Intro- Someone has said that, "The good ole days are the combination of a bad memory and a good imagination." But, "today is tomorrow’s good ole days."

Here are some facts about the good old days in America:
* From 1970-1992, a typical new home increased by an average of 600 sq ft.
* At the beginning of the 1980’s only 45% of homes had dishwashers! As of August 2010, 75% of homes have dishwashers!
* In 1970 the average home had 1.4 televisions to 2.43 in 2000
* The Dow Jones industrial average has increased six fold since the early 1970’s.
* We now have microwave ovens, answering machines, camcorders, home computers, home exercise equipment, cable TV, fax machines and soft contact lenses.
* Today’s drivers go farther on a gallon of gasoline than ever before and in safer cars.
* A decade ago, motorist had to stop and look for payphones to make a call. Now most Americans enjoy the safety and convenience of cell phones.

People are always talking about the good old days. There is nothing wrong with remising. What Solomon is writing about here is the danger of living in the past! How many times did the children of Israel cry and complain that they wanted to go back to Egypt? Question- did God ever let them go back? No.

Hey, I’m thankful for canned vegetables and pot bellied stoves! I appreciate all that our grandparents endured before we came along! But I much more enjoy grocery stores and thermostats! I’ll take a computer over a typewriter or chalk board any day!

I do not want to go back to the good old days! I don’t want to get bogged down talking about the good old days! “TODAY IS TOMORROWS GOOD OLD DAYS.” I want to make some Good Old Days for our generation!

I want to preach on Some Things The Church in the Good Old days Had That We Need!

I. THE CHURCH HAD RESPECT IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS
Why? What was it that gave them respect?

**A. IT WAS RESPECTED FOR ITS TESTIMONY**

1. **THE CHURCH HAD A TESTIMONY OF PREACHING** - Preaching was the highlight of the service. It was not the praise and worship portion that has replaced much of the church service. But it was when God’s Man took God’s Word

   1 Corinthians 1:18 “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”

   2 Timothy 4:2 “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”

2. **THE CHURCH HAD A TESTIMONY OF PRAYING** - Twenty-five times prayer is mentioned in the Book of Acts. Prayer is the mark of a mighty Church! Prayer is the Power of a Mighty Church!

3. **THE CHURCH HAD A TESTIMONY OF PRAISING** - A Church that has bended knees and spends time in prayer is a Church that will experience the blessings from the Lord! And will lead them to praise for their answered prayers! A Church that is Void of Praise is a Church that Is Void of Prayer!

**B. IT WAS RESPECTED FOR ITS TORCH**

That torch is the Word of God.

(The Psalmist said) “…it’s *is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.* Ps. 119:105

The Word of God is the center of our church.

It’s the tool that we use to reach our communities for Christ.

It’s the tool we use to revive God’s People!

It is the tool to disciple Christians for Christ.

**C. IT WAS RESPECTED FOR ITS TRUST**

1. It used to be that the Church doors were not locked so people could go in day or night to pray or do business with God.

2. Why don’t people get under conviction more in those days? It used to be a man would go to church and heard the Word of God. He would go home and turn off the lamp, go to bed. He would be lay there and hear the sounds of the cows, owls and other animals. God would speak to his heart. Today, a man can hear a good salvation message and be under conviction during the service. He would leave lost, go home and turn on the television and
listen to Jay Leno and let Jay put him to sleep. No wonder people are any longer under conviction.

D. IT WAS RESPECTED FOR ITS TOUCH ON IT- The first church prayed for ten days, preached ten minutes and saw 3,000 saved in one service. Today we pray ten minutes, preach for ten days, and wonder why no one is saved! That touch was God.

II. THE CHURCH WAS RIGHT IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS

A. THE CHURCH HELD THE RIGHT DOCTRINE

1. THE CHURCH BELIEVED THE BOOK- You know the one I am talking about! The King James Bible. Listen, I know it was translated back in 1611… But I believe it is the preserved… powerful… accurate… Word of God! In a day of watered down Bibles and abused versions… In a day where Sin is rampant… We Better Stick with the RIGHT BOOK!

2. THE CHURCH BELIEVED THE BLOOD

Luke 22:20 Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

Romans 5:8-9 “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.”

3. THE CHURCH BELIEVED THE BLESSED HOPE

Titus 2:14 “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ”

I’m not looking for the under-taker but the upper-taker! Thank God He’s coming again!

B. THE CHURCH WAS HEADED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

They were focused on SOULS & SERVING!

1. THEY PREACHED THE CROSS- 1 Corinthians 1:18 “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.” (They preached Christ Crucified- Buried- Risen Again)

2. THEY PRACTISED THE CROSS- Luke 9:23 And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. (Are we willing to take up our Cross and die to our wants that we may follow HIM to win souls?)
Music and singing is wonderful... but it's not the main thing! Church activities and programs are wonderful... not the main thing!

