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Nov. 1, 1986

Dear Robert,

Thanks for your letter! The letter was enjoyable to read and I noticed it is postmarked the 18th of August. Well, the last two months has indeed been eventful and passed by fast. First about a week after I wrote you last, I found a job. I was hired and started on Monday the 18th of August. I am working as a staff accountant in the General Accounting dept. at Oshman's Sporting Goods home office in Houston. I now have two months experience and feel more comfortable with my job. I like the job and I thank God for his guidance in the matter. I am doing my best to use my Christian influence in my work and among my co-workers. At any rate, the one thing I have had to learn is how to utilize my time. Work takes up most of my time but I have not slacked off on my Bible study. I have started to fill in from time to time at Church as a teacher. I have done a couple of Sunday school devotionals, taught three BTC (bible training course) lessons, and last week I taught the adult Sunday school class as part of youth sunday at church. I have been blessed by these opportunities because I learn a lot in preparing my lessons. I study thoroughly to make sure I'm delivering God's message and not my opinion. Also, I have talked in great length with the elders of the church, and have learned a lot from them. As God's says in Proverbs 1:5 "A wise man will hear and increase learning. And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel". I have been doing a personal bible study in Proverbs on wisdom. The hebrew word for wisdom, I understand is "chokmah" which means "pounding in". I am approaching my bible study in this manner by "pounding in" God's word which I have disciplined myself to do four to five days a week. This diligent study has blessed me with and I am able now to apply that knowledge wisely in my daily walk with Christ. The "pounding in" of God's word is gradually "pounding out" some of the deeply rooted sinful habits I have acquired through my youth. But anyway, I believe in hearing what my elders have to offer. There is a lot of wisdom from them to learn from. I feel the same towards you. I can tell from your letters that you are a man of wisdom. I have and still can learn from you which is why your letters are enjoyable. One more thing before I backtrack, which is the proper way in using knowledge and wisdom. The natural man has a tendency when acquiring greater knowledge to become more dependent on his own, without anyone else's help. That is not right. God wants us as we acquire greater knowledge to become more dependent on Him. That is where faith comes in. But the point that I want to make is that I want to use my learning to become more dependent on God and not be proud. Well, I've probably spoke too much on this point but I get excited talking about God's word and His will.

The answer to your question on what kind of church I attend is that I attend Timber Lakes Baptist Church. I know the word Baptist has caused strange looks from people. I have read a little on the subject and I have found there is many Baptist denominations in which I do not agree with their doctrine. The church I attend is part of the American Baptist Association (A.B.A.). They base their doctrine on the beliefs that the bible is the inspired Word of God, the Triune God, the Virgin birth, the resurrection of Christ, and salvation by grace and not by works. That is a few of their beliefs. It falls in line with what I believe is God's truth, I try to study carefully what the church teaches, to make sure it is biblically sound. I am interested, Robert, in learning about the Episcopalian Church.

Robert, I also would love to learn more on our Peebles religious heritage. It is interesting that our forefathers emigrated for religious reasons. It is good to know that the Peebles family has kept their priorities straight. Explain to me what the Quakers were since some of our forefathers tried to be this for a couple of generations and also explain a little more in depth on orthodox Anglican beliefs. It is exciting to know that my forefather Lewis was actively involved in God's work. I also noticed, when skimming through the Peebles book that there have been quite a few of the Peebles family that have devoted their lives to doing God's will. God has blessed the Peebles family and guided us in all situations. I wonder if the "bles" on the end of our name is related to the word "bless" in any way? Probably not, except for in my imagination. You are probably right about Abraham doing some soul-searching as to whether or not he should foreswear himself or remain loyal to his king. Think about Capt. David Peebles decision of fleeing from imprisonment and leaving his family behind. Capt. David must have had a lot of faith and trust in God that he would survive in a new land and be able to bring his family over. Our forefathers have had to make some important decisions but I trust they did so by God's guidance and power.

To change the subject, I want to let you know that I have not heard anything from the Florida Society of F&P. I am still seriously interested in being a member. I will wait to hear from you on what course of action to take. I still feel it would be a honor and a prililege to be a member.

Thanks for your foresight in financial and economical suggestions for me. You seem wise in handling your financial responsibility which seems to be part of our family heritage. Well, I feel the same way. I believe in the principle found in Luke 14:28-31, which basically says to sit down and plan out your costs before you make any committments. My parents are good at this and I have learned from them and can learn from you. I will not enter marriage until I feel financially comfortable that I'm able to do so. Also, need to have extra money put aside for emergencies. I have no need for material wealth so that helps in my financial decisions. I am still living at home so I do not have high costs of living at the moment while I save. I am trying to save what I can that is left over from my obligations (a large employment agency fee and other bills like gas, food, insurance, and etc...). The gov't is getting 21% of my check and I happily give 10% as tithe. At any rate, I am slowly saving up a little. I'm also considering future obligations such as another car (mind has 110,000 miles) and rent for when I do move out and costs associated with that such as furniture, etc... So, marriage is going to take time and a lot of planning. This is good for our relationship in that we understand our responsibilities and know we must be patient. God does reward patience.

I appreciate your comments and suggestions on the TX NG. Since I'm already working it doesn't seem possible to enter Officers Training School at this time. I will still seriously keep it in mind as a possibility in the future. I have seen the rewards my uncles have received from this and I know it would be beneficial to be involved. At the moment it feels I have my hands full of things to do. There is not always enough time to do the things I want to do. I would like to start studying in Nov. for the CPA exam which is next May. I will maintain my priorities and allocate my time accordingly.

Well, I am going to bring this letter to a close. I had a lot to say and there are things I know I probably left out. Anyhow, it is a pleasure to write to you again and I will respond to future correspondence quicker than I did this last time. Feel free to write me with whatever burdens your heart.

Cousin and Brother in Christ



Mike Peebles