

The Good Old Days¹

Nehemiah 12:46

INTRODUCTION:

1. “For long ago in the days of David and Asaph there were directors of the singers, and there were songs of praise and thanksgiving to God” (Neh. 12:46).
2. The aged regret and the young despise the good ol’ days.
3. The old feed on memory; the young on hope.
4. The young place the “golden age” in the future; the old place it in the past.

DISCUSSION: That which is old...

I. Is not necessarily good.

- A. It is not good just because it is old.
- B. Eliphaz asked Job, “Will you keep to the old way that wicked men have trod?” (Job 22:15).
- C. Habit, education, tradition, and prejudice play an important part in history.

II. Is presumptively valuable.

- A. The value is inferred from evidence.
- B. Good lasts. Truth is as old as the hills.
- C. Jesus said to God, “Your word is truth” (John 17:17; cf. 1 Pet. 1:25).

CONCLUSION:

1. “Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good” (1 Thes. 5:21).
2. The present is a huge borrower from a dead past.
3. Reverence the truth and the saintly deed wherever and whenever it may be found.

¹ *The Preacher’s Complete Homiletic Commentary on the Book of Nehemiah*, chapters 7-13, Booth, Goodman, and Gregory, eds. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, reprinted 1974), p. 247. Adapted by Andy Kizer.