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# A LEGACY GIVEN

TEXT: Col 3:16-17

INTRODUCTION: This morning, we as a church have a most unique opportunity. In thirty-eight years of pastoring churches, I have never had this opportunity.

We are going to open the time capsule left by the church in the cornerstone of what is now the Fellowship Hall when that building was constructed, along with what we now call B building where many of our Adult Classes meet. In March, 1966, St. Andrew Baptist Church dedicated those two buildings to be used as a new auditorium for worship and a new education building for children and young single adults.

Those folks, 51 years ago, left us a legacy. Their legacy is not in this box, but I am confident that what they left us in this time capsule will remind us of the real legacy that they gave us.

And the legacy they left to us did not originate with them. It originated with God Himself but was passed through them to us, just as God is developing in us a legacy to be passed on to others.

Knowing this legacy came first from God, let us say to Him in song, "Lord, we will remember what You have done. We will remember the work of Your hands among us and give You praise." You sing, while I try to open this box!

Remove contents, comment, explain, show on screen.

Note on **Building Committees**:

**Cal Koesy** chaired the Furnishings sub-committee

**Ed Higdon** was on the Grounds committee

Could help identify red item.

**Memorials Book** – Membership listing 1,039. Budget at back.

Humor – In the Lighthouse announcing Dedication Day

Bob Crider's comments on money.

**Dedication Day Program** – I wonder if we might step back in time and worship with our brothers and sisters over fifty years ago?

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All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

To God Be the Glory

Responsive Dedication

I Surrender All

Folks, the things left in this time capsule remind me of what Paul wrote to the Colossians.

Colossians 3:16–17 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And *whatever* you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

The legacy left for us, reflected in the Bible included in the capsule, is

## I. THE WORD OF GOD

Colossians 3:16–17 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom

**Why the Word? Because, as the Spirit said through the Psalmist**

Psalm 19:7–11 7 **The law of the LORD *is* perfect**, converting the soul; **The testimony of the LORD *is* sure**, making wise the simple; 8 **The statutes of the LORD *are* right**, rejoicing the heart; **The commandment of the LORD *is* pure**, enlightening the eyes; 9 **The fear of the LORD *is* clean**, enduring forever; **The judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether**. 10 **More to be desired *are* *they* than gold**, Yea, than much fine gold; **Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb**. 11 **Moreover by them Your servant is warned, *And* in keeping them *there is* great reward**.

**Nothing can successfully substitute for the Word of God.**

**Men have tried many things:**

- **Philosophy**
- **Sentimentalism**
- **Scholarship**
- **Pop psychology**
- **Prosperity marketing**

**None of it lasts because none of it works in place of the Word of God.**

Jesus said in **John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.**

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### **If we are to be**

- **Made holy**
- **Successful in Christian living**
- **Fruitful in the Kingdom of God**
- **Leave a valuable legacy for those who follow us**

### **We must be faithful**

- **to believe,**
- **to read,**
- **to study,**
- **to learn,**
- **to teach,**
- **to preach,**
- **to share**

**the unwavering,  
perfect,  
infallible,  
all-sufficient**

**Word of God.**

The second part of the legacy left for us, reflected in the hymnal they left us, is

## **II. THE WORSHIP OF OUR LORD**

**Colossians 3:16–17** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, **teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.**

**Listen to the psalmist call us to worship**

**Psalm 100:4** Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, *And* into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name.

**What is the focus of his call to worship?**

**The focus is on God.**

- Enter **His** gates
- **His** courts
- Be thankful to **Him**,

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- bless **His** name.

Folks, this is the battle of every age

And for each of us, the battle every week as we come to church to worship

**Can we get rid of the I...I...I?**

**Can we subdue the me...me...me?**

**Can we even conquer the us...us...us?**

And focus our mind's attention and our heart's devotion on Him? On the Lord? On Jesus?

**Dear God, banish from my mind**

- the question of whether or not I like this song
- my evaluation of the performance of the musicians
- my opinion of the choice of text preached on this day

**Precious Lord, take away my concern**

- my comfort
- my pleasure
- my desire
- my wants

**And let me care only about You.**

- Are You blessed by my praise?
- Am I expressing of my gratitude to You through my thanksgiving.
- Do I honor You
  - With bowed head?
  - Lifted hands?
  - Humble heart?
  - Joyful noise?
  - Listening ears?
  - Open mind?
  - Surrendered spirit?

Jesus said, John 4:23–24 ... the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

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My dear friend, we cannot leave to others the legacy of the worship of our Lord unless it is the faithful practice of our lives.

The third thing I see that is a part of the legacy we have been given, as evidenced by many of the pages listing the names of people in various areas of work and responsibility, is

### **III. THE WORK WE DO IN HIS NAME**

**Colossians 3:16–17** 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 **And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.**

**And just a few verses down in verse 23**

**Colossians 3:23** **And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,**

May I be frank for a moment? This portion of the legacy from the generation before us has not been broadly received.

That many who call themselves Christians, thereby taking upon themselves the name of Christ,

- do not do all in the name of Jesus
- do not do everything heartily to the Lord

As is evidenced

- in sporadic attendance in Bible study and worship
- in reluctance of many to give time in service to God
- in refusals to give the tithe back to the One who supplies all we have
- in a multitude of refusals to be a verbal witness for Christ or to share His gospel

**We ourselves must take up the legacy given us by many faithful saints who**

- **Were faithful** in their practice to study the Scriptures with fellow believers and join brothers and sisters in corporate worship.
- **Were faithful** to serve the Lord and His church, working heartily to the Lord.
- **Were faithful** to give their tithe to the Lord and beyond the tithe as God blessed them.
- **Were faithful** to tell others of Christ and declare the good news of salvation.

**Will our children and our grandchildren look back on us and be able to say that we passed on to them the legacy of faithfulness in our work and service to the Lord?**