

Organize information and keep records – Asaolu O. S. (asaolu@yahoo.com)

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Text – Malachi 3:16

Introduction: Scientists know that this world has an end because its disorderliness (entropy) is increasing although energy or information can only be transformed, not created today. Their study also revealed that everything has an initial origin or beginning, which they often refer to as the “Big Bang.” Thus, records or signals in any form are important and should be well organized and preserved optimally, that is in a way that can make such retrievable and useful easily. Much of the advancement of human race is due to our ability to develop, communicate and store knowledge for others distant in space or time to access or reuse. If your parents and ancestors did NOT keep adequate records (oral and written), you would not be able to have a clear identity as to your name, date of birth or place of origin. Anyone without a personal tractable record would find it difficult to operate in this modern digital era. Many men have left families in penury or disarray because the records of their finances or property were not documented and accessible to their spouse or children. Likewise, congregations that do not keep proper records would often face challenges with institutional memory and re-encounter several avoidable pitfalls. Information organization and documentation is invaluable, that is why God Himself documented the Ten Commandments on Tablets of Stone with His Fingers so Moses would have a concise summary and evidence of their mountain-top discourse - Exodus 32:15-16; 34:1. He also inspired Moses to write the Pentateuch, and divide them into Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy! –Exo 34:27-28

Thesis: *Every rational individual and thoughtful community or organization should keep records to document and transmit their history and activities, such will serve as inspiration for their youths, as memorial evidence to clarify issues, and as basis to look back to acknowledge those deserving of rewards for their roles and services.*

FACTS on record keeping:

1. Individual families and cities maintained book of records in Israel – Ezra 4:15. Not only did God institute priests, and judges in ancient Israel, He allowed the offices of *scribe and recorder* to serve the king -2 Sam 8:17, 1 kg 4:3, 2 kg 12:10; 18:18
2. Inspired messengers of God were instructed to write a book - Jeremiah 30:2, Rev 1:1-2, that readers may obey and be blessed –Deut 30:9-14, Rev 1:3.
3. Even in heaven, books are kept with details of what transpires therein as well as on earth - Malachi 3:16
4. The early Christians and the apostles took record and documented not only Jesus’s life but also their own actions for posterity so that others may believe and be assured –Acts 1:1-2; 10:34-37f, Luke 1:1-5f, John 20:20-21. Besides, epistles were written to edify and encourage brethren –Acts 15:23-31, Eph 3:3-5
5. While literacy is good and must be encouraged, God knows not every individual will attain it. Hence He commanded the reading of the law unto the people in the Old Testament (Deut 11:18-21, Acts 13:15) and likewise commands the reading of scripture in the New Covenant -1 Timothy 4:11-13. Moreover, He allows the gospel to be a ministration of the spirit that leaves an imprint upon our hearts -2 Cor 3:6-8, Heb 8:10-11
6. Records allow people to give account, parable of unjust steward (Luke 16:1-8) and future judgment –Rev 20:12, Rm 14:12
7. Records facilitate rewards, consider Modecai in Esther 6:1-3f.

Personal Examples: Dr. Mrs. Dosunmu’s advice which I always pass to my students and mentees - make copies for yourself of any important document you submit. My undergraduate results used to compile faculty-based, Dean endorsed transcript in 1998, and personal doctoral form copies and records used to generate official transcript in 2023. The Publications, Awards, Invitations, Newspaper and website mentions that I documented for over two decades became useful evidence to present as proof when I filed for US EB2 Visa, I did NOT need any letters of reference from anyone!

Conclusion: Keep records, organize such and reuse such when occasion demands. Store properly as someone may need and search for it later.

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