

Review (71): *It's a Wonderful Life: Suicide Averted but Discouragement Remains; George's PROM Chip Deleted; Doctrine of Invisible Historical Impact*

As George pauses on the edge of the bridge to muster the wherewithal to jump, Clarence jumps in first. Shocked at what he sees, George automatically begins to function on old wheel-tracks. As he once without thinking jumped into an icy lake to rescue his Brother Harry he does the same here to save this stranger in the river. Drying off a few minutes later in the tollhouse keeper's office a critical conversation takes place between George and Clarence.

Tollhouse keeper: How did you happen to fall in?

Clarence: I didn't fall in. I jumped in to save George.

George: You what? To save me?

Clarence: Well, I did, didn't I? You didn't go through with it did you?

George: Go through with what?

Clarence: Suicide.

TK: Oh, it's against the law to commit suicide around here.

Clarence: Yeah, it's against the law where I come from, too.

TK: Where do you come from?

Clarence: Heaven. I had to act quickly. That's why I jumped in. I knew if I were drowning you'd try to save me. You see you did. And that's how I saved you.

George: Very funny.

Clarence: You're lip's bleeding, George.

George: Yeah, I got a bust in the jaw in answer to a prayer a little bit ago.

Clarence: Oh, no, no, no, George. I'm the answer to your prayer. That's why I was sent down here.

George: How'd you know my name?

Clarence: Oh I know all about you. I've watched you grow up from a little boy.

George: What are you, a mind reader or something?

Clarence: No.

George: Well, who are you then?

Clarence: Clarence Oddbody, AS-2.

George: Oddbody? AS-2. What's that AS-2?

Clarence: Angel, Second Class.

George: Oh brother. Gee whiz, I wonder what Martini puts in those drinks? Hey, what's with you? What'd you say just a minute ago? Why did you want to save me?

Clarence: That's what I was sent down for. I'm your guardian angel.

George: I wouldn't be a bit surprised.

Clarence: Ridiculous of you to think of killing yourself for money. Eight thousand dollars!

George: Yeah, just things like that—how do you know that?

Clarence: I told you, I'm your guardian angel. I know everything about you.

George: Well, you look about like the kind of angel I'd get. Sort of a fallen angel aren't you? What happened to your wings?

Clarence: I haven't won my wings, yet. That's why I'm an Angel, Second Class.

George: I don't know whether I like it very much being seen around with an angel without any wings.

Clarence: Oh, I've got to earn them. And you'll help me, won't you?

George: Sure, sure. How?

Clarence: By letting me help you.

George: Yeah? There's only one way you can help me. You don't happen to have eight thousand bucks on you, do you?

Clarence: Oh, no, no. We don't use money in heaven.

George: Oh yeah? That's right, I keep forgetting. It comes in pretty handy down here, Bub. I found it out a little late. I'm worth more dead than alive.

Clarence: Now, look. You mustn't talk like that. I won't get my wings with that attitude. You just don't know all that you've done. If it hadn't been for you ...

George: Yeah, if it hadn't been for me everybody would be a lot better off—my wife, and my kids, and my friends. Look, little fellow, why don't you go off and haunt somebody else?

Clarence: No. Now you don't understand. I've got my job.

George: Oh, shut up, will ya.

Clarence: Well, this isn't going to be so easy. So you think killing yourself would make everyone feel happier, eh?

George: Oh, I don't know. I guess you're right. I suppose it'd be better if I'd never been born at all.

Clarence: What'd you say?

George: I said I wish I'd never been born.

Clarence: Oh, you mustn't say things like that. Wait a minute. Wait a minute. That's an idea. (Addressing Joseph) What do you think? Yeah, that'll do it. All right. (Addressing George) You've got your wish. You've never been born.

George: What'd you say?

Clarence: You've never been born. You don't exist. You haven't a care in the world. No worries. No obligations. No eight thousand dollars to get. No Potter looking for you with the sheriff.

George: Say something else in that ear.

Clarence: Sure, you can hear out of it.

George: That's the doggonedest thing. I haven't heard anything out of that ear since I was a kid. Must have been the jump in that cold water out there.

Clarence: You're lip's stopped bleeding, too, George.

George: What do you know about that? What's happened? It's stopped snowing out there hasn't it? What's happened here? What I need is a couple of stiff drinks. How about you, angel, you want a drink? Come on. As soon as these clothes of ours are dry ...

Clarence: Those are dry.

George: What do you know about that? That stove's hotter than I thought. Come on, get your clothes on. We'll stroll up to my car ... oh, I'm sorry, I'll stroll—you fly.

The stroll from the tollhouse keeper's office at the bridge back up to Martini's Tavern begins Clarence's effort to help George overcome his discouragement. The method he and Joseph have agreed upon is to briefly transform the potentials of human history into the realities of human history, specifically those of Bedford Falls. George is going to get a chance to see what could have occurred in the lives of his family and friends had he truly never been born.

In the process, George will learn about the positive impact one believer can have on a family, a home, and a community. George is about to receive instruction in the doctrine of Invisible Historical Impact.

VIII. Doctrine of Invisible Historical Impact

A. The Difference between Visible and Invisible Heroes:

- 1- In the Church Age, the believer who advances in the plan of God all the way to spiritual maturity becomes an invisible hero.
- 2- This status is the result of having a relationship with an invisible God while utilizing invisible assets by means of the invisible power of the Holy Spirit.
- 3- In a Client Nation, visible heroes emerge through the application of the Laws of Divine Establishment. They can attain popularity and acclaim as a result of feats of courage accomplished within the framework of the national culture.
- 4- Their acts of bravery can occur on the battlefield, in the courthouse, on the beat, in the classroom, on the job, in hospitals, or on the playing field. Their exploits are covered by the media and praised by the people.
- 5- Invisible heroes are exactly that. Their impact is not known or recognized by the outside world and is usually misunderstood by most people within Christian circles.
- 6- The invisible historical impact of the mature believer can be classified into five categories.

B. The Invisible Hero's Impact on History:

1- Personal Impact

This is blessing by association to others with whom the mature believer associates in the various areas of life.

- a. **Family**: Spouse, parents, children, relatives.
- b. **Organizations**: Business, school, military, law enforcement, firms, clinics, government, sports teams, and civic clubs.
- c. **Social Life**: Friends, associates, fraternities, sororities, lodges, private clubs.

d. **Church**: Church, committees, prep school, mission board, ministries.

e. **Geographical**: Home, neighborhood, city, county, state, nation.

2- **Historical Impact**

- 1) This impact has to do with joining the Pivot of a Gentile Client Nation.
- 2) The concept of the Pivot is taken from the Greek word **λεῖμμα / leimma** / which is translated “remnant” as in:

Romans 11:5 - There has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice.

- 3) Throughout the history of the Jewish client nations their rise to prosperity or fall through adversity was always linked to the size of its remnant.
- 4) That remnant was always identified as spiritual Israel as opposed to national Israel. For example, in:

1 Kings 19:18 - “Yet I will leave 7,000 in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

- 5) Thus the size of the Pivot becomes the basis of a Client nation being cursed or blessed by God.
- 6) And that Pivot is made up of those believers who have advanced to spiritual maturity.
- 7) A large Pivot has invisible historical impact on the spiritual life of the nation as well as its government, law enforcement, military, economy, culture, and social life.
- 8) A small Pivot means that the spin-off of believers combined with the unbelieving population is so large it invites the administration of divine discipline to the nation.
- 9) Consequently, as goes the believer, so goes the Client Nation to God with regard to its rise or fall historically, its spiritual life, economic stability, and culture.