

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

November 28, 2016

Perfectly Preserved

ISAIAH 40:8 NKJV – (8) The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

This meditation is for those who have been hurt, disappointed or damaged by another. This is not a history lesson but God's word.

Medgar Wiley Evers (July 2, 1925 – June 12, 1963) was an American civil rights activist from Mississippi who worked to overturn segregation at the University of Mississippi and to enact social justice and voting rights. He is remembered for saying "You can kill a man, but you can't kill an idea." In the early morning of June 12, 1963, just hours after President John F. Kennedy's nationally televised Civil Rights Address, Evers pulled into his driveway after returning from a meeting with NAACP lawyers. Emerging from his car and carrying NAACP T-shirts that read "Jim Crow Must Go", Evers was struck in the back with a bullet fired from an Enfield 1917 rifle; the bullet ripped through his heart. He staggered 30 feet (9.1 meters) before collapsing. He was taken to the local hospital in Jackson, Mississippi where he was initially refused entry because of his race. His family explained who he was and he was admitted; he died in the hospital 50 minutes later.

Byron De La Beckwith, Jr. (November 9, 1920 – January 21, 2001) was an American white supremacist and Klansman from Greenwood, Mississippi, who in 1994 was convicted of assassinating civil rights leader Medgar Evers on June 12, 1963. Two previous trials in 1964 on this charge had resulted in hung juries. In the 1980s, the reporting by the Jackson *Clarion Ledger* of the Beckwith trials stimulated a new investigation by the state and ultimately a third prosecution, based on new evidence. He was extradited to Mississippi for his trial at the Hinds County Courthouse in Jackson. The 1994 state trial was held before a jury consisting of eight blacks and four whites. They convicted De La Beckwith of first-degree murder for killing Medgar Evers. New evidence included testimony that he had boasted of the murder at a Klan rally as well as boasting of the murder to others during the three decades following the crime. The physical evidence was essentially the same as that presented during the first two trials. How could this be?

Medgar Evers corpse was exhumed for an examination. Mind you, this is over 30 years later. His body was ***perfectly preserved*** – in the same physical condition as it was his funeral over 30 years ago. Again, the physical evidence was essentially the same as that presented during the first two trials.

The point of this meditation is that "nobody gets away with nothing!" **ECCLESIASTES 8:11- NKJV – (11)** Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. **(12)** Though a sinner does evil a hundred *times*, and his *days* are prolonged, yet I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him. **(13)** But it will not be well with the wicked; nor will he prolong *his days*, *which are* as a shadow, because he does not fear before God.

De La Beckwith appealed the guilty verdict, but the Mississippi Supreme Court upheld the conviction in 1997. The court said that the 31-year lapse between the murder and De La Beckwith's conviction did not deny him a fair trial. He was sentenced to life imprisonment for first-degree murder without the possibility of parole. De La Beckwith sought review in the US Supreme Court, but was denied certiorari.

SCRIPTURE READING

ROMANS 12:19

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

If you don't like the way you were born, try being born again!