



From Paul W. Powell

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2004
GEORGE W. TRUETT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

A WORD ABOUT TRUETT

George W. Truett, after whom our seminary was named, was the greatest preacher ever to come out of Texas and maybe all America. He pastored the First Baptist Church of Dallas for 47 years and led it to become the greatest Baptist church in the world. (Remember, too, Truett raised more than \$90,000 for Baylor University in the early 1890s — all before enrolling at the University.)

He was instrumental in the creation of entities now known as the Baylor University Medical Center, Baylor College of Medicine, Baylor College of Dentistry, Louise Herrington School of Nursing, the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and Southwestern Seminary. He served as president of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist World Alliance. So revered was he that Texas Baptists dedicated the written centennial history in 1936 to “George W. Truett, Texas Baptists’ gift to the world.”

People of all walks of life, young and old, rich and poor, churched and unchurched, believed in Truett, yet it never seemed to change him. George B. Bealey wrote the following words in an editorial in the *Dallas News* in 1927:

“It is the test of a man’s greatness if he can remain humble in the presence of praise. The man in Dallas who is most widely known of all her citizens as it happens, is also the man who has been the object of admiration and love on the part of people of the greatest diversity of standing of life. He has had many occasions to be aware of the searching qualities of praise that will not down or be dodged. And, in spite of that circumstance, George W. Truett is as modest now as he was the day he first came to Dallas as friend of man and servant of God.”

Truett lived and ministered another 17 years after these words were written. They were true until the day he died. If a man’s greatness can be measured by his ability to remain humble in the face of praise, then it is easy to understand why Truett was considered so great by so many admirers. The secret to true humility may be explained by his deep and abiding sincerity (pg. 42-43, *Pastoral Thesis on the Life and Ministry of George W. Truett*, by Dowell Loftis).

An old preacher used to say to me, before I was an old preacher, “Stay humble so you don’t stumble.” Take Truett as your example and take my advice as your watchword. Both will serve you well.

A WORD TO PREACHERS

Outside the city of Concord, Massachusetts, is a quiet spot called Walden’s Pond. I visited it several years ago. You might remember that the sage Henry David Thoreau moved out to this quiet place, occupied a small cabin and conducted an experiment in life. He occasionally walked into the city to visit and philosophize with friends. One day he passed a man stringing wire on a pole. He stopped and asked the man what he was doing. The man said, “This is a telegraph wire and pole that I am stringing. By means of it a man in Massachusetts will be able to talk to a man in Texas.”

Thoreau asked, as only he could, “What if the man in Massachusetts has nothing to say to the man in Texas, what good will it be then?”

With all the modern technology for communicating the Gospel, what difference does it make if we have nothing to say; and having something to say and saying it well takes hard work?

Dr. Jack McGorman reminded us in last year’s preaching conference, “With the Bible in the pantry, there is never an excuse for a poor meal.”

Pastor, always prepare well and always give the people your best. Remember the philosophy from Leo Durocher: “If you don’t save a pitcher for tomorrow. Tomorrow it may rain.”

ILLUSTRATION

A backwards farmer, sitting on the steps of his tumble-down shack, was approached by a stranger who stopped for a drink of water. “How’s your wheat coming along?” asked the stranger.

“Didn’t plant none.”

“Really? I thought this was really good wheat country.”

“Afraid it wouldn’t rain.”

“Oh. Well, how’s your corn crop?”
“Ain’t got none,” said the farmer.
“Didn’t you plant any corn either?”
“Nope, ’fraid of corn blight.”
“For heaven’s sake,” said the stranger. “What did you plant?”
“Nothin’,” said the farmer. “I just played it safe.”

- QUOTES**
- “There are two reasons why a person is not a Christian: one, they have never met a Christian; two, they have met a Christian.” (Rick Warren)
 - “Make the least of all that goes and the most of all that comes.” (Old mountain saying)

LEADERSHIP

Rosalynn Carter, wife of former President Jimmy Carter, reminds us: “A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don’t necessarily want to go, but ought to be.”

- Mark your calendars
- Four great Preaching Conferences:
- General Pastor’s Conference – Feb. 7-9, 2005
 - Hispanic Preaching Conference – April 15-16, 2005
 - Small Church Preaching Conference – Sept. 16-17, 2005
 - Black Preaching Conference – Sept. 26-28, 2005

- Two great I-term classes:
- The Art of Persuasion: Preaching – Jan. 3-8, 2005
 - Entrepreneurial Leadership and General Business: Pastoral – Jan. 3-8, 2005

A SERMON

Title The Person God Uses

Text Ezra 7-8

Author Mark Turman, Crosspoint Church, McKinney, Texas

Introduction God used Ezra to keep the fires of renewal going in Israel after 70 years of exile in Babylon. Six times these two chapters say that God’s favor was on Ezra!

The kind of person God uses is one who is:

- I Devoted to His Word: 7:10 How do we get God’s word in our heart?
Hear it. Study it. Memorize it. Meditate on it. Do it.
- II Depends on His Power 8:21-23
- III Demonstrates His Wisdom: 7:6-13
He asked the right questions, built a good team, and handled money wisely.
- IV Decides to Act on Faith: 8:31-32
He put his passion into action.

Conclusion If we want to be used by God, we must do the same. I Timothy 6:12



George W. Truett Theological Seminary
Baylor University
One Bear Place #97126
Waco, TX 76798-7126

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

BAYLOR
UNIVERSITY