



Weekly Devotion

Responsibility

Tom Brokaw labeled them The Greatest Generation. He was referring to the folk who were tried by the rigors of the great depression and proven in crucible of the Second World War. The weak spirited and hesitant were by far and large eliminated. The survivors dug into the task of rebuilding a world ravaged by the destructive forces of two mighty armies. Europe and Japan had been reduced to ruin. The victors became compassionate healers and set about to restore their former foes. The threat of communism was met with resolve in Berlin and Korea. The economies of the free world were rebuilt and the exploration of space was begun with enthusiasm. No generation previously had accomplished so much in such a short time. They could be justly proud.

Memories of the harsh world of their youth prompted these parents to shelter their children from the demands of reality. They were guided by Dr. Spock rather than the common sense of history. Discipline was lax, if at all. The prevailing philosophy taught that children must be allowed to express their own identities. They would learn good manners by watching others. The economy was prosperous, modern conveniences became common and labor saving devices proliferated. Children no longer had chores for which they were responsible, and by which they earned some money. Instead, they were provided an allowance. They grew up like hot house plants.

Children of the greatest generation began to

reach adulthood in the middle of the 1960s. Absent the discipline for proper development these child-like adult began a counter culture. Old values of personal responsibility, frugality, morality and modesty were abandoned. Various government financial benefits, not available to their parents, made possible an idle existence. Faced with the possibility of military service, many fled the United States to find sanctuary in Canada or Europe. Many sought to escape the responsibility of adulthood by living in communes. Drug use became rampant, further diminishing their willingness to become responsible adults.

Rigorous disciplines in colleges were replaced by feel good programs. Tenured professors abandoned their classrooms to march in various protests. Their students were indoctrinated with socialistic or communistic philosophy. The government was to supply everyone with all the necessities for a comfortable life. Food, shelter, healthcare and education would be provided or subsidized. Politicians, eager for reelection, created numerous programs to satisfy these demands. The result is a mountain of debt that threatens the nation.

By 1990 many of the children of the greatest generation were moving into positions of leadership in our society. Lawyers, educators, religious leaders and elected officials brought up under such influence are now in places of authority. They have ignored the lessons of history and are leading us toward anarchy.

Our constitution is ignored in judicial deci-

sions. Any form of patriotism is taboo. Historical monuments are destroyed. Heroes of our country's past are ridiculed. Riots on college campuses confront anyone with an opinion different from the prevailing view. Lawlessness is accepted as a method of protest against any notion of injustice.

Abraham Lincoln said that a house divided cannot stand. America needs to wake up. No one and no country is perfect, but thousand of folk are seeking to come here to live in this imperfect place. Surely, there is something worth saving in America. No other country offers so much.

*Eldridge Cloessner
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church*



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