

Helen Nobile's Eulogy

Monday, December 12, 2022

Helen Nobile was born on January 25, 1928, in Easton, PA. Her father, John Porter (actually Kyriakopolous, the name was changed in America) was a Greek immigrant who obtained U. S. citizenship for serving in WWI.

Her mother, Edith Alma Drake, from Ithaca, NY was of English and Dutch descent. Helen was baptized Greek Orthodox. Her family relocated to NJ for better job prospects.

Unfortunately, Edith was hospitalized when Helen was 3 years old. As a result, Helen and her 4-year-old brother, Frank, were placed in the Newark Orphanage, while her younger sister, Christine, was placed in Foster Care.

Edith died when Helen was 5 years old. She remained in the privately run orphanage until the age of 17, where she was raised Baptist and became a believer in Jesus Christ.

She lived her childhood through the Depression, while World War II raged on for 4 long years during her adolescence. She prayed for victory and later married a member of the Navy Underwater Demolition Team (UDT, now known as Navy Seals), who helped defeat the Emperor of Japan.

Helen completed the 9th grade and then attended Girls Vocational School to become a Practical Nurse, but her course work was halted by the Superintendent of the Orphanage. At the age of 17, with the assistance of the Superintendent, she procured work as a live-in Mother's Helper (Nanny).

She held several of these jobs only to realize their temporary nature and would return to the orphanage between jobs. Finally, she obtained a permanent position at Westinghouse in Newark, NJ, working with meters.

During this time, she lived in a furnished room in the same building as her father. She paid the weekly rent for both rooms. She existed on banana sandwiches, coleslaw sandwiches, and Hydrox cookies and milk.

As fate would have it, the machine she worked on broke down quite often requiring a Tool and Die Maker to repair it. He became quite smitten with her and they began dating. Sometimes they would have lunch together using his nicely covered toolbox as a table for their deli sandwiches and pickles

Nicholas N. Nobile and Helen were married on February 14, 1948, and remained married for 41 years until his death on July 31, 1989. She worked for a short time until she left to have a family, which included Joseph, Terry, Gary, Guy Christopher, and Jeffrey

She raised two different generations. The first two were born in 1948 and 1952, respectively, while the other three were born in the 1960s. She understood loss and survived heartbreak with Guy being stillborn.

For the most part Helen was a humble, modest woman. She loved spending time with her family. She enjoyed family outings for the children such as visiting Gingerbread Castle or going on a picnic and row boating.

She also enjoyed a few summer vacations at the Jersey Shore, especially Wildwood Crest and stopping for ice cream, lemon ice in Long Branch, NJ, and hot Planters peanuts in Asbury Park, NJ.

Every Easter break from school she took Joe and Terry to the Walt Disney feature and always brought Easter chocolates along.

One high point of Helen's life occurred in 1979 when she embarked on an adventure with her daughter in Ithaca, NY to find some maternal relatives. Unfortunately, all but one aunt and the wives of two uncles were deceased. Although they could not provide any information about her mother, they were extremely gracious and hospitable.

Helen was thrilled to leave with many pictures of her mother, provided by her aunt. A short while later Helen and Terry travelled to Illinois in search of Aunt Bertha, her mother's oldest sister. She was 87 years old and still driving.

She lived in her own home and welcomed Helen with open arms. Helen left with pictures, gifts, and fond memories. After waiting 91 years, she is now having a spectacular reunion with her mother and all her questions will be answered.

Helen was an excellent cook and baker. Every holyday, holiday, birthday, or special occasion was a tradition. She put so much thought and love into everything she did, including side dishes, stuffing, gravy, and desserts, which ranged from cakes, pies, and gingerbread to Christmas cookies. Everything was homemade and in generous amounts. She also enjoyed doing beautiful embroidery work.

Helen was never too busy to lend a helping hand. After a snowstorm in 1961 a woman in the adjacent apartment, leaving for work in high heels, slipped and fell on her porch, resulting in a broken leg. Seeing this unfold, Helen grabbed a blanket and covered the woman to prevent shock until the ambulance arrived.

Helen never looked for praise or glory. She never boasted. Her children learned about it that evening when the woman's adolescent daughter returned the blanket and thanked Helen.

Then, circa 1964, there was frantic knocking on the front door. Helen responded to find that a neighborhood bully had gauged another boy in the eye with a lit punk ember. His eye was full of hot ashes.

Helen quickly grabbed him, ran to the kitchen sink, and flushed his eye with water. Again, there was no mention of this from Helen. Later that evening the boy's mother appeared bearing a box of candy and profusely thanked Helen.

It turned out she was the mayor's wife and the boy was his son. She stated that their eye doctor proclaimed Helen saved her son's eye and she could not be more grateful.

Helen waited 18 years to have her own house. She wore the same winter coat for 15 years and same Easter dress for 10+ years to help provide for her children's needs and never complained.

She wanted her children to have the things she did not have growing up, especially nice clothes. She played the hand that life dealt her, responding to the consequences of her own good and bad decisions, orienting, and adjusting along the way – making do with what she had.

Many people perceived Helen as weak and introverted, but in reality she was stoic with inner strength. Although she remained unassuming, she suffered silently, never seeking praise or fame. Yet, she taught her children to defend themselves when necessary.

Helen lived by three adages: The Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," "If you don't have anything nice to say; don't say anything at all" and "Do it right or don't do it at all."

Helen always observed Pearl Harbor Day each year and interestingly she died on Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 2022.

She lived her life quietly – doing her due diligence, listening to the Word of God, being a faithful servant, and a good soldier for Christ until the fullness of time when she was called home.

