

Theological Musings from Dave's Laptop

July 14, 2020

Like many of you, I've studied various languages over the years. I took a year of German, a year of Hebrew, two years of Greek, and I've fiddled around with Spanish. But the language of which I'm most fond, after English, is French, of which I took five years. My French teacher, Arthur Wilhelm, was resurrected just recently.

I suppose it was back in the days of studying French that I first became aware of Bastille Day, the French Independence Day, which is . . . today. Bastille Day originated in the uprising of July 14, 1789, which eventually led to the establishment of the First French Republic (we're now in the Fifth French Republic).



tell your story?" today because John Taylor (a.k.a. "The Kinderman") was resurrected two years ago today, and because we will commit his ashes to the earth a week from today, together with his older brother, Randy. So I'm going to be working on some stories about their lives, and I'm the one who will get to tell them. *Who's going to get to tell **your** story?*

While I don't relish saying good-bye to my friends, I do kind of enjoy doing memorial services for persons who were followers of Jesus, because in such times, unlike just about any other time, the many beautiful and wonderful facets of our faith can all be drawn together.

I sometimes tease folk who say nice things after such services, "If you want a good funeral, you have to live a good life. You'd better get started!" Someday, some pastor somewhere is going to have about twenty minutes to tell the story of your life. What do you want them to be able to say?



I was reminded of Bastille Day earlier this week as Jill and I watched *Hamilton* on Disney+. We'd never seen it, and found it delightful and profound at several levels. As you know if you've seen the play or movie, the Bastille and the French Revolution make an appearance in the second act.

The words I'll remember from *Hamilton*, sometimes phrased as a statement, sometimes as a question, are "**Who gets to tell your story?**" Part of the point of the play is the retelling of Hamilton's life through different eyes than those of typical historians.

I'm also thinking about "Who gets to



CBF: transforming Oakland Mills into a community others wish to replicate.

Archived Laptops are available at http://www.dcstancil.com/daves_laptop

1 | Page

Several people have said to me recently, “I wish I’d asked Dad/Mom more about _____ while I still could.” I’ll bet you know that feeling.

One of the things my Mom did for her Mother was to interview her and write her life story and send it to all of our Grandmother’s great-grandchildren. Mom and Dad later wrote up many of the interesting details of their own lives, and at their resurrections, I did that for them, too, as I do for all those funerals I officiate.¹

So, after all this, I just have that one question for you, and for myself:

Who’s going to tell your story, and what do you want them to be able to say?

Dave



Who gets to tell
your story?

P.S. One of the things that gets us through tough times, such as COVID for all of us, and such as funerals for some of us, is remembering God’s faithfulness “forward.” As we remember the Story of God’s faithfulness in the past, we are encouraged in the present and hope-full for the future. That’s what many of the psalms do, and that’s what Stephen did in his famous sermon in Acts 7. Hang onto The Great Story while you think about your story.



¹ David Hadley Stancil https://www.sugarsync.com/pf/D4578347_09663014_7074397
Sue Ellen Ray Stancil https://www.sugarsync.com/pf/D4578347_09587393_884443

CBF: transforming Oakland Mills into a community others wish to replicate.

Archived Laptops are available at http://www.dcstancil.com/daves_laptop