

The Day Shall Declare It

1Cor. 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

I experienced a “daydream” this morning as I sat quietly with coffee in hand.

The fenced barnyard was large and a very active environment. The usual historical farm animals meandered about. In the center of this clean and rather exciting enclosure was a large, red, traditional-looking barn. Surrounding the fenced-in area was a vast veranda of rolling hills and endless pastures that seemingly escaped until they disappeared over the horizon. Suddenly, a farmer appeared from out of a distant house. He slowly climbed through the webbing of the fence and entered the outside pasture. He methodically slid open a closed gate that led from the barnyard into the open pasture. He then turned quietly and made his way back to the house in the distance, un-distracted and uninterrupted by any other activity around him.

A horse plodded very slowly up to the open gate. It was then that I noticed the path leading out of the barnyard and into the open space was well-worn. The old horse stared for a long time at the open gate. Turning back and looking intensely at the barnyard activity, the old mare then retreated into the security of the barn, and I could see and even hear her enjoying the feed provided for her in the barn troughs. The gate remained open, and I noticed the old farmer just sitting on his back porch, politely and confidently surveying the entire situation but never rising to close the open gate.

This scene unfolded in my mind in what felt like was a daily routine over a period of weeks. Finally, one day, the old mare, seemingly knowing that it was the right time dutifully passed through the open gate, and a long period later slipped far beyond my line of sight. The old farmer then reappeared and carefully pulled the gate closed.

I concluded from this rather unique occurrence that the well-worn path indicated that the old mare was joining the many others before her whenever she made her exit.

The term “put out to pasture” was once coined to describe tired old racehorses no longer capable of competing, or even old workhorses around the farm, who were retired from their work and put out to the pasture to graze and wait quietly to die.

In recent times, the phrase has come to be defined or used as a euphemism to describe people no longer deemed as productive as they once were in their specific vocation.

Most of us will, at some point in time, transition to a new chapter of ministry. A wise man once declared that time and chance happen to us all. To a lesser or greater extent, this experience will require an abundance of personal flexibility along with an unrelenting trust in God and His divine program.

I must decrease that another might increase is not always an easy nor comfortable process. It can be quite the challenge for many, actually.

We know, however, that the most powerful phrase in our Bible is “God is faithful.” If we combine all of the attributes of God together, none of them would hold much relevance or significance if He were not faithful.

What value is the love of God towards us if He is not faithful? What significance or hope would we enjoy in the mercies of God if He were not faithful?

But this we know and are confidently assured of...

GOD IS FAITHFUL!!

Bill Pitman

ecclesiasticalresearches.com