

Write Epitaph On Hearts Of People ⁵⁻¹⁸⁻⁶⁸

By Rev. Jamie Buckingham

EAU GALLIE — Someone said that what you think about indicates your state of mind. Well, I've been thinking about "epitaphs." Last week I spent an enjoyable hour wandering through an old cemetery overlooking the modern Atlanta airport. Strange contrasts but interesting reading.

It's reported that W. C. Fields once suggested as his words of remembrance: "I'd rather be here than in Philadelphia." While that may express an opinion it doesn't say much about the character of the man. Or does it?

GERALD KENNEDY says out near where he lives in the west there is a

tombstone with this inscription.

To Lem S. Frame,
who during his life shot
89 Indians,
whom the Lord delivered
into his hands,
and who was looking
forward to making up
his hundred before the
end of the year,
when he fell asleep in
Jesus

Perspective

at his house at Hawk's
Ferry,
March 27, 1843.
Strange stories in stone.

One of the strangest is the
one Thomas Jefferson
wrote to be inscribed on his
tomb. Jefferson died on

July 4, 1826. Out of the
many things he wished men
to remember about him he
chose these:

HERE WAS buried
THOMAS JEFFERSON.
Author of the Declaration
of American Independence,
of the statute of Virginia for
religious freedom, and
father of the University of
Virginia.

What did he leave out. Oh
yes, something minor. He
also served as President of
the United States.

It's interesting what a
man chooses out of his life
as worth remembering.
What is worth being carved
in stone? What has a man
done? What witness has he
made? What cause has he
fought for and wants re-
corded?

LET'S BRING it up to
date. Some immature col-
lege students (and faculty)
seem to think that the
greatest cause is getting a
good man to quit as presi-
dent. Perhaps a good epit-
aph would be, "I fought for
four-letter words." I'm
sure that will impress God
at the judgment.

Some things don't have to
be carved in stone. Some-
body says, "you helped
me." Another says, "you
cared." A sinner remem-
bers you were willing to
get your hands dirty with
him (or her) and "get
involved." A child remem-
bers a word of encourage-
ment.

Lead a man to God and
he will write his own
epitaph — on the hearts of
people.