C. THE CHURCH HAD THE RIGHT DESIRE- Their desire was to worship God and adore Christ!

III. THE CHURCH WAS REAL IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS

A. IT HAD REAL PREACHERS- They really cared for the souls of men instead just caring just for a pulpit, parsonage, paycheck, and pension. When he would come to the hardware store, people would stop their cussing and telling dirty jokes because they this was the man of God. Today they want to get the preacher to join in with their dirty jokes.

We do not have any real prophets in the nation today. No Lester Roloffs, or Oliver Greens or Billy Sundays. One lady at work told me that she got saved when she was fourteen years old at an Oliver Green tent meeting and made a commitment never to take a drink of liquor. She said that she has been true to that commitment to this day.

B. IT HAD REAL PEOPLE-
1. THEY WERE GENUINE IN THE TALK AND THEIR WALK.
2. THEY WERE FAITHFUL IN THEIR ATTENDANCE

C. IT HAD REAL POWER- They did not have to fake or put on a show that the power of God was there. You could almost feel the presence of God. One man who was saved in this church thirty some years ago, said that he could not shake the power of God and the feeling that he was going to hell on the night he got saved.

D. IT HAD REAL PRAYER- They didn’t have to have a room to pray! They prayed in the woods and made rock altars! If someone was lost they prayed for them till they were saved! If someone was backslid they prayed God would bring them home! When they prayed they got answers! God help us to get back to that place gain!

E. IT HAD REAL PROFESSIONS- When a person made a profession of faith, you did not have to beg him to come to church. When someone got saved you didn’t have to bribe them to read their Bible! Today- what’s the problem?

ILL- When a mother gives birth to a baby, you don’t have to teach that baby to love milk. It comes naturally! When I got saved I wanted to come to Church... I wanted to read my Bible! Today, I’ve seen people walk the isle
and make a profession and six months later, you can’t find them with a search light!

IV. THE CHURCH WAS READY IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS

A. THEY WERE READY TO WORK- They didn’t sit back and wait for the Pastor to do all the work! They rolled up their sleeves and waded out into fields where the harvest was white…

B. THEY WERE READY TO WITNESS- Acts 1:8 “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

C. THEY WERE READY TO WORSHIP- 1 Chronicles 16:29- “Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”

D. THEY WERE READY TO WAR- 1 Timothy 6:12 “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

V. THE CHURCH WAS REAPING IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Galatians 6:7-9 “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. What were they Reaping?

A. THEY WERE REAPING COMPASSION- Jude 22 “And of some have compassion, making a difference”
1. Compassion for the drunks
2. Compassion for the drug addicts
3. Compassion for the dirty children
4. Compassion for the different races
5. Compassion for the dregs of society

B. THEY WERE REAPING CONVICTIONS-
1. About music- God help us to keep Christ honoring music in this Church!
2. About morals- They knew right from wrong!

C. THEY WERE REAPING CONVERTS- The plan of the Church is not Build a Building so they will come! The plan of the Church is not promote programs so they will come! The plan of the Church is to TELL THE GOSPEL AND MAKE DISCIPLES!
If you and I want this church to grow for the glory of God, then we will have to win some who will win some who will win some. Nothing excites the church and the devil like new converts who are fire for God.

VI. THE CHURCH HAD REVIVAL IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS
How did they have Revival and we don’t?

1- THEY KNEW GOD WAS ABSENT- You don’t have to be at a Church long to know if it’s dead or alive! You know when God is in the midst of the camp! You know when the Spirit shows up!

2- THEY KNEW GOD WAS ABLE- They had proved God over and over again! They knew all they had to do was fall on knees of prayer! Confess they had wandered astray! Beg God to send a flood of revival!

3- THEY KNEW GOD’S GLORY WAS AMAZING- If you’ve ever been in a service where the Spirit of God passed by… If you’ve ever been in a service when the wind of God blew through there… you’ll long to see it again!

Conclusion: In Ezra chapter 3, the people were rebuilding the Temple. Ezra 3:11-13 says “And they sang together by course in praising and giving thanks unto the LORD; because he is good, for his mercy endureth for ever toward Israel. And all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy: So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.”

Why were the old men weeping while the young people rejoicing? Because the old men knew the glory of Solomon’s temple and that it could never be duplicated.

If we are going to see another Real Move of God…then we need to be a RIGHT CHURCH...(with the right Doctrine, the right Direction, the right Desire) a REAL CHURCH...(with real Preachers, real People, real Power, real Prayer, real Praise) a READY CHURCH...(ready to Work, Witness and Worship, and ready to War) a REAPING CHURCH...(God help us to reap some Compassion, reap some Convictions and reap some Converts) a REVIVED CHURCH… then we will be a RESPECTED CHURCH.
One preacher said this one time: *We may not be able to prevent this generation from going to hell but we need to make it awful hard for them.*