

Our President's Rest

Matthew 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

1 Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Why I am a Historian. June 3, 1808 Jefferson F. Davis born.
1st Lieutenant, Colonel, Representative, Senator, US Secretary of War, Senator again,
President of CSA

He resigned as Senator in 1861 and spent 3 days as a private citizen until he was called upon to serve the State of Mississippi and then the Confederacy as President – a task he had not wanted. He was cutting roses in his wife's rose garden when he was informed he had been elected the provisional president.

He spent 3 years in federal prison. While held in prison in 1865, Jefferson Davis' Doctor wrote the following:

There was no affection of devoutness of asceticism in my patient; but every opportunity I had of seeing him, convinced me more deeply of his sincere religious convictions. He was fond of referring to passages of Scripture, comparing text with text, dwelling on the divine beauty of the imagery, and the wonderful adaption of the whole to every conceivable phase and stage of human life. The Psalms were his favorite portion of the Word, and had always been. ... There were moments, while speaking on religious subjects, in which Mr. Davis impressed me more than any professor of Christianity I have ever heard. There was a vital earnestness in his discourse, a clear, almost passionate, grasp in his faith; and the thought would frequently recur, that a belief capable of consoling such sorrows as his, possessed, and thereby evidenced, a reality - a substance - which no sophistry of the infidel could discredit.

While there the Pope (though he wasn't Catholic) wove a crown of thorns for him as a gift and sent a note: bearing the text verse from matthew 11. If there was ever a man who needed rest it was Jefferson Davis.

His first wife, after being married from June-september, died of malaria or yellow fever. Married Varina Howell 10 years later. They had 6 children: He lost Samuel his firstborn at age 2, Jefferson Davis Jr. would die at age 21, William would die at age 10, Joseph died at age 5 falling from the balcony of the Confederate White House. Jefferson buried 4 of them before his death in 1889. Throughout his final years he was essentially homeless, couldn't hold a job for long and finally depended upon the kindness of a widow to house him and his family.

He found rest by finding assurance. There were many things that were not assured – his life, his loved ones' lives, his country's independence, his health, etc.

Assurance: a positive declaration intended to give confidence: freedom from timidity; self confidence; belief in one's abilities: promise or pledge; guaranty; surety: full confidence; freedom from doubt; certainty: The President many point out had a lot of self assurance through the war, but through it all we find a grasp and an assurance in his faith and in the Lord of His Faith.

1. Assurance of Salvation *1 John 5:11-13 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12 He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.*

2. Assurance of Forgiveness: *1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

3. Assurance of Enablement: *2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

- *Possible prayer during the war. 2 Chronicles 20:12 O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.*
- *He was not afraid.*
- *Power – While many idolized AS Johnston, Lee and Jackson – these men put their trust in the Lord and HIS POWER.*
- *Love – Jim Limber*
- *Sound Mind.- leads to next assurance*

4. Assurance of Peace: *John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*

5. Assurance of Guidance: *Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

6. Assurance of Provision for Needs: *Philippians 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

7. Assurance of Sufficient Grace: *2 Corinthians 12:7-9 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. 8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

Galatians 6:11 Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand.

Neuraglia – Davis suffered from it.

8. Assurance of Empowerment for Accomplishments: *Philippians 4:11-13 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. 12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*