

📍 January 28, 2019 - Bill Bender

📍 Persevering

📍 Psalm 71:17-19

Billy Graham is an example of someone who has persevered through the decades in the transmission of the Gospel. I was moved to tears upon hearing of his death. He was a rock that God used until he drew his last breath. I recall with fondness the memories of him mustering all the physical, emotional, and spiritual energy, enabled by the Holy Spirit, on those cold evenings in the Rose Bowl, as he faithfully proclaimed the Gospel to tens of thousands of people. I, for one, am encouraged by his example to continue, to persist, and to persevere in holiness, and share his faith with others, who, in turn, will share their faith to the generations to come. (2 Tim. 2:2)

Billy Graham is more than just an important historical figure. He visited the old Baltimore Colt's Stadium in 1981. My small church loaded up a rented yellow school bus to attend the revival. I was just ten years of age, and my mom and dad "heavily encouraged" my siblings and me to go.

I was a stubborn child. It was just a show for me to witness. George Beverly Shea would sing, Billy Graham would preach, and hundreds of people would respond. However, on the last night of the revival, something happened. His words became clear. My heart was burdened, and I couldn't wait to run down onto the football field to surrender my life to Christ.

Over the past week, I came across this passage in my devotions that expresses the importance of perseverance in the transmission of the Gospel to the next generation. It reads:

Psalm 71:17-19

17 O God, You have taught me from my youth;
And to this day I declare Your wondrous works.

18 Now also when I am old and gray-headed,
O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to this generation,
Your power to everyone who is to come.



Journey On