

Daily View

"But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today'" Hebrews 3:13

July 29, 2020



Huntington Beach "back in the day" [stock photo]. By the time my brother and I got there, there were few people there.

"A Day at the Beach"

My dad took a preaching job in Huntington Beach in 1962 and we got a house in Westminster, about seven miles from the beach. I was 14 and my brother, Chuck, was 11. The day after we moved in, we were excited to go to the beach, but my dad didn't have time to take us, and my mom didn't drive. So, I got the bright idea — and dad's blessing — to ride my bike the seven miles to the beach with my brother on my handle bars.

We eventually got there but we were so exhausted by then that we didn't enjoy it. In fact, after about an hour, all we wanted to do was go home. So, with Chuck on the handle bars, I rode the bike the seven miles back home and then just about collapsed on the front porch.

This illustrates one of the many "seemed-like-a-good-idea-at-the-time" events in my life. If you are prone to get excited about something like I was when I was a kid, you know what I mean. All you can see is the end; any means is worth it. I had this "vision" about the beach and how great it would be to be there and I was driven to make any sacrifice to get there. Thought I loved the beach, it turns out that the means of getting there was too high a price to pay.

There are some people who have such a dim view of heaven that they would not ride seven miles on a bike to get there. I'm not kidding. C.S. Lewis said,

There is no need to be worried by facetious people who try to make the Christian hope of "Heaven" ridiculous by saying they do not want "to spend eternity playing harps." The answer to such people is that if they cannot understand books written for grown-ups, they should not talk about them.

Heaven is the goal of everyone who loves God and they will do anything, give up anything and risk anything to get there. No one could have talked me out of that seven mile bike ride on that June day in 1962. I was motivated to make the necessary sacrifice to get somewhere I had never been. As it turned out, it wasn't all I had imagined. I was disappointed. And my younger brother was even more disappointed; he was hungry and we had no money.

We have a hope that will not disappoint. As we sometimes sing, "there's no disappointment in heaven." It's hard to imagine something greater than your wildest imagination and dreams but heaven is that kind of place. There is no way to adequately describe it or "feel" it; you just have to believe it. And anything you have to give up to get there will be worth it. That's such an understatement. Paul said it this way, in Romans 8:18:

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

And then this, in I Corinthians 4:16-18.

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

You can't ride your bike to it . . . you have to carry your cross to it (Matthew 16:24). Do that, and you'll get there and you won't be disappointed.