

# Leaving an Heir, Leaving a Legacy

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## Introduction.

A. Last night we looked at the world from a human perspective.

B. Tonight we want to look at what God is doing in the world.

I. David wrote many portions of the Scriptures and he teaches us about leaving a legacy. (1 Chronicles 17:6)

A. This is the beginning of the kingdom of God concept.

1. David has unified Israel and has brought the ark to Jerusalem.
2. Now he wants to build a temple for the Lord.
3. Nathan encourages him.
4. Yet God declines David's offer, stating instead his intention to build David an eternal house.
5. David's idea of leaving a legacy had to do with what David wanted to do for God but God's concept of a legacy had to do with what he planned to do for David. (Psalm 132:12)
6. We need to change our thinking from what we want to do for God to what he plans to do through us.
7. God's purposes for David were eternal in nature.
8. The idea of a kingdom arises from this promise of God to David.
9. God promised Isaiah no end to the government of his kingdom. (Isaiah 9)
10. God is the one who establishes his kingdom.
11. God also promised Daniel to crush pagan kingdoms and establish his eternal kingdom. (Daniel 9)
12. Daniel also saw the beasts of this world system destroyed by God. (Daniel 7)
13. God has a king he will install and his kingdom is growing in unseen ways.
14. In 1974 I went to Nigeria to advise our ministry about working in that country with an idea that we needed to hold on and not be defeated, but my friends believed the church in Nigeria was to be victorious. (Psalm 2)

- a. Satan is on the run.
- b. God is victorious as the nations rage against the Lord and his anointed.
- c. We are to break the chains of the enemy and win the battle.
- d. When my kids were small I would hold them as they cried and I laughed; I would not laugh today if he cried like a small child.
- e. God is warning the rulers of the earth to serve the Lord with fear.

B. Our part in the battle for establishing the kingdom of God involves commitment, conviction, and community. (Colossians 1)

1. Commitment.

- a. Our identity centers on commitment to Christ, not an ideal or a program.
- b. Christ has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and translated us in to the kingdom of the Son of his love.
- c. Christ is the image of the Father.
- d. God was pleased for all fullness to dwell in Christ.
- e. We once were enemies to God but now are reconciled to God through Christ.
- f. The kingdom of God is not defined by territory; all territory is claimed by God and counterclaimed by Satan.
- g. The kingdom is expressed by allegiance in the hearts of those who believe in him who radiates the glory of God. (Hebrews 1:3; John 1:8)
- h. Jesus expresses the Father. (John 14:9)
- i. Jesus is no ordinary king; he is the image of the invisible God.
- j. Jesus loves even the unclean and unworthy. (Mark 1:41)
- k. Jesus was humble enough to wash the feet of his disciples.
- l. Jesus demonstrates wisdom in rebuking the Pharisees by asking them questions they could not answer.
- m. Jesus demonstrated power in raising the dead.

- n. Jesus is the king of the universe yet he entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. (Psalm 2)
- o. Jesus was not weak in submitting to the plan of God but submissive to the Father's will.
- p. Jesus is the creator of all things, visible and invisible.
- q. On the night of his death he comforted his disciples. (John 14)
- r. We don't understand why Jesus allows evil to persist but he does and he asks us to trust him as he works out his plan.
- s. Is Jesus supreme in every aspect of your life?
- t. Either we are going with Jesus or we are not.
- u. God has also committed himself to us to present us holy and without blemish to the Father.
- v. Our worth is measured by what Jesus paid for us when he bought us out of the slave market to sin with his own blood.

## 2. Conviction.

- a. Paul tries to get his hearers to understand they stand in the fullness of God's riches.
- b. Christ is in the believer.
- c. He wants believers to understand that in Christ are hidden all the fullness of wisdom and knowledge.
- d. Believers are not struggling to become alive in Christ; believers are now filled with the life of Christ himself.
- e. Believers are complete in Christ.
- f. The lie that Satan tempted Eve with, that God is withholding something from us, is still resident in the world today.
- g. We need to see it that no one takes us captive through empty philosophy. (Colossians 2:6-8)
- h. Everything we need is found in Christ, but Satan tries to hide this truth from us.
- i. Philosophy is the idea that man can figure out the meaning of life by himself.

j. The basic principles of this world that dominate the minds of many people will not bring us in to true life, but remaining in God's word will. (John 8:31-32)

k. This conviction of who we are in Christ is essential to our growth in Christ.

1. As a new believer I understood my need for forgiveness.

2. I understood my need for commitment

3. But I didn't understand what I received when I received Christ—eternal life. (1 John 5:11-12)

4. I didn't understand that I had inherited all the promises of Abraham.

5. Most of us have a suitcase filled with treasures that we haven't unpacked.

l. Our identity as citizens of the kingdom involves community, bearing one another and loving one another even as Christ loves us.

m. We are to sing Psalms and hymns in thankfulness to one another with grateful hearts.

n. We worship and work together in the body of Christ.

o. Our final destiny is glorious beyond our imagination.

p. We need to hold onto the commitment God has made toward us.