

September 18, 2022

A Footprint, a Fingerprint, and an Imprint

"What do you want to be when you grow up?"

"What will they put on your headstone?"

It's the kind of fundamental questions that accompany us all along the road of life. We want to have significance, to serve purpose, and to matter. Whether motivated by legacy or something larger than self, the thoughtful periodically evaluate the difference they are making to those whose lives they touch. Of all people, Christians should take that matter seriously. Consider this.

You Are Leaving a Footprint — Your decisions are observed by friends, family, and even those who only know you incidentally or even not at all. You are a leader. So many people will eventually wind up somewhere because of what you do with and in your life. Paul could say, "Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1). In the most dramatic facet of this fact, people will be led toward an eternal destination through your influence. You are leading people toward or away from heaven. It's in your heart, attitude, words, priorities, conduct, and passions. To a line of folks longer than you could imagine, you are yelling, "Follow me!" Ask yourself, "Where am I going?"

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You Are Leaving a Fingerprint — You are touching people's lives. Your hands are in a variety of endeavors—your occupational life, your social life, your personal life, and your spiritual life. You are a servant of something and someone. Paul says it's inevitable (Romans 6:16). Everyone works at something, even if it's laziness. It's a legacy of labor. Where will people remember that your hands were most often seen? Will your chief legacy be whatever your occupation was? Your civic service? Your material accumulation and notoriety? Your pursuit of pleasure? Or will it be your involvement in people's lives and with people's souls? Consider this challenge, to "strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble" (Hebrews 12:12). Your hands will find something to do (Ecclesiastes 9:9). Make it count for God.

You Are Leaving an Imprint — It is sobering to think that all of us are associated with some quality. When our name is brought up, something—either directly or indirectly—is attached to it. For some, it will be: "grouchy," "gossipy," "complaining," "foul-mouthed," "critical," "selfish," "dishonest," "arrogant," "icy," and the like. Fair or not, such broad labels are typically made interaction by interaction. For others, it will be: "humble," "sincere," "encouraging," "dependable," "loving," "joyful," "godly," "positive," etc. You may feel yourself plain and insignificant, but you will leave an indelible impression on others throughout your life. Even the one talent man, who tried to bury his talent, had to give an account for it (Matthew 25:14-30).

Leadership, labor, and legacy. These are gifts given by God to us all. What a powerful opportunity, one that lies before us daily! The great news is that if we don't like the footprints, fingerprints, and imprints we have left and are leaving behind, we can change course. My favorite version of *A Christmas Carol* (and the best version!) is the one starring George C. Scott. He captures the remarkable transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge, a malevolent miser who becomes a merry mirth-maker. Charles Dickens shows us that anyone is redeemable if they'll genuinely and fervently change. Of course, the Bible beat him to that message (Romans 12:2; Acts 3:19). Our time here is so short. May we all have the wisdom to know what is most important and pursue it relentlessly.

Announcements

Birthdays This Week

Chaeli McGilvray (September 18) Pat Black (September 19)

Intentionally Intergenerational Interview

The third Intentionally Intergenerational Interview will take place **today** at 4:30. Several guests from among our experienced Foothills members have been selected to serve on a panel so we can get to know them better and learn from their experiences. All are welcome.



"Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: 'The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, "What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?" So he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" But God said to him, "Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?" So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.'"



Do you know where this passage is found? See page 4 for the answer.

For the Record

Attendance Last Sunday: 123 Contribution Last Sunday: \$3,901 **Prayer Concerns**

Current:

Brenda Brown Carrie Herrmann Ann Holland Randell Holden Wilma McPhail Joyce Murrell Robyn Roach Jim Shoop Blaine Thomas

Ongoing:

G. David (India) Bristal Garner Jimmy & Billie Gibbins Nellie Hardin Etta Holden Danny Langer Doris Pruitt

Assisted Living:

Donna Brewer Ann Flippin Cloe Jordan Doris McCoy Dorothy Pensoneau Gladys Widner



"Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving." (Colossians 4:2; NKJV)

Those Who Serve

Sunday Morning	September 18	September 25
Announcements	Dennis Widner	Dennis Widner
Song Leader	Jeremy Sciba	Steve Carrell
Opening Prayer	Bob Lyons	Roger Bruce
Lord's Table Presiding	Paxton Davis Ethan Falconer James Libby Wade Lamberson Dennis Widner	Paxton Davis Ethan Falconer James Libby Wade Lamberson Larry Nokes
Scripture Reading	Gabriel Hodges	Jon Alexander
Sermon	Leon Brown	Leon Brown
Closing Prayer	Ron Talbert	Micah Heavin

Sunday Evening

Song Leader	Jon Alexander	Alex Howard
Opening Prayer	Micah Heavin	Chip Braswell
Scripture Reading	Gabriel Hodges	Jon Alexander
Sermon	Leon Brown	Leon Brown
Lord's Table	Wade Lamberson	James Libby
Closing Prayer	Bobby Cofer	Reese Cartwright
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Wednesday	September 21	September 28
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Wednesday	September 21	September 28
Wednesday Auditorium Class	September 21 Leon Brown	September 28 Leon Brown

Answer to "Where in the Bible", page 3: Luke 12:16-21

Contact Information

Elders

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Minister

Leon Brown

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Worship Times

Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
Morning Worship	10:30 am
Evening Worship	6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study.....7:00 pm