

## **Build A Godly Legacy**

### **2 Timothy 2:2**

- I. It appears there is something in the human spirit that draws us to seek meaning, destiny, and purpose with the time we have being given on this earth. Don't we all want to be remembered for the right things? Don't we want our lives to matter and leave a God-honoring legacy? What our lives are remembered for is, in effect, our "story."
  - a. <sup>9</sup>For all our days ebb away under your wrath; we end our years like a sigh. <sup>10</sup>Our lives last seventy years or, if we are strong, eighty years. Even the best of them are<sup>[d]</sup> struggle and sorrow; indeed, they pass quickly and we fly away. Psalm 90:9-10
  - b. Have you ever imagined what it would be like to be present at your own funeral, to hear what your friends and family say about you? The pastor, miscellaneous friends and relatives all say nice, publicly acceptable things about you. But then, your children begin to reminisce about you. Whatever they say, whatever they remember of your life and your effect on people is your actual legacy.
  - c. <sup>12</sup>Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts. Psalm 90:12
  - d. If you are still alive, your life story has not been fully written yet. You have that precious gift of time still on your side to create a life that is celebrated by friends and family.
- II. Watch what you say!
  - a. We have been given this precious gift of time, and it's never too late! It all begins with saying the right words.
  - b. <sup>20</sup>My son, pay attention to my words; listen closely to my sayings. <sup>21</sup>Don't lose sight of them; keep them

within your heart. <sup>22</sup>For they are life to those who find them, and health to one's whole body. <sup>23</sup>Guard your heart above all else, for it is the source of life. Proverbs 4:20-23

- c. When we leave this earth and other people reflect back on our lives – the type of person we were and the legacy we left – if we want to leave a legacy of someone who was compassionate, caring and kind, we must pay attention to the words we say.

III. There are **three groups of words** that will ensure we leave a godly legacy.

**a. "I Love You"**

1. Many adults are working through the pain of growing up with parents who never said, "I love you."
2. **It's not enough to drop clues so that those around you will just figure it out – we must say the words.**
3. The Lord appeared to him (Israel) from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, I have continued to extend faithful love to you. Jeremiah 31:3
4. <sup>16</sup>For God loved the world in this way: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

**b. "I am Sorry"**

1. To apologize is not a sign of weakness.
  2. Do not allow pride to hinder your legacy.
- <sup>23</sup>“This is what the LORD says: The wise person should not boast in his wisdom; the strong should not boast in his strength;

the wealthy should not boast in his wealth.

<sup>24</sup> But the one who boasts should boast in this: that he understands and knows me—that I am the LORD, showing faithful love, justice, and righteousness on the earth, for I delight in these things. This is the LORD's declaration. Jeremiah 9:23-24

3. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect. James 5:16

c. **"I Forgive you."**

1. Unforgiveness makes it impossible to leave a Godly legacy. According to the Scriptures, there is just no way a person can have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and still harbor unforgiveness.
2. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. Matthew 6:12
3. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. Colossians 3:12-13
4. Forgiveness is more about freeing yourself than it is about freeing others. God's favor cannot flow freely and unimpeded into your life if you remain stubborn and refuse to forgive those who have wounded or offended you.

IV. Living a Life Worthy of Legacy

- a. Fear the Lord and obey Him. Your legacy begins in your heart, in your relationship with God.

- <sup>1</sup> How happy is the one who does not walk in the advice of the wicked or stand in the pathway with sinners or sit in the company of mockers! <sup>2</sup> Instead, his delight is in the Lord's instruction, and he meditates on it day and night. <sup>3</sup> He is like a tree planted beside flowing streams that bears its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. Psalm 1:1-3

b. Recognize the world's needs and respond with compassion and action. If you want to leave a lasting legacy, you need to act with courage to reach out to those in need.

- <sup>17</sup> If anyone has this world's goods and sees a fellow believer<sup>[1]</sup> in need but withholds compassion from him—how does God's love reside in him? <sup>18</sup> Little children, let us not love in word or speech, but in action and in truth. 1 John 3:17-18

c. Pray that God will use you to accomplish His purposes. Pray like Jabez and at the end of the year, see how different your life will be.

- <sup>10</sup> Jabez called out to the God of Israel, "If only you would bless me, extend my border, let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm, so that I will not experience pain."<sup>[2]</sup> And God granted his request. 1 Chronicles 4:10

d. Be a better steward of your gifts and abilities.

- <sup>10</sup> Whatever your hands find to do, do with all your strength, because there is no work,

planning, knowledge, or wisdom in Sheol where you are going. Ecclesiastes 9:10

- <sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people, <sup>24</sup> knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ. Colossians 3:23-24

- e. Ask God to give your children a sense of purpose, direction, and 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."
- f. <sup>22</sup> A good man leaves an inheritance to his grandchildren, but the sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous. Proverbs 13:22

V. Over the next 30 days make it a point to simply say the right words.

- Learn to say the right words to others. Say "I love you," to your spouse, your kids, your friends, and your family. Say, "I'm sorry," to the people you've hurt, because of the things you've said or done. And say, "I forgive you," to those who have hurt you, so that when you leave this earth, you can truly leave the ultimate God-honoring legacy.