

Leaving a Lasting Legacy

Introduction - Story.

Your legacy determines your destiny – what you do for Christ, how you live your life, your victories & sometimes your failures create a legacy that ultimately determines how we spend eternity – heaven is our destiny call as believers – 1 Corinthians 15:58 “Therefore my dear brothers, be steadfast, unmovable, always excelling in the Lord’s work, because you know that the work that you do for the Lord isn’t wasted.” (ISV)

Christianity is always one generation away from extension – the reason you are here today in this church service is because someone told you about Christ (family – friend) The previous generation past the faith onto us!!! If they didn’t none of us would be here today.

It is our duty to pass it on to the next generation and on to the next & next as it has being done for 1000’s of generations and 1000’s of years.

What do we pass on?

What is the legacy we want to leave behind?

Psalm 78:4 “We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about His power and His mighty wonders.” (NLT)

The call is to pass on our faith & values, what values? – values that last, eternal values. The three most important ones are found in 1 Cor 13:13

These three things continue forever – Faith, Hope & Love.

I researched these three words in the bible and something interesting came up:

- FAITH is mentioned 246 times in the bible
- HOPE is mentioned 185 times in the bible
- LOVE is mentioned 733 times in the bible

BUT the word GIVE is mentioned 2285 in the bible – the bible says more about generosity than faith, hope & love put together – Why is it?

I find it odd & you?

I believe it is because generosity is the PRACTICAL EXPRESSION of these three values – it is the way you express FAITH, HOPE & LOVE!!!!!!

Is our current legacy one of GENEROSITY?

Story – soup Kitchen in Quigney (Lynn Glover)

There are many legacy leavers in the bible, just to mention a few, Moses, Joshua, David to Peter & Paul – and many others.

We will all leave a legacy of some sort – the question is what will it be?

A legacy is something that remains after we leave this world – something that speaks of our lives – it is the effect we have on people when living – the true legacy of each human being is written in heaven – our legacy is a reality, and we all have one!!!!

We need to ask ourselves whether the world will be a better place because we have lived in it?

1 Peter 2:15 “For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.” (NKJV)

We are created to leave a lasting legacy – Eph 2:10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Building a legacy does not mean we trample on our brothers – and look only after number one – Philippians 2:3-4 is clear about this “Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.” (NKJV)

Building memorials thus leaving a lasting Legacy –

God in His infinite wisdom realizes that we often forget what He has done for us – in Deuteronomy 6:12 Moses issued a final warning to Israel just before they entered the Promised Land, “Be careful that you do not forget the Lord, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.”

Hebrew meaning of memorial is **“To Remember”**

Memorials have played an important role in biblical history:

- At the foot of Mt Sinai, Moses built an altar of stone to commemorate God’s covenant with Israel (Ex 12:14)
- Joshua sent the twelve men representing the twelve tribes to get twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan river to build a memorial (Joshua 4:9)

Why is it important to build memorials thereby leaving a lasting legacy?

- **It helps us to remember what God has done in our lives – it aids us in telling personal stories (testimonies) of God working in us and through us – and it triggers our memories.**
- **It renews our personal commitment to God and re-awakens His plans & purposes in us & for us.**
- **The memorials help us to focus on the Good and the things God has done for us instead of the negative and failures in our lives (Satan’s battle of the mind)**

Examples – mission to India & Argentina - Story

When God brought the children out of Israel into the Promised Land, he gave them a specific assignment – the Israelites were to displace the pagan peoples

living in their promised territory, inhabit it, and establish centres of worship & cities of refuge in each region.

Likewise – Christ commissioned us to go into our promised land, take possession, make disciples whereby we displace the kingdom of darkness and release the Kingdom of Heaven. (Joshua 1:5-9)

As it is for us, the Israelites' success in fulfilling each part of the assignment was entirely dependent on their ability to do what God had been training them to do in the wilderness – which was – to **follow His manifest presence and do what He said, when He said to do it!!!**

Jesus' final words in His Great Commission to us were, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matt 28:20), the implication of this promise to us is twofold:

- God's presence among us determines our identity
- And consequently what we are able to accomplish, **our legacy is His legacy working through us!!!**

Bill Johnson – **We are never significant because we want to be – we are significant because we do what He says!!!!**

SIMPLY PURE SIMPLE OBEDIANCE!!!

Reputation is what people think of us now – LEGACY is what they think of us long after we are gone.

No one on earth may even know your name – but heaven records your victories, many people's victories that are not recognised on earth are sometimes greater than those applauded by man.

I want to tell you this morning – **you are significant and you are building a Godly legacy that will last.**

When I was preparing and praying about this message God gave me three different words for you this morning:

- Your influence is greater than you think
- Your work matters more than you think

- Your influence lasts longer than you think

Video Clip – sometimes we don't need words, but action and lifestyle!!

Moses – leaving a lasting legacy

Deuteronomy 34:9-12 “Now Joshua the son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him, and the sons of Israel listened to him and did as the Lord had commanded Moses. Since that time no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, for all the signs and wonders which the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt against Pharaoh, all his servants, and his land, and for all the mighty power and for all the great terror which Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.”

Moses 120 year's old, greatest prophet Israel ever known – leaves a legacy that transcends time.

Most of us as we get older; we wonder what our legacy will be?

Will we ever leave one?

Will we be remembered?

We've missed the mark too many times?

It's too late?

A lot of the time people build their legacy by taking all the wrong steps:

- If we work hard enough at our work we can build a lasting legacy
- Others believe if they make enough money or own enough stuff they will leave a lasting legacy

The sad truth all of these are temporal and have no eternal value!!!

[Story – Jonathan & Sarah Edwards](#)

Five keys to living a life worthy of a lasting legacy:

- 1. Fear the Lord and obey Him – your legacy begins in your heart, in your relationship with God. Psalm 112:1-2 reads: “How blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in His commandments. His descendants will be mighty on earth; the generation of the upright will be blessed.”**
- 2. Through the power of God, it is by God working through us that we are able to build a legacy that truly transcends time, it is by the power of God that we are able to touch other people’s hearts so deeply that we will forever be remembered. Christ must increase, I must decrease.**
- 3. Recognise the world’s needs and respond with compassion & action. In Matthew 9:36 we read: “And seeing the multitudes. He (Jesus) felt compassion for them.” A legacy is left by being committed to doing something about our world – do we desire to reach the lost, do we desire to help the homeless/widow/orphan & hungry – it is a call to action. What are we doing for the least of these?**
- 4. Ask God for Wisdom, we as Christians should be wisdom personified, but we can only get wisdom from God, God tells us clearly we should seek it, because through it we will influence the world – Proverbs 3: 13-16 “Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding; for her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, and her gain than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies, and all the things you may desire cannot compare with her. Length of days is in her right hand, in her left hand riches & honour.”**

5. Ask God to give your children a sense of purpose, direction & mission.

The challenge here is to leave your children a heritage, not just an inheritance. As someone once said, “our children are messengers we send to a time we will not see.”

When you love God with all your heart, soul and mind, you build a lasting legacy.

What can you do today, in order to build the Godly legacy for tomorrow?

Prayer points:

- The enemies lies attacking our Identity thereby derailing our Legacy/influence
- Failures are highlighted more than victories destroying the Godly memorials
- We don't believe that we are significant and have no legacy – purpose/call is under attack