

This is the Day...Thursday

June 23, 2022

A Faith Worth Having

“For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.” (Hebrews 3:4)

My Dad owned an independent insurance agency in Gastonia. This was during the days before all the mega online companies became popular like Geico and Progressive. Dad ran a nice business and did all he could to give folks good service and a fair price. The majority of Dad’s business was in automobile insurance and some homeowner’s coverage. But as the years passed, Dad began providing coverage to many of the commercial customers in Gastonia. Workman’s compensation coverage, business coverage, and general liability. Through his commercial business, Dad became friends with a number of well-known businessmen in the community. They were business owners from various trades and segments of business and construction. From welders and flooring companies to electricians and home renovation companies. Through my dad, I became acquainted with many of these business owners myself. But the one I remember the most is Stan Rogers.

Mr. Rogers was a house builder in Gastonia. He came on the scene in Gastonia in the late 1970s and early 1980s when interest rates were out the roof and affordable housing was difficult to find. Mr. Rogers was a nice man, in his late thirties, balding, and big smile. He was a FAST talker and could come across as being rather pompous at times. Mr. Rogers’ claim to fame was his ability to build a house, FAST! “If you want a house, I can build it, now,” he would always say. Initially, his ability for quick construction drew many customers his way. He was building houses all over town. They were not fancy houses. They were small homes, with a carport, two bedrooms and a bath. The quality was questionable, but he could throw them up in a matter of weeks and at a low price. Folks were lining up to get one of his houses.

While Mr. Rogers seemed to be successful, on several occasions my dad told me that it would not last. “You can’t build anything worth having fast. The things that last take time to accomplish. Slow and steady.” Dad was right. Two years after Mr. Rogers began building homes, he went bankrupt. Basically, there were so many problems with the poorly built homes, like crumbling foundations, roof leaks, and electrical problems, that he could not afford to do all the warranty repairs. Nothing worth having happens fast.

We are all builders in some respect. Every day you are building your life. Every day you are building your reputation. You don’t become a person of integrity and character overnight. Slow and steady gets you there. The same is true with your faith. A deep and lasting faith does not simply appear the day we accept Jesus. It is built over years filled with trials and triumphs. The life built on FAST faith will not have a proper foundation and will begin to crumble. God builds our faith, slow and steady.

On this day which God has given you, slow down and take the time to do some building. Allow the circumstances of the day to lead you closer to God and take one more step toward a lasting and enduring faith that will stand the test of time. Nothing worth having happens fast. # 595