

SERMON: THE LEGACY OF A CHRISTIAN FATHER

Proverbs 13:22a

A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children.

Introduction

Let me begin this sermon by saying, emphatically, that Antioch-Lithonia is blessed with many great fathers. To borrow a phrase from a local TV station: They are dedicated, determined, and dependable.

God intended for fathers to do more than “bring home the bacon.” From a biblical standpoint the father is to be a provider, a protector, a priest, a guide, a teacher, and a disciplinarian. When Jesus taught His disciples to pray, He began with the appellation, “Our Father.” In this He was telling them that they should think of the eternal God, the Creator of the universe, in terms of being a loving, wise, devoted, generous, and forgiving father.

A Chinese proverb says, “One picture is worth a thousand words.” A godly father in the home is more than a picture—he is a sacred video running twenty-four-seven. If a picture is worth a thousand words, how much more is a video worth? Your estimation is just as good as mine. I am sure it is in the tens of thousands.

Today there is much talk in religious circles about destiny. This is great because we all have a God-given destiny and we should pursue it with all of our might. We often forget about destiny's twin brother, legacy. Destiny is where you want to go or more precise, where God wants you to go; legacy is what you leave behind after you get there. Legacy is not always land, building or money; legacy can be those spiritual intangibles, which are much more valuable. Now if you can leave some money that's fine; I am sure your children would appreciate it. Those who walk in their God-given destiny are assured of leaving a great legacy. This admonition extends to the grandchildren. Here are some of the things we can leave to our children and our grandchildren.

Exposition

1. The Necessity of Salvation
2. The Love of God's Holy Word
3. The Appreciation for Worship
4. The Respect for Self and Others
5. The Attitude of Gratitude

Closing Thoughts

In our quest to provide material benefits for our children, let us not neglect to provide one of the greatest benefits of all- a godly father who leads them to Christ and His saving blood. I must say the Mighty Men of Antioch are leading their children and their grandchildren to Christ. Give God Glory! Give God all the Glory!

Linguistic Note

Much is revealed when you began to translate from language to language. You will discover linguistic voids. In other words, there is no equivalent word in the target language. In many of the printings of King James Version many word were italicized. This was an indication that there is no exact English equivalent of the Hebrew or Greek word, but they got as close as they could. Some of the new printings of the King James Version no longer italicized these words. Now I am where I want to be. In Biblical Hebrew there are no words for “grand” relationships. There is no word for grandfather, grandmother, grandson, granddaughter, or grandchildren. There is no word for uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece. This is why our preaching text said “children’s children.” There are only words in Biblical Hebrew for what we now call the nuclear family. One of the positive things about learning classical languages is that their vocabularies are very small when compared to modern languages. Of course they did not have all the stuff we have-no cars, no airplanes, no Zoom meetings, no cell phones, etc. Now, in these languages, the conjugation of verbs and the declination of nouns are “horses of a different color.”

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