

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Hebrews 11:20-22 “By faith Isaac *blessed* Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, *blessed* each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones.”

Quote: “Only one life, ‘twill soon be past. Only what’s done for Christ, will last.” C.T. Studd

Each of these men revealed their faith through their desires for the future. In our day, many people do this in a “will.” A “will” is a legal statement of what a person desires to be done with all that he owned after he dies. His “will” says a great deal about his values. Isaac, Jacob and Joseph’s “wills” focused on the promises of God.

No matter what our age may be, each of us is contributing to memories that will be left behind when we die. What part of those memories will point others to God? As an old man, David said, “I will hope continually, and *will praise You yet more and more*. My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness and Your salvation all the day, for I do not know their limits. I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD; I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only. *O God, You have taught me from my youth; and to this day I declare Your wondrous works*. Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, do not forsake me, *until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come*.”¹

How can we declare to those with whom we interact, and to those yet unborn, the greatness and goodness of God? Heritage is “something transmitted by or acquired from a predecessor.” The most valuable heritage that we can leave to those we love is a clear testimony of personal gratitude for God’s grace, and of dedication to God’s glory. No matter what our age, we are now writing a history for those we leave behind to reflect upon, or to tell to those not yet born. Each of us has people from our past who made an impact upon our lives even after they died through the way that

they lived. Think of the times that a parent or a grandparent has rehearsed to a young person the on-going impact that someone from their own past has had upon them! How do we ensure that our desire for the future of our loved ones clearly reflects a passion that God be in their lives through faith in the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ? The answer is directly tied to our interaction with the Word of God as we consistently bring it to bear on the day-to-day obstacles and opportunities with which others see us engaged.

Proverbs 3:5-7 forms a template that can help ensure that we do more than leave memories of fun times shared and accomplishments achieved. To have a lasting impact, “treasures of the heart” that we leave behind hopefully point loved ones to the reality that God was first and foremost in our lives. Solomon advised his son, “*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil*.”² In some respects, Solomon learned that truth the hard way. His lapse in acknowledging God is a part of his history as is his return to following God.⁴ Trust, “expresses that sense of well-being and security which results from having something or someone in whom to place confidence.”³ One can do no better than to place his or her trust in the LORD, the self-existent One, the “I AM WHO I AM.”⁵ The words, “all your heart,” indicate that our trust must be exclusively and entirely in God alone. Solomon goes on to warn his son not to lean on his own understanding, but to diligently consider God in all of his ways. The resulting promise is that God would direct, or make straight, his paths. Trust in God is closely tied to fear of God that involves reverent awe, devoted adoration and dread of displeasing Him. True fear of God will compel us to pursue holiness and to turn away from evil. What more could anyone ask when it comes to leaving a heritage with a lasting impact than to have it said that we personified trust in the Lord and fear of the Lord?

Isaac’s Will

1 Psa. 71:14-18 2 Proverbs 3:5-7 3 Vine’s 4 Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 5 Strong’s Concordance; Exodus 3:14