

LEAVE BOLDLY
One Month To Live, Part 5
May 29th, 2011

Everyone desires to leave a lasting imprint in life

We want to leave behind something that outlives us, a legacy to be remembered, that made a difference

"I am convinced that it is not the fear of death, of our lives ending, that haunts our sleep so much as the fear... that as far as the world is concerned, we might as well never have lived."
Harold Kushner

1 Corinthians 3:12-14 (NIV) "If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward."

Everyday of my life I'm building a legacy

Everyday I get to choose what materials I'll build with - temporary materials or eternal materials

Eternal Materials That Build A Legacy

1. Convictions - core values from God's Word that never change
Isaiah 40:8 (NIV) "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God stands forever."

Trends & styles come and go, but God's Word never changes

In order for my core values to become convictions, I must live them out
Matthew 7:26 (TM) "But if you just use My words in Bible studies and don't work them into your life, you are like a stupid carpenter who built his house on the sandy beach."

You don't really believe something unless you live it out

You can know the Bible from cover to cover, but if you don't live it out, you don't really believe it

Belief is something you hold on to, but a conviction is something that holds you

2. Character

Romans 8:29 (TM) "God knew what He was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love Him along the same lines as the life of His Son..."

God's plan is to put into your life the very character traits of Christ

Three Tools God Uses To Build My Character

• Problems

If you are a believer, problems always have a purpose

• Pressures

Pressure brings out the best or the worst in us

• People

God uses the "hard to love" people in our lives to rub off our Rough edges

3. Community

It's important to be in relationships with other believers who don't have it all together but are going in the right direction

Luke 10:40-42 (NRS) "Martha was distracted by her many tasks: So she came to Him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things: but there is need of only one thing and Mary has chosen the better part...'"

Don't make the Christian life too complicated - it's simply about a relationship with God and with others

The process is as important as the finished product

Enjoy what you've been entrusted with on this earth, but don't get attached to it because it won't last forever; relationships will though

Key Question? What kind of legacy are you leaving behind?

"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do." Helen Keller

If we truly want to grow in our character and our faith, then we must be willing to change our goal from one of safety to one of sacrifice

We need to pray for the poor and oppressed throughout the world

My Next Step Today

- I am committing to build my convictions from God's Word and asking God to help me live them out
- I will cooperate with God in the process of allowing Him to build my character like Christ's
- I am committed to building quality relationships with other Christians at New Hope
- I/we will attend Class 101 next Sunday, June 5th at 12:30 PM – childcare needed: Yes No