

Leaving a Lasting Legacy

In Paul's second letter to Timothy, he warned him about the prevailing wickedness that would mark the last days, the very days in which Timothy himself was already living.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. 2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, 4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

This passage is a sad yet accurate description of the world in which we live: an age marked by selfishness, pride, hypocrisy, and godlessness. Though the world has always been in spiritual darkness, in our day that darkness is increasingly seen in hostility toward the Lord God, indifference to Him, and confusion about His truth. Ours is a world that tolerates, and even loves, things that are perverse, corrupt, and evil. The events we read about in the news today are often hard to fathom. The atrocities committed against men, women, and children are both vile and reprehensible. Indeed, times of great difficulty are upon us. Given the clear teaching and warnings of the Scriptures, the current state of the world should not surprise us. But what should surprise us, however, is that many of these descriptions, used here by Paul to describe apostates, false teachers, and false brethren, may, at times, be found even among those who profess the name of Jesus Christ.

The question that each one of us must ponder: Can these descriptions be applied to me? In a genuine and sincere manner, we must ask whether or not any of these traits have quietly taken root in our own hearts. Am I a lover of self? Am I a lover of money? Am I without self-control? Do I prefer the love of pleasure rather than the love of God? Do I have an appearance of godliness but deny its true power?

In 2 Timothy 3:5, the word translated "appearance" refers to the outward shape or form of something, much like a silhouette, a vague outline, or a shadow. A person who manifests an appearance of godliness may seem faithful, respectable, and even admirable to others, yet inwardly there remains a heart that has not been regenerated or transformed by the grace of God. Thus, what is presented to others is false, untrue, and empty, a mere imitation of the godliness that only Christ Jesus can produce. Genuine godliness is not something that can be manufactured by man. Rather, it is the fruit of being united to the Lord Jesus Christ by faith. A sinner joined to Christ Jesus, partakes in His life. The Spirit of God dwells within, and what was once dead is made alive. What was once cold begins to warm, love, and respond to the Lord God. What was once obstinate and resistant begins to surrender, submit, and obey. The difference between an appearance of godliness and true godliness is this: one is external imitation, the other is the life of Christ within the soul. While others may see only the outward form, the Lord God looks beyond appearances and searches the heart. When godliness is confined merely to what is visible, the emphasis tends to rest on behavior and religious expression, while the heart itself remains dead, unchanged, and in need of the Holy Spirit's renewing work. Jesus described such people as "brilliantly whitewashed tombs," beautiful and ornate on the outside, but inside filled with rot, decay, and death. An appearance of godliness is not authentic Christianity. It is an empty religious form, without true substance and without true life. Sadly, this is the state of many in the church today.

One of the main problems with this appearance of godliness is that, while individuals cling to its empty form, they are in reality denying the life-giving power of the gospel. By the Spirit of God, believers are joined to Christ in His death and resurrection. We are not simply instructed by Him, we are made alive in Him, and His life becomes the source of our obedience. If union with Christ is absent, there can be no true

godliness. An appearance of godliness that takes hold in the church will inevitably work its way into the home. This is the root of so many of the spiritual weaknesses we see in families today, an empty, hollow, and hypocritical Christianity that has the appearance of godliness but denies its power. This life-giving power of the gospel does not refer to religious activity or outward effort, but to the Spirit of God making us new, giving us life, and turning our affections to love what we once hated and to desire what we once resisted.

If genuine godliness is absent in you, your efforts in the home and in the church will greatly suffer. Empty religion produces weak churches and weak families, leaving a legacy of spiritual weakness from generation to generation. But gospel-transformed, regenerate hearts, will produce generational faithfulness. How do you expect your testimony to carry any weight if it is void of authenticity and contradicts the message you profess? How do you expect to raise your children in the fear, discipline, and admonition of the Lord if your own walk with Christ Jesus is not being continually cultivated? When our walk with the Lord Jesus Christ is reduced to mere form, its effects will be felt individually, relationally, and corporately in the church.

So I ask you today, what legacy will you leave? What legacy will your life, your words, and your actions leave? Do those who know you, your children, your family, your friends, your neighbors, your co-workers, see a true and accurate picture of the Lord Jesus Christ in your life, or is it only a faint shadow of His substance?

Please turn with me to the Book of Deuteronomy. Our text is Deuteronomy 6:1-7. This morning, we will examine the Lord God's prescription for leaving a lasting legacy.

