

In recent years we have heard and read a lot about the legacy that certain people will leave behind. Most prominent of these is the legacy that which a President will have once he leaves the highest office in the land. Some have even made jokes about what kind of legacy a certain President would have when he left office.

What is a legacy? A legacy is defined, as: “1: a gift by will especially of money or other personal property: bequest 2: something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past <the *legacy* of the ancient philosophers” (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Legacy>). Sometimes children wonder what their parents are going to leave them as their legacy when they pass from this life – money, property, valued possessions. However, it is the second part of the definition that we want to center our thoughts on in this article. What kind of legacy will you leave behind? While it may be important to leave our children a legacy of money, property or valued possessions, of far more importance is what we transmit to our children and, indeed, others in intangible ways.

How will your children and others remember you? Will your legacy be one of an individual who was more interested in the here and now than in the hereafter? Will it be one of an individual who sought to lay up treasures on earth rather than in heaven (Matthew 6:19-20)? Such legacies will not last. Or will your legacy be one of a good name and a faithful life?

Let us note what Solomon said regarding a good name: “*A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold*” (Proverbs 22:1); “*A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth*” (Ecclesiastes 7:1). Yes, a good name is better than riches or precious ointment. In our Wednesday night Bible study, Robert E. Lee was mentioned concerning the time towards the end of his life when he was asked if he would allow the use of his name to advertise a new brand of liquor. He recounted how he had led men into battle and to death for the cause of the South during the War Between the States. The men had honored him and he had sought to keep faith with them. At the time he was asked if his name could be used, he was nearing the end of his life, his health was broken, his family scattered and his finances gone. However, he stated, “All I have is my good name, but may I tell you, sirs, it is respected and it is not for sale.”

What about your good name? Are you willing to sell it or even give it away? How do you want to be remembered by your children or others? If it comes to a choice, would you rather leave them the legacy of a good name and a faithful life than rather material wealth? I know that I would rather leave as my legacy my good name and a faithful life?

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett and mother, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, and Rachel Fitzpatrick's aunt (Eula Baker) who has cancer, Maomi Aaron' sister who has having health problems, and Tim Smith.

Our sympathy is extended to Kathy Treadway in the passing of her mother on Thursday morning. Memorial services will be held at South Aiken Presbyterian Church, Whiskey Road, Aiken on Saturday July 26 at 11.00 a.m.

Rachel Fitzpatrick's niece, Ashley is recovering well from surgery and has returned home. The other family members that were hospitalized are also improving.

On July 27, we will have Barbeque, trimmings and desert for a fellowship meal following the morning worship. There will be a sign –up sheet for what to bring and help is needed to purchase the Barbeque.

LOVING CHASTISEMENT

The newspapers once carried the story of a father and mother who, finding that their little girl had taken and eaten something from the cupboard, began to shake and slap the child. When the child became drowsy, they did not let up, but continued their shaking and slapping for four hours.

What cruel punishment for such a little offense! No, it was compelled by love. The child had swallowed ten sleeping tablets, and the doctor said the only hope of saving the child's life was in keeping her awake.

We do not always understand the path through which God leads us, but we may be certain His chastisement is always born of love. God does not choose to stop the harshness of the winds, but He rather directs us through them.

Author Unknown

HOW MUCH CAN WE BEAR?

A man shopping in the grocery store was being followed by his small son. The boy was carrying a basket, and his father was loading it with one item after the other of canned goods, sugar, flour, and fresh vegetables. A customer was watching, and began to feel sorry for the struggling boy. Walking up behind him, she said quietly, “That's a heavy load for a little chap like you, isn't it?” The boy turned to her with an expression of surprise, then smiled patiently as he said, “Oh, don't worry. My dad knows how much I can carry.”

Have you ever thought the burden was more than you could bear? God is so tenderly aware and concerned with our frailties, our weaknesses, our burdens. God cares for us as a father pities his children. He cares when we are overwhelmed by adversity. And we should be assured that He will never allow our burdens to be greater than we can bear (I Corinthians 10:13). The same God who knows your “load limit” graciously limits your load.

Author Unknown