

The Legacy of Two Men

August 21,2022

I recently was gifted a shirt from a work friend who recently spent three months in Australia. I took time to read one of the tags and found interest in what it said. The brand of the shirt is R.M. Williams.

Reginald Murray "R.M." Williams lived from 24 May 1908 – 4 November 2003. He was an Australian entrepreneur who rose from a swagman to a millionaire.

The tag said: He liked to call himself just RM – was a bushman, drover, horseman, entrepreneur, and craftsman. In 1932 he started to design footwear, clothing, and leather accessories. Today we continue his legacy with purposefully designed clothing that passes the outback test.

The descriptions of this man I find interesting, along with the phrase, “Today, we continue his legacy”. The descriptive words listed here serve as a reminder of his work ethic, his motivation, his priorities, his talent, and his financial success. His picture reflects a man who is tough, rugged, well worn. An online testimony described RM as a Jack of all trades AND a master of them.

Today, at this time, we are here to kindle afresh in our hearts and minds, the legacy of the man called Jesus Christ.

The prophet Isaiah (9:6) described him as Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace. He is our Redeemer and Savior. He was the Son of Man, who described himself as the gate, the light, the shepherd, the way-truth-life, the bridegroom, the teacher, the vine, the Messiah, the Christ, the great I AM. There are roughly 50 descriptive names in the bible for Jesus.

He embodied fully and perfectly the definition of all of these names, the master of all of them.

This man Jesus Christ in all his perfection submitted himself to hostility, beatings and maximum shame and death at the hands of sinners, hostile sinners. Oh, those sinners, they must have been really bad people. Kind of like us maybe?

“For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart” Hebrews 12:3

This man Jesus was a servant and a lover of mankind. Especially the sick, the rejected, the lost, the sinner. He shows us how to love and demonstrated that love:

“Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends, you are my friends if you do what I command you”. John 15:13-14

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When we take of the bread this morning, it is unleavened (without yeast). Leaven was symbolic of corruption and evil (sin). As we take this, we are reminded that Jesus body that was beaten, abused, and crucified was without sin. That's what made him the perfect sacrifice, the perfect Lamb of God. And as we drink the grape juice, the fruit of the vine this morning, we remember the words of Jesus, "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood". This shed blood when Jesus died was the necessary sacrifice for the sins of mankind for all time. When his blood was poured out, a new covenant began. A covenant of grace and mercy and forgiveness.

If you are in a covenant relationship with Jesus Christ this morning, these emblems have a significant and impactful meaning. It holds promise and a legacy that will take us to eternity with him, if we remain faithful to the man who made salvation possible, Jesus Christ.

Our Father in Heaven, thank you for your Son Jesus, thank you for the perfect sacrifice that makes the way for peace between us. Please bless the emblems as we partake together today and remember Jesus. Please forgive us of our sins and help us to live in a way that your love is reflected through us and others are drawn to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.