Deuteronomy 6:1-7 “Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, 2 that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. 3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey. 4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 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.

The name Deuteronomy means “second law,” or more accurately, the second giving or restating of the law. After the Exodus, when the Lord God brought the sons of Israel out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, He brought them to the edge of the Promised Land. From there, twelve spies were sent out to survey the land and bring back a report. Ten of the spies returned with an evil report; two, a favorable one. Rather than trusting the Lord God and accepting the favorable report, the people believed the ten spies and their evil report. The Israelites rebelled and grumbled against the Lord God. The consequence of their disbelief was severe: that entire generation was barred from entering into the Promised Land. Thus, the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness for forty years until all the men of that generation had died.

The Book of Deuteronomy is the record of God's law restated for the new generation, the children of those who had perished in the wilderness. This generation had not stood at Sinai when the covenant was first given, but now they stood on the edge of the Promised Land. These young Israelites were about to enter a land filled with wicked and idolatrous people who did not know the true and living God. In order to keep His people distinct, pure, and faithful, the Lord God required them to know His law, remember it, and to carefully obey it. In the first three verses of Deuteronomy 6, we see both the purpose and the promise of God's Law. Moses teaches the Israelites so that they might fear and obey the Lord God, and that this fear of the Lord God might guide every aspect of their lives.

Deuteronomy 6:1-2 “Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the Lord your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, 2 that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long.

This call to fear and obedience carried with it a great blessing. The Lord God linked covenant fidelity with long life and prosperity. He promised that living in reverent obedience would result in well-being, fruitfulness, and contentment in an abundant and prosperous land. Look again at vv. 2-3:

Deuteronomy 6:2-3, and that your days may be long. 3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

In John Calvin’s commentary on these verses, he says that there was specific purpose in teaching them the Law of God:

Moses carefully endeavored to fix them for God and godliness. Now that they were entering the land of Canaan, they would not only be prepared for the comforts of that land, they would also be fortified against the snares of it. The fear of God in the heart will be the most powerful principle of obedience. That you might fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments.

Calvin emphasized that the Law of God produces the fear of the Lord by revealing God’s holy character. At the same time, the Law exposes man’s utter sinfulness and contrasts it with God’s moral purity. The Ten Commandments teach us about the Lord God as the just Lawgiver, and they remind us that every person will one day stand before Him to give an account of their deeds, whether good or bad.

The fear of the Lord must be present in your life. It must be evident in your marriage, both husbands and wives are called to fear the Lord. Children need to see it lived out in your daily life. If the fear of the Lord is absent in you, then it will most likely be absent in your children as well. Your family must learn the fear of the Lord, and it must begin with you.

Psalm 34:8-11 Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! 9 Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! 10 The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. 11 Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

How do you instill the fear of the Lord in your family? It is taught. The fear of the Lord is cultivated through consistent teaching of God’s Word: hearing it, reading it, studying it, praying it, memorizing it, singing it, and meditating on it every day of our lives. The purpose of this is profound: to awaken our hearts to the majesty of the Lord God, to illuminate His glory, to reveal His splendor, and to bring us face-to-face with our own sinfulness and our desperate need for His abundant grace.

It is through this daily engagement with God’s Word that we begin to understand who He is, who we are, and why we must live in reverent awe of Him. When the fear of the Lord takes root in the hearts of parents, it naturally flows to their children, shaping families that honor the Lord God in every aspect of life and, in turn, producing members of the church who are grounded in the truth, faithful in service, and a blessing to the body of Christ and to the world. This is precisely why the Law of God was given: to reveal our sin and point us to Christ. As Paul explained in Galatians 3:24–25:

So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

The Christian life is not the attempt to achieve what the law requires in our own strength. It is the outworking of a life already received in Christ. We obey not to become God's people, but because in Christ we already are His people, and His life now dwells within us by the Holy Spirit. Through the Law, we gain the knowledge of sin; it exposes our rebellion, our shortcomings, and our desperate need for a Savior. By confronting our sin and recognizing our helplessness apart from Christ, we can fully embrace the mercy, grace, and life-transforming power of the gospel. In this way, the Law and the gospel work together: one awakens us to our sin, the other awakens us to the Savior, so that our hearts may be captivated by the majesty and mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If our church is to leave a long and lasting legacy, if you are to leave a long and lasting legacy, if your family is to leave a lasting legacy, if you want your children, grandchildren, or those around you to fear the Lord God and walk in all His ways, then you must first go to the Scriptures and learn the fear of the Lord. And once you have learned it, take others to the Scriptures, and teach it to others, your children, your family, your friends, and anyone the Lord God has placed in your sphere of influence. A lasting legacy begins with the fear of the Lord. It begins with keeping His statutes and His commandments. Whether single or married, young or old, every believer is called to fear the Lord God and obey Him, for this is the foundation of godly generations and a faithful church.

