

## Woody

In 1930 at the age of 19, Woodrow Smith graduated from high school and went to play for the old Akron baseball team. He was an exceptional pitcher for such a young man, and was approached by recruiters from major league baseball teams. He was something few ball teams had, a pitcher who could also hit home runs. He could strike out three of the best hitters of the opposing team in the top of the ninth inning, then pick up a bat and be the first to hit in the bottom of the ninth, and belt the ball into the center field bleachers. But Woody never threw a ball in the major leagues; he never accepted a contract with any national team. Woody was a Christian, and he knew that if he played major league ball, he would likely miss all of the worship services during baseball season. On top of that, the local church of which he was a member was building a new meeting house on Archwood Avenue near to Firestone Park and the Goodyear building. Woody wanted to help build it, as well as to build up that local church.

No, Woodrow Smith never did get his name on a baseball card or a baseball jersey; he never made the news as a home run hitter or for pitching a no hitter. But he left a different legacy. The church of Christ at Southeast Akron on Archwood Avenue has outgrown its building and is planning to build a larger meeting house in Mogadore. Woody is 89 years old, and he is as excited about this new work as he was about the one 70 years ago in 1931. He loves to talk about the good times he had as a young man playing baseball, but invariably he will shift the conversation back to the work of the church in southeast Akron. He has no regrets. How do you suppose the Lord will remember his life? (PRB - July 18, 2001)

2Timothy 4:6-8 - "For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."

## Lessons Learned From a Walk through a Cemetery By Mike Palm

While walking through the local cemetery one day, I noticed that there were several lessons to be learned from the people who are buried there. Lessons that all of us should consider.

Lesson number one. Death is certain: Heb. 9:27 "And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment" (NAS). Unless the Lord comes back before, all of us will die someday. It doesn't matter if you are rich or poor, death is inevitable.

Lesson number two. Death has no age limit. As I walked along reading the head stones, I saw that there were people buried there that were over a hundred years old when they died, some only a couple of days old, and every age in between. Death comes at any stage of life, and no one knows when that will be. We often take life for granted and think that we have all the time in the world: James 4:14 "Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little

while and then vanishes away.” (NAS) Life is short so we should live each day like it will be our last.

Lesson number three. This is probably the most important lesson of all. There is something that everyone buried there has in common, beside the fact that they are all dead. Their fate is sealed. Whatever condition their soul was in when they died is the condition it will remain in for eternity. Now, while we are still alive, is the time to obey God and prepare our souls for eternity: 2Cor. 6:2 “for He says, "At the acceptable time I listened to you, and on the day of salvation I helped you"; behold, now is "the acceptable time," behold, now is "the day of salvation" (NAS). Salvation comes to those who, not only listen to God's word but do it: Matt. 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.” (NAS) 1John 2:17 “And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever.” (NAS)

Notice that it takes more than faith to save us and prepare our souls for eternity. We must do the will of God. It is God's will that everyone should be saved: 2Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.” (NAS) Only obedience to God's word will save us. God's plan for our salvation is:

Hear the word of God - Rom. 10:17; Matt. 7:24-27

Believe in Jesus Christ - Heb. 11:16; Mark 16:15-16

Repent of our sins - Acts 2:38; 17:30; Luke 13:3

Confess Jesus - Matt. 10:32-33; Acts 8:36-37

Be baptized - Acts 2:38; Mark 16:15-16

Remain faithful - Rev. 2:10

If we do these things faithfully then we will be ready when death comes knocking.

## A Moments Wisdom

Birds sing after a storm. Why shouldn't people feel as free to delight in whatever sunlight remains to them?

Before you embark on a journey of revenge, dig two graves.

We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark. The real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.

He who will not punish evil, commands it to be done."

You don't really understand human nature unless you know why a child on a merry-go-round will wave at his parents every time around -- and why his parents will always wave back.

Often, men are more ready to repay an injury than a benefit, because gratitude seems a burden and revenge appears to be a pleasure.

What really raises one's indignation against suffering is not suffering intrinsically, but the senselessness of suffering.

Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your mind off your goals.

God will not look you over for medals, degrees, or diplomas, but for scars.

Courage is just fear holding on a minute longer.

A timid person is frightened before a danger, a coward during the time, and a courageous person afterwards.

Courage is the art of being the only one who knows you're scared to death.  
To suffering there is a limit; to fearing suffering, there is none.