

**Leaving Legacies  
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Caldwell Presbyterian Church**

Paul, sensing that the end was near, gave his final words of encouragement, challenge, and caution to a young man that he had mentored and disciple in the faith. "Timothy, let me tell you how I feel right now. Allow me to give you a view of what I've got going on inside me as I approach the finish line."

For I am already being poured out as an offering, and the time for me to depart is at hand. I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith! Finally the crown of righteousness is reserved for me. The Lord, the righteous Judge, will award it to me in that day—and not to me only, but also to all who have set their affection on his appearing.

Paul sent this letter hoping that Timothy, who was in Ephesus would receive it in time to come to him in Rome before anything bad happened. But if not, then this letter would serve as Paul's last will and testament and would prepare Timothy to do the work of ministry in Paul's absence and to ensure that the gospel was extended to the next generation.

Like a coach giving the game plan with only 10 seconds left on the game clock, Paul is encouraging his young protégé to finish the game of life strong and to stay true to the gospel.

This morning I want to start our message with one of the most profound questions you could consider in life - and that is this: What kind of legacy do you want to leave behind for your family and friends when you pass? How do you want others to remember you? The reality is that every life leaves a legacy - that is not an option. The question is 'What type of legacy do you want to leave?' You see my friend, your family will have left in their hands primarily that which you pass on to them.

They will be left with your legacy - good or bad - that is what they will have.

**Paul had stories before he began his legacies, stories that did not seem to hint at the time of the legacy he would leave behind. Paul was the pupil of a well-known rabbi named Gamaliel who probably assumed that his place in life would be to keep the strict laws of the Torah in a Jewish community for the rest of his life.**

**But then Jesus showed up in his life. Paul, a light from heaven and a voice that asked "Why are you persecuting me?" It was at that moment in Paul's life that his legacies changed in prominent and impactful ways. Paul's was changed from a man who persecuted follows of Christ, to the leading missionary and a man who would preach the gospel into the far ends of the earth. Paul knew clearly his mission. He knew what the Lord wanted him to do. Paul knew the places which the Spirit wanted him to preach and places where the Spirit forbids him to do so.**

**The call which Jesus gave him at the road to Damascus never left him and that call was always the focal point of his ministry.**

**All the persecution, stoning which left Paul almost dead did not prevent him from preaching the gospel. Paul willingly laid down his life for the sake of the gospel.**

Our scripture for today tells us that Paul is about ready to finish his life's race. He is at the exchange zone when he decides to write to young Timothy, his protégé and pass over the baton. He had trained Timothy and he knows Timothy is ready to carry on that baton to his generation. Church, who are you going to pass your baton to?

**We are now in a critical time in history and God is looking and searching the earth saying where are the young men and young women that will serve their generation? The ones who will not be afraid. The ones who will not compromise. The ones who will seek justice, love mercy and walk humbly with their God. Where are they? In case you don't know, you and I are part of a divine relay. The relay is always won or lost in the exchange zone because in the exchange zone there is either a smooth transition or the baton is dropped.**

**And in the church right now, there are lots of exchange zones happening.** Instead of passing the baton, we are dropping the baton because we are not ready to carry the baton of faith to the next generation. We do not bother about praying anymore because TV is a lot more fun so we just drop the baton. We don't want to witness to our friends anymore because they think we are dogs so we just throw the baton. What do you mean asking me to tithe and give God 10% of all my income? I want my money. I don't want to read the Word, I prefer paying computer games. We just drop the baton of faith.

There is a story of a famous lawyer who was an alcoholic. This man went to church every Sunday and loved the Lord. But he struggled with his drinking habit. Every morning, when he leaves the house, he would first go to a bar to get a drink. One snowy day as he left his house heading to the bar, he heard a noise and he turned around and he saw his little six year-old-boy, somehow he had slipped away from his mother and out of house. When he looked, the little boy was putting his little foot in the print of his dad's. The dad had left that footprint in the freshly fallen snow. The little boy would put his little foot in the footprint of the big step that his dad was taking. As he stood outside the door of the bar, he looked back and saw that the boy was stepping in every one of his footstep. And he was smitten with conviction. He ran and picked up the boy and carried him home to his mom. And ran down stairs. He wept and cried. Then he felt to his knees and prayed and said oh God, help me to never again allow my footprints to lead my children to a bar. But let my footsteps lead my children to you from this day forward. I want to ask you a question, where are your footprints leading your children to?

If you are leading your children to Jesus, if you are leading them to serve him above all, prioritizing him above all, then you are leaving them the greatest legacy any parent can ever leave their children.

*[Share story of Mongai here then story with dad. Connect and talk about legacy]*

So often we teach little children to sing, be careful little feet where you go, be careful little hands what you touch, be careful little eyes what you see, for the father up above is watching down below but really we ought to turn it around and sing it as an adult song: be careful big feet where you go, be careful big eyes what you see, because big hands what you touch because where the big feet go, the little feet are going to follow. Where the big eyes go, the little eyes are going to follow, where the big heart is devoted, the little hearts are going to follow. And we need to understand and ask the question, where are my footprints leading my children to? What am I passing over to my children? Friends, every Bible study that you do, every prayer meeting that you do, every time you tithe not in a religious way, but you do it unto the Lord, every time you pray because there is something sacred about prayer, your children are watching you and you are passing over the baton of faith to them.

Let me tell you something, we are not going to hand the baton onto a generation that is going to drop it. You are going to take it, you are going to run your race, you are to finish your course, and you are going to do great things. You are going to do great exploit in your generation. You are going to fight and see injustice abolish, you are going to take the gospel to places it has never been by ways we have never known.

You see my friend as we close this morning, we must ask a very important question - have you made up your mind to finish the race? I know it is hard, and the course long and the pain sometimes great - but will you finish?

When you rise up in faithfulness 'in Him' His life becomes the legacy you leave. When you realize that in Him you live and move and have your being, He becomes the legacy that you live and the legacy that you leave.

**At the age of 84, Adam Clarke, a Christian saint and biblical expositor he said, "I have passed through the springtime of my life. I have withstood the heat of its summer. I have culled the fruits of fall. I am even now enduring the rigors of its winter, but at no great distance I see the approach of a new, eternal springtime.**

**Hallelujah!"**