

## Leaving a Legacy - Sun, Jan. 31, 2016

**Introduction:** *Charles Spurgeon said,*

*"A good character is the best tombstone. Those who love you, and were helped by you, will remember you. So carve your name on hearts and not on marble."*

### A Worldly "Right Way" Example to Leave a Legacy: Benjamin Franklin

A "right way" example from history is Benjamin Franklin. In his time and still today, Ben Franklin's worldwide legacy has centered on his accomplishments to help mankind. He is best known for his kite-and-key experiment in lightning. He proved that lightning was electricity and, thus, could be channeled in some manner. He invented the lightning rod to prevent building fires from lightning strikes. He also invented, among other things, bifocals to aid in reading at an older age, swim fins to aid in swimming, the Franklin stove to efficiently warm homes and the catheter for the medical field. He started the first volunteer fire company, the first fire insurance company and the first public library. His legacy of inventions, writings and ideas are with all of us today.

**A Worldly "Wrong Way" Example to Leave a Legacy:**  
**Enron Executives** - The former executives of Enron are a great example of doing it the wrong way. Their decisions to build a large, successful energy company were based on fraudulent decisions and actions for personal gain. In the end, the decisions and actions of this company's leaders hurt many people who had faith in them. The fall and bankruptcy of Enron has left a significant scar on many people, corporate companies and America as a whole. Today's business world still is being affected by these actions.

### A Real Life Christian Example of Leaving a Legacy: Michael Faraday (1791-1867)

Michael Faraday was the son of a blacksmith who became one of the greatest scientists of the 19th century. His work on electricity and magnetism not only revolutionized physics, but led to much of our lifestyles today, which depends on them (including computers and telephone lines and, so, web sites). Faraday was a devoutly Christian member of the Sandemanians, which significantly influenced him and strongly affected the way in which he approached and interpreted nature. Originating from Presbyterians, the Sandemanians rejected the idea of state churches, and tried to go back to a New Testament type of Christianity.

### A Biblical Example of Leaving a Legacy: Abel's death continues to speak across the centuries about the obedience of faith.

**(Hebrews 11:4)**

By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

By keeping our spiritual vitality in Christ and by being a true living sacrifice through Christ, as we discussed the last few weeks, we can then leave a legacy that honors God. I want us to look at...

## Our “To Do” List For Leaving A Legacy:

### 1. Have A Heart That Seeks To Keep His Word (Deuteronomy 5:29)

Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me & always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever!

#### (Matthew 6:33) First Seek God

But seek first the kingdom of God & His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Would you give your all, even your life as a result of your commitment to love God first? \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Observe the Way of Truth That God Has For You To Follow (Deuteronomy 6: 1 – 2)

1 “Now this is the commandment, & these are the statutes & judgments which the Lord your God has commanded to teach you, that you may observe them in the land which you are crossing over to possess,  
2 that you may fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes & His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged.

Observe His Commands

#### (Matthew 7: 13 – 14)

13 “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Narrow is the Way

### (3 John 1:4)

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. Walking in His Way Pleases God

Walk on God's narrow path by accepting and following all of God's Truth in His Word and please Him.

### 3. Speak Often About The Truth of God's Word (Deuteronomy 6: 6 – 9)

6 “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. Talk About God's Word

#### (II Corinthians 5:20)

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

Ambassadors for Christ

Persuade your family and friends to value God's Word by your example.

Be persistent in standing on God's Word.

**4. Go & Possess the Good Land God Has For You!**  
**(Deuteronomy 6: 18 – 19)**

18 And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord, that it may be well with you, and that you may go in and possess the good land of which the Lord swore to your fathers,  
19 to cast out all your enemies from before you, as the Lord has spoken.

Out of Egypt Into Canaan

**(Romans 6: 5 – 6)**

5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,  
6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

Alive From the Dead

**(Romans 6: 12 – 13)**

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.  
13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

We are alive and now instruments of righteousness, so we can leave a legacy.

Do Christians Seek the Reality of Their Faith?

The Power

The Purpose

The Promise

The Experience of God

Many have been brought out of Egypt (The Power of Sin), but have not experienced the promised land of Canaan (the adventure of new life in Christ!)

Be Determined To Pursue the Good Land that God Has Given You!

**Conclusion:**

When our heart seeks Him

When We Observe the Way of Truth

When We Live and Share God's Word

and

When We Possess the Good Land of Our New Life in Christ, Then We Will Leave A Legacy That Honors God

**What is Your Legacy?**