

The Best is Yet to come (7)

"A Journey to Abundant Life"

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

John 10:10b

Leaving a Legacy of God's Best **Psalms 145:4**

Introduction: Today we conclude our sermon series, "The best is yet to Come" We know our best life will be in eternity with the Lord. But in this series, I have been sharing with you steps we can take to realize the abundant life Jesus promised us we can have here and now.

Today I want to talk about how we can leave a legacy behind for others to follow so they too can know this life.

"A lasting spiritual legacy isn't just about what we leave behind, it's about how we live out our faith today."

One of the important obligations of the older generation is to pass on to the younger generation the truth about the Lord. Whether we admit it or not, every local church is one generation short of extinction. Leaving a legacy of faith means we actively pass down the goodness of God to the next generation. So, the question is, how do we do that?

I. Pass on your faith: (2 Timothy 2:2)

Paul is writing to his spiritual son, Timothy, encouraging him to stay faithful and continue the mission of spreading the Gospel.

A. This verse shows us four generations of discipleship:

1. Paul (who received the gospel from Christ)
2. Timothy (Paul's spiritual son)
3. Faithful men (whom Timothy would teach)
4. Others also (who would continue the cycle)

B. Paul understood that faith is not something to be hoarded, it must be passed on.

C. Our faith is like a baton. If we don't pass it on to the next generation, the message of Jesus can be hindered. (Think back to how...)

1. The Gospel came to you because someone shared it—who will hear it because of you?
2. Paul tells Timothy that faith is meant to be entrusted to others. (This is called discipleship)
 - a. Discipleship is an intentional relationship where we help others grow in Christ.
 - b. Discipleship is a deliberate and conscious effort to guide individuals in their spiritual growth and formation.
 - c. Discipleship involves personal commitment, a strong relationship between mentor and disciple, and a holistic approach that encompasses all aspects of human and spiritual development.

Paul's instruction to Timothy and to us is not to be viewed as a casual command, it meant to be seen as something we are all called to intentionally do.

II. Model a godly life: (1 Corinthians 11:1)

In 1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul tells the believers in Corinth: "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."

A. The word "imitator" comes from a Greek word which means to mimic, to follow closely, to model one's life after another.

1. Paul isn't just saying, "Do what I say." He's saying, "Watch my life, and do what I do."
2. Paul isn't claiming to be perfect, but simply... He wants others to follow his example because he himself is following Christ.

B. Paul is teaching a powerful truth here: people need tangible, living examples of godliness to follow. The world simply needs "Christlike examples" to follow! (And that is to be what we are to be.)

C. Paul understood something we often forget: People don't just learn by listening—they learn by watching.

People are watching us! I have had many Christians who have tried to exercise false humility, saying "Oh, don't look at or follow me" – well they are! So, we need to be sure, our conduct and conversations are pointing them to Christ, not confusing them.

III. Share the gospel boldly: (Matthew 28:19-20)

A. What Did Jesus Mean by "Make Disciples"?

1. In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus gives His final command before ascending to heaven:
2. The key phrase here is "make disciples."

B. Jesus disciples would have Understood this command this way- Jesus was speaking to Jewish men who already understood the cultural, rabbinical discipleship.

C. When Jesus said, "Make disciples," He wasn't telling them to just pass out gospel tracts or invite people to synagogue.

1. He was saying, "Invest in people the way I invested in you.
2. Walk with them. Teach them. Help them become like Me the way I did with you." (Mt. 4:19; 5-7; Jn 13:14-15; Lk 10:1-3).

D. If we are disciples of Jesus, that means our mission is the same as the first disciples: to go and make more disciples.

So, why do so many Christians keep their faith quiet?

- Fear of rejection? (Jn 15:18).
- Feeling unqualified? (Ac 4:13)
- Thinking someone else will do it?

How can we begin to be obedient to this command today?

1. Start where you are. (Mark 16:15)
2. Build relationships.
3. Share your story. God's best isn't just for us—it's meant to be shared with others.