

Introduction: “You shall well remember what the Lord your God did.”

January 10, 2010

1. Why study Church history?
 - 1.1. To protect and understand orthodoxy.
 - 1.2. For encouragement. Great cloud of witnesses (Hebrews 11:1).
 - 1.3. To gain insight to past answers to questions we have today.
 - 1.4. Because it brings glory to God.
2. Why remember?
 - 2.1. What the scriptures say:
 - 2.11. Exodus 13:3-5
 - 2.12. Numbers 15:37-41
 - 2.13. Deuteronomy 7:17-21
 - 2.14. Deuteronomy 8:17-18
 - 2.15. Psalm 42:1-6
 - 2.16. Isaiah 46:6-10
 - 2.17. Luke 17:30-33
 - 2.18. Revelation 2:2-5
 - 2.2. Additional reasons:
 - 2.21. Studying Church history helps us see and appreciate things anew and from a fresh perspective. We often know what we believe—66 books in the Bible, God in three persons, etc.—without really knowing why.
 - 2.22. Studying Church history puts what we know about world history in an eternal context. No institution has had a greater impact and influence on world history (particularly western history) than the Christian church. God has been, and still is, working his will in history through his people.
 - 2.3. Reading
 - 2.31. Shelley: Introduction and Chapter 1.
 - 2.32. Additional suggested reading:
 - 2.32a. Deuteronomy 7-8
 - 2.32b. Psalm 41
 - 2.32c. “Reading the Bible Like a Grown Up Child” by Calvin Seerveld, available at <http://www.ccojubilee.org/resourcefolder/Discipleship/BibleStudy/HowtoStudytheBible/readingthebible.html>:

“Here’s what [the Bible] is not: It is not a book you use to prove a point. Neither is it a book written to solve your personal problems. Here’s what it is: It is the true story of what God has really done in history. It is a true account of how God works and what God wants done on earth. To read the Bible the way it is written, you have to give up your own agenda. You have to dwell in the text and see the whole woven tapestry of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. When you do, you will find that God speaks to you and with you.”