God do to your commitment to Him?
2. Surveys have demonstrated that the vast majority of Americans are biblically illiterate. This wasn't always the case. How do you think we got here? What hinders us from knowing God's Word ourselves? What hinders us from passing it on to future generations? What does the Psalmist challenge us to do about it? What is your plan to become more biblically literate?
3. What are the three primary things that Asaph says we should tell future generations in verse 4? How do those compare with the three things he said in verse 7?
4. Define in your own words what each of those three things means in greater detail. What other passages help us define these things?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
5. Why did the sons of Ephraim turn back in the day of battle? Lack of equipment? How does this relate to v. 5-8?
6. How can remembering God's miracles in the Bible help us when we are in difficult situations today?
7. How can you personally help future generations in our church know, understand, apply in their own lives, and then teach these things to generations beyond them?