The basis and foundation by which we can accomplish this task is found in the next three verses.

Deuteronomy 6:4-6 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart."

Deuteronomy 6:4 is commonly referred to as the "Shema," the Hebrew word for "hear." This verse holds profound significance within Judaism. It is considered their most important prayer and serves as the centerpiece of both their morning and evening prayer services. The Shema is written on parchment and placed in phylacteries, which are worn on the forehead and left arm. It is also written on parchment and placed inside mezuzahs, small boxes affixed at an angle to the doorposts of Jewish homes. In Hebrew, it reads, "*Sh'ma Yis'ra'el Adonai Eloheinu Adonai echad.*" The Shema is recited daily because it declares and celebrates the Lord as the one true and living God. It reminded Israel that though the surrounding nations boasted in many gods, Israel serves the Lord alone. He is utterly unique. He is the one and only God whom we must hear, believe, and obey. Again, John Calvin commented:

That he is the one-only living and true God; he only is God, and he is-but one. The firm belief of this self-evident truth would effectually arm them against all idolatry, which was introduced by that fundamental error, that there are many gods. It is past dispute –that there is one God, and that there is no other but He.

The word "hear" in Deuteronomy 6:4 conveys not merely listening but also hearing and obeying. The point is this: you have not truly heard unless you follow through in obedience. To know God is to hear God, and to hear God means that you will obey His commandments and statutes. In the midst of pagan nations and a hostile culture, God's prescription to Israel for a lasting legacy, for healthy, multi-generational families who would serve Him alone, begins with this foundational truth: the Lord is God, the Lord is one, and He is fully deserving of our immediate obedience and wholehearted love.

Deuteronomy 6: 5-6 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

Our love for the Lord God must be all-encompassing. Our love for the Lord God must be all-consuming. There must be nothing in our lives that rivals our love and affection for the Lord our God. He does not demand a portion of our hearts, or a compartment of our lives, He demands it all –He demands the whole of us. To love the Lord with all your heart means that your deepest desires, thoughts, and affections are directed toward Him. To love Him with all your soul means that your very life, your identity and being, belong to Him. To love Him with all your might means that your strength, your energy, your resources, and your efforts are gladly spent in His service. This kind of love leaves no room for competing allegiances. Career, comfort, reputation, pleasure, possessions, money, even family, good gifts though they may be, must never take priority on the throne of the heart. God alone sits upon the throne. He is not one love among many; He is the supreme love, ordering and governing every other love in our lives.

Luke 14:26-27 If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. 27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

Our love for the Lord God, our love for the Lord Jesus Christ, must be so great, and so intense, and so vast that every other relationship is like hatred by comparison. I admit, it is difficult for us today to even fathom this kind of love. Our understanding of love has been so shaped by the world that it scarcely resembles true biblical love. Many in the church have confused covenantal love with the superficial love promoted by the world. The world's love is often object-oriented and emotion-driven, centered on personal fulfillment, attraction, and fluctuating feelings. This helps explain why so many marriages and families crumble: they are not loving as the Lord God has commanded, but loving according to a worldly standard that cannot satisfy. True biblical love is not merely romance. It is not merely physical attraction. It is not merely passion, desire, or sentimental words or deeds. It is not simply a feeling or state of being "in love." Biblical love is an act of the will. It engages the mind, governs the affections, and expresses itself through faithful action. It is not controlled by shifting emotions, nor does it disappear when feelings cool. It is steadfast and covenantal. It moves a person to pursue what is right and honorable before the Lord God, even when it is costly and even when feelings waver. John MacArthur remarked,

The love Jesus speaks of in the greatest commandment (which is a quotation from Deuteronomy 6:5) is the noblest, purest, and highest form of self-sacrificing love that each person is commanded to have toward God. God does not want people to simply go through religious rituals. God wants people to love Him with their entire being. God expects no less than He Himself offers because He loves man with His whole being. He gave us Himself, in death, for our sin. Because He gave us His wholehearted love, He does not want our halfhearted love in return. Since He loved us enough to give us His Son, we are to love Him enough to give Him ourselves.

