

Think On These Things...

Family Reunion

I had the privilege of attending a "Family Reunion" recently. It was a portion of my wife's family that neither she nor I had ever met. Many of the older folks who were there remembered her from her childhood. I enjoyed hearing many of the childhood stories they shared of her. Several photo albums had been set out, and I especially enjoyed hearing the stories associated with each passing picture. I heard them talk about "Grandpa and grandma, aunt and uncle so and so, etc." There were many happy memories of years gone by flooding the room we had assembled in on that occasion. Of course, a family reunion would not be complete without food! Tables were lined up and various dishes of food were spread out, including fried chicken, ham, potatoes, beans of every sort, cole slaw, and desserts of every kind. Laughter filled the air. It was a time of reflection and celebration!

Before leaving and heading for home, my father-in-law drove us over to where the family cemetery was located. We pulled up in the drive that circled around the cemetery, parked the car, and got out and walked over to the final resting place of his father. We stood there for a few moments, looking at and reading the tombstone that had been erected there many years ago. Once more, precious memories were shared from years gone by. We walked around the cemetery for a few moments with my father-in-law as he shared with us bits of information about the people who were buried there. I'm glad we took time to stop at that little cemetery.

I love family reunions! The only thing I regret about them is having to part ways and wondering who might not be with us next year. That's what makes the Second Advent of Christ so exciting! On that day, our Lord will "*descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord*" (**1 The. 4:16-17**). Just think of that "Family Reunion" in the atmospheric region! That reunion will never end! That reunion will not involve a journey to the cemetery, for on that Day, the faithful will be ushered into heaven where there will be no more tears, death, sorrow, or pain (**Rev. 21:4**).

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