

Gospel Power



"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation..." (Romans 1:16)

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What Kind of Legacy Will You Leave?

David A. Cox

It has become common to hear people refer to different people that are famous and have been in particular areas of influence and when they leave a particular position or when they pass away from this life people will discuss the legacy that they have left. The discussion on one's legacy often involves the favorable impressions that are remembered and the influence for good that one has. As we think about this it would behoove each one to realize that they will leave a legacy behind. It may be good or it may be bad, that is up to each individual. Let us look at a few legacies that we find in the scriptures.

Hebrews 11 is a chapter of legacies. This is often referred to as the "Heroes of Faith", but the Hebrew writer in this chapter recalls the legacies that have been left behind of all these great men of faith. The writer reminds us of the good legacies of Abel, Enoch Noah, Abraham, Sara, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and then concludes that there were many others. The point here is not that these individuals never did anything wrong and never sinned in their lives, but their hearts were turned toward pleasing the Lord. As the Hebrew writer begins this list he says of the

righteousness of Abel's life "by it he being dead yet speaketh." (Hebrews 11:4). How true that is that as we are reminded of the great examples of faithfulness and the lives that were lived, we indeed find valuable instruction in the legacies of these lives.

We must remember however that legacies can be good or bad. The scriptures also furnish us with many legacies of individuals that did not please the Lord. Cain is one who in jealous rage killed his brother Abel (Genesis 4). Esau is remembered for his unfaithfulness in the selling of his birthright for a morsel of food (Hebrews 12:16). Lot's wife is remembered for a bad legacy in that upon leaving the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah look back to see the cities and was turned to a pillar of salt (Luke 17:32; Genesis 19:26). Judas Iscariot is another that is remembered with a bad legacy in that he betrayed Christ for 30 pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14-ff). The rich man that came to Jesus asking "What shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" Jesus told him to sell all that he had and come and follow him and he left Jesus sorrowful because of his unwillingness to part with his possessions (Mark 10:17-22). King Agrippa's was taught the truth by Paul but he responded, "Paul, almost thou persuadest

me to be a Christian” (Acts 26:28).

Now we must each ask ourselves the question, “What kind of legacy are we leaving with our lives?” There are a number of people that we come in contact with daily in our lives, and what do our lives tell them about us? What are the things that our children will remember about their home: their father, mother, brothers and/or sisters? What kind of influence am I having on those at school, work, or in my family? Do our lives illuminate the light of Christ and doing His will as the most important thing or are secular activities seen to have the greatest bearing on who we are and what we do?

The kind of influence we will have on others tell us the kind of legacy that we will leave. Those that are faithful to God and whose hearts are devoted to following Him will have a good legacy to leave behind. John noted the legacy of Christians when he wrote, “Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them” (Revelation 14:13). What is your legacy?



No Comparison

Patrick Farish

Hurting? Listen: “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to usward” (Romans 8:18).

Life involves suffering — “...All that would live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12); and beyond that suffering experienced because of the Way, there is the common-to-all-men-suffering because of illness or injury, from family problems, or from financial reverse. Words cannot communicate the misery and anguish of heart at the death of a

loved one; or the pain brought about by a wayward mate, or a child gone astray – the overwhelming sense that this pain will never be eased, this hurt never be healed, this person never know serenity again. Romans 8:18 provides motivation to endure the suffering, here; in view of the recompense of reward, there.

And from the throes of our grief we should lift up our hearts to heaven, encouraged in spite of ourselves by God’s promise. “The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to us-ward.”

Imagine that! As miserable as we may be now in our sufferings, so overburdened that we think we can never rise again, that misery and those sufferings are **not worthy to be compared** with that which is in store. How beautiful heaven must be!

~via *Bible Viewpoints*, Katy, Texas.



Holding Back A Part

Grant B. Caldwell

In Acts 5, Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Ghost about the money they had contributed to the work going on in the city of Jerusalem during the early growth of the church. There are two or three things that we would like to say about this matter before we go on to make some general applications from the text.

First, the Lord puts physical possessions into our hands to be used according to the best of our judgment. In verse one, Luke refers to a possession had by Ananias and Sapphira. This was theirs, and when it was sold, the money was theirs (verse 4). The use of one’s money for matters determined to be good by his own judgment is very broad in the New Testament. How much a man spends for clothes, haircuts,

food, and housing (etc.) is not determined by the Lord. However, the Lord expects us to use honesty and good judgment in determining how and when our money is to be spent.