Since the Lord God commands this wholehearted love, we must ask: on what basis can such love even exist in us? The answer is not found in our natural ability, but in the Lord God's prior love for us. The command to love God with our whole being is rooted in the reality that He has first loved us with His whole being.

1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Ephesians 2:4-7 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

In the ultimate act of love, the death of the Lord Jesus Christ, God demonstrated that love can be given even when it is not first reciprocated. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. We are to love God not for what we imagine we might gain, but because He is worthy and because He commands it.

The true mark of a Christian, the true mark of someone who has repented of sin and placed their faith in Jesus Christ alone, is a genuine love for God. A person does not prove he is a Christian merely by believing in Him. Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ that is not characterized by love and obedience is nothing more than an empty faith—the faith of demons.

Matthew 22:37-38 And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment.

Do you desire a life that faithfully honors the Lord and influences others for His glory? Do you want to leave a lasting legacy? Do you long for a home that honors the Lord? Do you hope to see your children, and even your children’s children, walking in the truth? Do you desire a life that quietly but faithfully influences others for the sake of Christ Jesus? Then the path is simple, though it requires wholehearted devotion: Know God. Fear God. Obey God. Love God—with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

The legacy we leave will not be measured by comfort, success, or reputation, but by this eternal truth: Did we love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, and all our strength? Love for the Lord God was never meant to remain private; it must be lived, made visible, and passed on. The foundation is laid in our own hearts, but a lasting legacy is built as we faithfully teach and model God’s truth to others.

Deuteronomy 6:7 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.

According to this verse, Christians are to make every effort to teach their children about God. The training of our children should be a top priority in the Christian family. While we have many other tasks and responsibilities, none are greater, none have more eternal implications than this responsibility. This training is not a “once in a while” activity, nor is it a one-time event. We are called to teach diligently, continuously, at all times. We are to instruct our children in the discipline and knowledge of the Lord when we sit in our homes, when we walk along the way, when we lie down, and when we rise. The training of our children is a constant, ongoing endeavor. And the primary setting God has given for this instruction is the family—the home. The home is the natural, God-given context in which parents communicate, model, and instill the truth of God’s Word in their children.

In 2002, the Southern Baptist Council on Family Life conducted a study on the American family. They found that most children spend less than ten minutes a week in meaningful conversation with their parents. And without the mother’s contribution, that number drops to mere seconds. This statistic is from a study that is over twenty years old, it is difficult to believe the situation has improved. If anything, with the rise of screens and constant distraction, meaningful conversation in the home has likely declined even further.

What is most concerning is that God’s Word clearly calls fathers to lead in the spiritual training of their children. Fathers are commanded to bring up, discipline, guide, and teach their children in the fear of the Lord. Mothers are essential partners in this work; they nurture, instruct, and model godly living, but it is the fathers who bear the primary responsibility to point their children to the Lord God and to His truth.

Fathers, this responsibility cannot be carried in your own strength. Apart from Christ Jesus, you can do nothing. The call to lead, to teach, and to model godliness cannot be fulfilled by human resolve, but only by abiding in Christ. As we remain in Him, His Word shaping us and His Spirit working in us, He produces the very fruit He commands. Fathers, the spiritual training of your children is your God-given responsibility. Yes, mothers nurture and guide, but Scripture places the primary charge squarely on your shoulders. The faith of the next generation, the legacy of your family, and the future of the church are in your hands. Every moment you neglect it, you risk leaving your children with nothing but a hollow, empty, silhouette of faith.

Psalm 78:5-7 He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, 6 that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, 7 so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

What about families where there are no fathers? What about families where a father has died, where a father has abandoned the home, or where he is simply absent and unwilling to lead? The reality is, we live in a fallen and sinful world, and many families carry these types of heavy burdens. The Lord God provides other means to ensure children are guided in His ways. Mothers, grandparents, and other faithful adults can assist, and the church itself plays a very important role. Scripture describes the church as a family, and we are called to care for one another, especially the young and vulnerable. The church must come alongside homes where a father is absent, actively participating in instructing children in the fear of the Lord, reinforcing God's Word, and modeling faithful discipleship. In this way, the household of faith ensures that no child grows up without hearing God's commands or seeing His power at work.

