



REFLECTIONS

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Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness," God he created him; male and female he created them. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning — the sixth day.

Genesis 1:26-27, 31

Good Ole Days

From time to time, something draws our minds back to those good ole days. Of course, the good ole days break down into our own generations of days gone by. But whatever the generation, there is just something special about our lives that we long to carry on.

Imagine Adam and Eve recalling the good ole days where *streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground. The Lord God had planted a garden there, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. And the Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground — trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.* (Genesis 2:6, 8-9)

Eden—the only period when the good ole days perfectly fits the term. What a gift! In love, God provided a residential paradise. Who could want more? Yet they did. The residents disobeyed and took God's gift granted. *So the Lord God banished [them] from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.* (Genesis 3:23-24)

Hard times carry our minds back to our good ole days—back to something precious then that's missing now. What makes those good ole days special isn't a time or place. What makes the good ole days special to us is God's love graciously given that we gratefully receive. But to carry it on, God instructed Moses to say:

These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. (Deuteronomy 6:1-2)

God so loved the world that He gave... Too often though we fail to give back. And might that just be the precious something from the good ole days that's missing now?

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind" (Luke 10:27) And train our children to love him too. (Prov 22:6)

Oh! And one more thing. Good Ole Days spells G.O.D.

You are the light of the world,

Richard +

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