She loved the Trinity: God, the Father; her Savior, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit who communicates the Word.

She watched the Pivot continue to shrink with America in decline and saw evil rear its ugly head across America. Now the Pivot has shrunk by one more. Helen often stated that she was glad she was closer to the end of her life; remembering America when it was great, but now looking forward to heaven as her destination.

According to the Apostle Peter, who writes in 2 Corinthians 5:8 that he “prefers to be absent from the body and at home with the Lord.” This is exactly what occurred for Helen at her physical death.

If there are those here today who has not placed their personal faith in Jesus Christ for salvation, then Helen’s testimony is directed at you.

There are only two kinds of people in world: those who have believed in Jesus Christ for salvation and eternal life and those who have not.

Those who have believed in Christ have the potential to become good soldiers for Christ. Those who have not, are part of the problem that presently faces our country. The true patriot is the one, with biblical guidance present in his soul and the courage to use it in guiding his thoughts, decisions, and actions. Because some believe and some do not is why A. P. Carter asked the question, “Will the circle be unbroken?”

The sad answer is that rarely will a family circle be unbroken. The God we serve has no desire to be a tyrant, but rather a benevolent monarch. His intent, according to Peter, is “not for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”

Yet His plan is so structured that only those who respond to God’s unfailing love are qualified to enter into His heaven. And God’s unfailing love for the entire human race is expressed by His gracious provision of a solution to our universal sin problem.

Condemned at birth by Adam’s original sin, and further indictment by personal sin, every member of the human race must come to the realization that he is spiritually dead, totally depraved, and in need of the Savior. But once, his volition must choose for or against God’s unspeakable gift.

Among the four Gospels, John’s may be categorized as the most evangelistic of the group. His Gospel contains the repeated message that all who believe in Jesus Christ receive the imputation of eternal life and, by definition, that life can never be lost.

The key to understanding the biblical nomenclature essential to the gospel message is found in the noun, πίστις (*pístis*), which is always translated faith, and the verb, πιστεύω (*pisteúō*) which is always translated, “to believe.”

In his Gospel, John uses the verb “to believe” 98 times while the other three Synoptic writers use it only 30 times among them. Thirty-eight of John’s references refer to “believing in Christ.”

The verb “to believe” is transitive. Transitive verbs demand a working object. In this case, it indicates that the one who believes has come to accept information about Jesus as being true and the only source for salvation.

His positive response to information about the Person and work of Christ results in his belief—the Greek verb, *pisteúō*—that Jesus is the working object that results in salvation.

There are about forty things revealed in Scripture that occur at the moment a person believes in Christ. There are two that the Lord emphasizes as paramount in the third chapter of John.

When the Lord spoke to Nicodemus in John 3, He presented him with a choice that, if made, would result in two things. There is an important word in John 3:16, a conjunction pronounced *hē'-nä*. It is generally translated into English by the word “that.” In this context, it introduces both a purpose and result. Let’s take a look at the verse:

John 3:16 - “God loved the world so much He gave [δίδωμι [*didōmi*]: this is grace, no gift can be a gift that requires anything on the part of the recipient]. What He gave was His uniquely-born Son, so that [ἵνα (*hina*): introduces both purpose and result] whoever believes in Him [πιστεύω (*pisteúō*): this is the necessary condition to achieve the purpose and the result] shall not perish [ἀπόλλυμι (*apóllumi*): purpose of believing: Nicodemus would be delivered from the lake of fire after he dies] but have eternal life [ζωή αἰώνιος [*zōé aiōnios*)] and would go to heaven when he dies].

Jesus makes it clear to Nicodemus that salvation, which is deliverance from the lake of fire, and the imputation of eternal life. Both occur instantly when anyone simply believes in Christ.

This verse and others like it are the sources of the Reformers' claim of *sola fide*: faith alone.

It must be remembered that both faith and believe are transitive and therefore demand an object. Jesus is that divinely approved object. The phrase is therefore expanded to read "faith alone in Christ alone."

There are things about Him that must be understood by an unbeliever so that when he places his faith in Christ it is not simply recognition of his historicity but a positive response to His saving work on the cross.

The gospel is designed to present Jesus of Nazareth as Savior. Any number of details may be presented to describe His Person and His work: He is both perfect God and sinless Man, Who was sacrificed on the cross for the sins of the entire human race, after which He died physically, was buried, and three days later, was resurrected from the dead.

Regardless of how many details are given, the free will of the unbeliever must be left to consider whether to believe in Jesus as the working object of his faith, or reject Jesus as not being his Savior.

Salvation occurs when the unbeliever responds with nonmeritorious faith alone in Christ alone. This faith response has both purpose and result: the purpose is deliverance from punishment in the lake of fire. The result is the imputation of eternal life.

Taken together, salvation means that believers go to heaven when they die. Salvation thus occurs at a moment of time. One second later the believer begins his spiritual life. How he lives it depends upon whether he will devote himself to the task of learning, retaining, and applying biblical principles to his life.

This process requires attendance at a local church that teaches the content of the Hebrew Old Testament and the Greek New Testament Scriptures. Pastors who use this system of teaching are the ones most qualified to lead members of their congregation to spiritual maturity.

Let's pray.

Father, you have recently welcomed Helen Nobile into your heaven. Those relatives and friends who remain behind rightly grieve her absence, however, those who understand the Bible are comforted by the knowledge that she is now safely in Your presence.

May these loved one be comforted by this assurance and more motivated to continue their advance in your perfect plan by means of the study of Your immutable Word. Doctrine conquers all.

We lift our prayer of gratitude and thanksgiving to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Who is Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.