One of the reasons children from evangelical families walk away from the faith is that fathers, mothers, extended family, and the church are failing in their God-given responsibility to train up the next generation. Let me ask you some questions, fathers, mothers, grandparents, and church members: How much time do you spend in a given week on temporal or secular pursuits—leisure time in front of the TV, scrolling on the Internet or social media, hobbies, or personal interests? How much time do you spend away from your children, grandchildren, or the children the Lord God has placed in your life? How much time do you spend reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating on the Scriptures? How much time do you spend in prayer? How much time do you spend reaching out to and building relationships with the next generation? Have you shared your testimony, your trials, and your life experiences with them? Have you taught them about the character and mighty works of the Lord God? How much time do you spend admonishing them in truth, warning them of sin, reading the Scriptures together, and praying with them?

Some of you are empty-nesters, semi-retired, or fully retired. You have lived many years in the faith and have experienced the ups and downs of life, yet through it all, you have seen the goodness and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. At this stage of your life, you probably have a little more time and freedom than you once did, time that can be invested in others. Please do not downplay your significance; you are a tremendous resource to the body of Christ. Are you intentionally investing in others, the newly married couple, the young family, the young adult, or the visitor who is new to the faith? Are you discipleship-minded, faithfully entrusting the truths you've been taught so that others, in turn, can teach others also?

Remember, this is our God-given commission: to make disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey everything Christ Jesus has commanded. The church is not merely a place for social interaction, but the household of the living God, established to display His truth, proclaim His gospel, and make disciples of Christ Jesus. Are you making disciples? Do you reach out to those you don't know, taking the initiative to come alongside them, and pour your life into theirs for their good and for the glory of God?

The legacy of faith, in your family, in the church, and across generations, depends on the time, effort, and intentionality you invest today. Do not waste the remaining years of your life on temporal and trivial pursuits, for every single moment is an opportunity to shape hearts for Christ Jesus and strengthen the next generation. Our failures in these areas are weakening the church, hurting our families, and tarnishing the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. At the root of it all is an empty form of godliness, a denial of the true transforming power of the gospel. The good news is that God has given us a solution, a prescription that will strengthen our individual walk with Him, fortify our marriages, build strong families, and strengthen our churches for generations to come.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 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.

Seek to know God, learn to fear Him, and strive to obey Him. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might. Diligently teach your children to know God; teach them to fear Him as you sit in your house, walk along the way, lie down, and rise up.

My prayer for this church is that the legacy we leave will be children who are devoted disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ—children who know, fear, obey, and love God, and who will faithfully teach their own children to do the same. More than that, my prayer is that we ourselves would be others-focused, discipleship-minded, intentionally pouring our lives into the next generation so that God’s Word and His truth are faithfully carried forward.

I came across a fitting quote from Woodrow Wilson (28th President of the United States) when he was president of Princeton University. He spoke these words to a parents’ group:

I get many letters from you parents about your children. You want to know why we people up here in Princeton can’t make more out of them and do more for them. Let me tell you the reason we can’t. It may shock you just a little, but I am not trying to be rude. The reason is that - they are your sons, reared in your homes, blood of your blood, bone of your bone. They have absorbed the ideals of your homes. You have formed and fashioned them. They are your sons. In those malleable, moldable years of their lives you have forever left your imprint upon them.

As fathers, mothers, grandparents, disciplers, teachers, and faithful members of the body of Christ, each one of us will leave an imprint on the next generation. The imprint you leave will not be measured by your secular achievements, positions, or worldly success, but by your faithfulness, and the life you model, your words, your actions, and your love for the Lord Jesus shaping those who come after you. It will be seen in your small everyday choices, how you speak, forgive, and serve one another; how you prioritize the Lord Jesus Christ in your homes and ministries. Every intentional act of love, instruction, and discipline builds a heritage of faith that will bear fruit long after we are gone. What we pass on is not merely example or instruction, but the evidence of a life joined to Christ Jesus.

Let us then invest ourselves fully, our words, our works, our example, our prayers, so that our children, and the children of this church, may know, fear, obey, and love the Lord God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength, carrying forward a lasting legacy that glorifies the Lord God and will endure for generations to come. I don’t want you to leave here today without answering this one question: What kind of imprint will I leave? Make it count, for the glory of God and for the praise of His glorious Name.
