



October 14, 2007

Brother Clarence

Last week I began a series on numbers used by God in the scriptures. I will continue that next week as I believe it is fitting to remember a faithful brother who passed from this life on Tuesday evening. Clarence McCarroll was no stranger to anyone at Haynes Street and to congregations in the area. Since obeying the gospel in the mid 90's he served faithfully and will be sorely missed. The newspapers will no doubt carry a notice about his passing and so I will not try to convey the information that will be found there. From time to time as we lose a member to death, I try to look back at the lessons that I have learned from them. Lessons that teach me how to live and serve as they have and follow the example that they have set. Clarence was exactly that, an example of what we all need to strive for in our service and fellowship on Earth. Clarence was a man of diligence. This was seen in his business dealings and also in regard to his work in the church. Solomon states, "***Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.***" (Eccl 9.10). Clarence was involved in several businesses, one of which was welding. It was not uncommon for Clarence to travel many miles to take care of a customer or to check to make sure that things were as they should be. In the business of the church, Clarence was always one to make sure that things he said that he would do were accomplished. He was always conscientious and reliable and helped to make many decisions that were of benefit to all. During the Summer months, as his gardens yielded vegetables, he made it a point to share this with everyone. Shortly after his passing a relative told me a story about Clarence and his mother. Clarence was told that if he became successful, he should plant three gardens. One for himself, and the others to share with anyone else. Solomon writes, "***My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.***" (Prov 1.8-9). Clarence fulfilled this promise. On one occasion

Clarence expressed a regret that he had not obeyed the gospel earlier in life so that his mother would know that her example and teaching had not been lost. Once more Solomon has something to say about this. "***Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.***" (Prov 22.6). Even before his obedience to the Lord, Clarence lived by these principles and later knew that he needed to become a Christian. Clarence was an humble man and never forgot that the things he had been blessed with were from God and often expressed the sentiment that he had been so blessed to be able to help others. Paul states, "***And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.***" (Col 3.17). Clarence did exactly that and never took anything, or anyone for granted. He was a friend to all and helped in many ways, always with the added admonition that he did not want anyone to know, or that thanks were needed. Christ stated, "***But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.***" (Matt 6.3-4). I am not aware of anyone whose lives were not touched by Clarence physically, or spiritually in his generosity and genuine concern for the well being of others. Clarence was also faithful in his attendance and was grieved at times if he had to be away, which was a rare occurrence. In spite of his heart problem and frequent infections following bypass surgery, Clarence was at the services of the Lord's people and visited other congregations to support gospel meetings as well where he encouraged, and was encouraged by others. Clarence suffered a terrible illness and passed from this life as a faithful child of God. He is at rest now and his example is one that we can follow as he followed Christ.

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