

GoodNews Letter

Number 254 February 4, 2009

THE DAY THE MUSIC PLAYED

February 3, 1959 is known as "**The Day the Music Died.**" Three original and talented "Rock & Roll" stars: **Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens** and "The Big Bopper," **J. P. Richardson** lost their lives in a plane crash.

Eleven years after the tragic accident, Don McLean commemorated February 3, 1959 in his recording of "**American Pie**" (1971). He termed it "**The Day the Music Died.**"

Fifty years since, the day was marked off as the world remembered the date, briefly. News reports, newspapers and of course, the internet presented an account of that day. But, there was no hope in those stories. Just memories of three talented men who died way too early in life.

Their music lives on but will they? Therefore, we must ask a question about these men; one that every person must answer: "**Will they live again in God's kingdom? Will they sing again?**"

But, let's allow Jesus, the Son of God, to present the question in all its eternal thought: "**What profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or, what shall a man give in exchange for his soul**" (Matthew 16:26).

As I think back on February and the day of the plane crash of 1959 - also the year that I (barely) graduated from high school, I vaguely remember where I was (Lancaster, Ca.) and what I was doing (nothing).

Times were different in 1959 - information moved slowly. News wasn't 24/7. On TV, it was segmented, usually at 6:00 o'clock - and, in black and white.

While I remember the stars and their hit records and still enjoy "**Peggy Sue,**" "**Donna**" and "**Chantilly Lace,**" the incident of the plane crash is not strong in my memory bank.

However, I want you to know that 1959 was really a huge year for me, later on. Not only did I get out of school that year, 1959 was the year that Jesus became my Savior.

While, school memories fail, naturally, my relationship with Jesus has soared and grows daily. 1959 was not the day "the music died;" for me, it was the year **that my heart attended a symphony of righteousness** - The day that "**The Music Played**" a sweet rhapsody of salvation to my heart.

It was the day that my inward man took in life, gladly. God's eternal life was granted as I trusted in and received Jesus as my Savior and LORD.

And, the message of glory has never stopped. The 50 year old salvation musical continues to play my heart strings today. Its resounding tones sweep the memory of when God's "justification, reconciliation and sanctification" were imparted to me by His grace.

That was in 1959, the year; yea, the day that "**The Music Played.**" In my heart "there sings a melody" everyday. The love that Jesus gave me, lifted me out of a "**death day,**" giving me a "**life day;**" one that, according to His word, shall never end.

As I remember back, the day I was saved was not of a day of death, leaving just memories. The day of 1959 brought living memories that causes me to look backwards and rejoice; and, forward to the blessed future of that day of His Second Coming.

1959 is not just a day fixed in history. It's a day that propped my heart upon the window of eternity, presenting a glorious vision of the life to come and the same city of abundant life that Abraham and all the saints sought.

"**Because I waited patiently for the LORD...He brought me up out of a horrible pit ... and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings, And He hath put a NEW SONG in my mouth, even praise unto our God:"** (Ps 40:1-3).

There is a vast difference from 1959 and 2009. We were much more satisfied with all aspects of life in 1959; at least, much more than 2009. Yet, whatever the time, God's immutable word presents us with more than just memories, only - to live on them, only. God gives memories that build hope for the future, keeping our faithful hearts on their tip-toes.

There is life after this one. Therefore, we cannot focus upon this day but must have the future planned; that is, once this life ends.

Listen to Solomon, who reigned as King over Israel for 40 years. There was no one wiser concerning times and memories about times than Solomon. He wrote:

"**I made me great works; I made me gardens; I made me pools of water; I got me servants and maidens; I gathered me also silver and gold; So I was great and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem; And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them;"** Ecclesiastes 2:4a-10a.

"**Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labor that I had labored to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit and there was no profit under the sun,"** Ecclesiastes 2.