Second, the Lord expects and appreciates honest consideration of Him in the expenditures of our money. Everything a man has is given him by the Lord. He made all things and has the control of all things in His own hands. He does not expect that every cent a man has is to be put in the basket. He has enjoined on us other obligations. But he is desirous of a reasonable portion of that which He has given being returned unto Him in regular systematic giving (1 Cor. 16:1-2).

Third, giving involves more than money. Our sacrifice to God takes into consideration many aspects of life. We may keep back a part of many things, make pretense to true Christianity, and thus lie to the Holy Ghost. Consider with me a few things we may keep back.

Our hearts. Christ said that the first and great commandment was that we are to love God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind. Our every fiber is to be given to the Lord. Every thought and discernment of our mind is to be governed by His will. Every ounce of our strength and every beat of our heart is to be for the glory and honor of God. But too many of us have our hearts in the world. James said, "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that friendship of the world is enmity with God" (James 4:4). John said that all that is in the world would pass away and its lusts (1 John 2:15-17). We claim to love the Lord, but when it comes to real service to Him and doing what we know He wants done, we hold back a part. We give Him our hearts on Sunday morning at worship, but keep back the larger part, the part that would carry us through the week in His service.

Our bodies. Since we were bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:20), we ought to present our bodies a living sacrifice unto the Lord (Romans 12:1-2). But the misuse of the physical body is rampant even among members of the

Lord's church. We give the Lord a portion of our bodies. Most would not think of personal drunkenness, fornication, or other forms of out-and-out physical abuse. But we keep back a part of our bodies in two ways. One, we will engage in social drinking and mixed bathing and other forms of physical lusts. Too, we do not use our bodies for the complete furtherance of the gospel of Christ. We give our bodies in worship, but we hold back the complete surrender of our members unto God (Romans 6:13).

Our time. Ben Franklin once said, "If time be all things most precious, then wasting time is the greatest prodigality." The psalmist said, "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Psalm 90:12). How would you live if you knew that you had only one hundred days to live? Do you think that you would say that you are too busy for now? Christ said, "I must work the works of him that sent me while it is day; the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4).

Conclusion: There are many other things that we give to the Lord, claiming that we are giving more than we are. We keep back parts and claim we are giving our all to the Lord. Why not begin now to give the Lord your very best? Christ said, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad" (Matthew 12:30). And again, "No man can serve two masters...ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Matthew 6:24ff).

~via *The Bulletin*, Haleyville, Alabama



Remember Our Bible Class Periods

Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

News & Notes

THE SICK: *Ashley Thomas* has been sick this past week and was not able to be at Bible study Wednesday night ..**Millinea Word** continues to recover from her recent surgery ...**Marcia & Erin Cooper** have been sick, but are feeling better now and were able to be at Bible study Wednesday night..**Katy Goode** is doing better now after being sick this past week...**Scottie Goode's uncle, O. L. Prince**, was taken back to the hospital this past week to to infection after his surgery for his broken hip...**Wanda Tucker** has been sick this past week and was unable to be at Bible study Wednesday night ..**Sheila Goode & Lou Ann Phillips mother, Shirley Slaton**, began her chemo treatments this past Thursday in Birmingham ..**Rodney and Angie McCrary's nephew, Jarod McCrary**, had surgery on his eye this past Monday ...Remember **Sandra Glass' cousin, Tina Strickland**, is continuing her treatments for her cancer ...Also remember **Mattie Blanche Word** continues at home and not able to be out...Also remember **Gurtie Snoddy** who is in the Mitchell-Hollingsworth Nursing Home ..**Mary Best's nephew, Shannon Johnson**, who is at home ..Remember **Tisha Thomas' grandmother, Nellie Hunt**, and **Millinea Word's mother, Nola McCafferty**, who are both in the Meadow Brook Nursing Home in Pulaski.

NEW BABY: This past week **Jimmy and Janice Glass** became grandparents of a little girl named, *Haley Savannah*. She was born Monday night at ECM hospital in Florence. She is now at home with her proud parents *Daniel and Trinity Sledge*.

COMMUNICATION GROUPS: Tonight is the night for group four to meet. If you are in group four plan to meet with your group this evening.

OUT OF TOWN: **The Pressnells:** *Monroe and Yvonne* continue to be away on vacation in Florida. They plan to be home this week.

Gospel Power

is published in interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Anderson church.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Anderson church Home Page

Anderson-church.org

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