

Empire Church of the Brethren

Sunday Service Sermons

01 February 2026

Things Still Sacred

Text: "Remove not the ancient landmark, which your fathers have set." *Prov. 22:28*

Although we have thrown out many of once sacred things, some are still hallowed even in this superficial age.

The late Clarence W. Cranford, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Washington, D. C., once told of a girl visiting a Vienna museum.

Upon seeing a priceless piano that once belonged to Beethoven, she asked the guide if she might play it.

He reluctantly said yes.

As she hammered out a senseless ditty, the guide told the assembled tourists that Paderewski had once traveled to Vienna just to see that piano.

When the girl heard Paderewski name mentioned she stopped playing and asked the guide if Paderewski had played Beethoven's piano.

No, the guide replied, we wanted him to, but he said he wasn't worthy.

Is this not a parable of our time?

Things long held sacred are profaned and ridiculed.

Some things are still sacred.

Surely, therefore, we ought to heed the admonition of Solomon: Remove not the ancient landmark, which your fathers have set.

As we look at this passage let it become a mirror in which we see reflected some things that are still sacred.

The Word of God is still sacred.

Ignorance today about the Bible is appalling.

Upon being asked about Golgotha, a Yale University student said that was who slew David.

Among 18,000 Bible Belt high school students answering a questionnaire on the Bible. 16,000 of them couldn't name three Old Testament prophets; 12,000 didn't know the names of the four Gospels; and 10,000 couldn't name three of the twelve disciples.

One influential modern-day scholar took it upon himself to separate "myth" from "truth" in the Scriptures.

In the myth column, he listed the preexistence of Christ; his virgin birth, deity, miracles, death for sinners, resurrection, ascension, and second coming; the last judgment; the personality and power of the Holy Spirit; the doctrine of the Trinity; and the doctrine of original sin.

In spite of this rampant ignorance and skepticism, the Word of God is still sacred, Why?

The Word of God is sacred because God authored it.

It is not the type of book a man would write if he could or could write if he would.

The Word of God is sacred because divinely inspired men wrote it.

God "breathed" on those who wrote.

Common men wrote under divine inspiration.

The Word of God is sacred because it is eternal.

A novel might last for a generation.

A poem might last half a millennium.

But the Bible will last forever because truth is eternal.

The home is still sacred.

Regardless of the way moderns may treat the home, it is still sacred.

The home is sacred because God created it.

The home was the first institution created by God.

No modern-day human plan to bypass or subvert the home will succeed.

The home is sacred because God blesses it.

God blesses only what is good.

And all God blesses is sacred.

The Church is still sacred.

William Barclay, in his book "A Spiritual Autobiography", says, "Maybe it is fitting that I who have served the Church for more than forty years should end by saying, I believe in the Church."

Norman Vincent Peale's statement about the church has been proved true in my own experience:

"The church is where all our hopes come true!"

What a strange, perplexing, but blessed thing is the church.

It is still sacred two thousand years after it was founded by Jesus.

The church is sacred because God conceived it.

The church is sacred because Christ founded it.

The church is sacred because the Holy Spirit fills it.

A striking memorial containing two statues sits in front of Boston's Trinity Church.

One is of Phillips Brooks who became pastor of the church in 1869; the other is of Jesus who stands behind Brooks.

The Savior's hands rest on Brooks' shoulders.

There are some things in this pagan world that are still sacred because the hand of the Savior rests on them.

Do his hands rest on you?