

From the Family Room

26 April, 2015

*Church of Christ at Creekwood
Mobile, AL*

Leaving a Christian Legacy



⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:6-9

I'm sure that many of us have been blessed to live in a family that has provided us with Godly examples in our grandparents, parents, aunts, and uncles. I am thankful that several Godly people in my family have given me their spiritual legacy. I have also benefitted from the Christian legacy here in our spiritual family at Creekwood left by many faithful members who lived in the past and some that are still living today. Thank you.

At my age, I am in the legacy building phase of my life. I know that three generations after my death, I will be just a faceless name on a sheet of paper. I am ok with that fact. But I want to pass on the living legacy of Christ I received that will continue to provide a positive impact on those who come behind me for many generations. Proverbs 13:22 tells us that **"A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children."** Even more than striving to bestow a material inheritance, we should make leaving a rich spiritual legacy one of our top priorities.

How can we leave our family a Christian legacy that stands the test of time?

- Live in such a manner that God's word and His commandments are on our heart. They will become interwoven into all that we are and all that we do.
- Share the Bible with our family. The truth of scripture will have a greater impact on our children and grandchildren than any material thing we can give them. The truth of God's love for us and the truth of Christ's love for us will light a fire of faith that cannot be quenched.
- Model true Christianity by living a Godly life. Bringing the words of the Bible to life is much more memorable than just speaking words.
 1. Make praying with your grandchildren and children a daily part of life. Before every meal, my grandfather prayed a prayer that I still remember and use today.
 2. Serve others with your family as a regular part of life.
 3. Worship God together as a family. I have many pleasant memories of sitting between my grandparents as a boy at worship at the church in Fort Deposit, AL.
 4. Use your unique talents to build up God's family here at Creekwood. **"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."** (I Corinthians 12:27) When we work united with others to build the local church, we leave a beacon of light for the truth that shines on after we are gone from this life for those who come after us. I am thankful to the Silver Saints here at Creekwood who have built such a beacon for truth.

All of us, as diverse as we may be, have one thing in common – a heritage. The most important thing that will last after we have left this life is the impression we have made on the lives of our family members and others around us. The most valuable inheritance we can give our family is a legacy of Christ in our lives. Every one of us has had a heritage passed to us. Every one of us will one day pass a heritage to our family – whether it is good, bad, or both. An affirming legacy is powerfully positive. A negative legacy can be very destructive. It is our responsibility to create our heritage daily. If we do not intentionally pass a positive Christian legacy to our family, our secular culture will exert its own influence on them. More than likely, that influence will lead to a negative result.

"I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well." (II Timothy 1:5) Let's all focus on raising several generations of Timothys by leaving them a Christian legacy that will influence generations yet to be born.

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