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Here's Hope
by Rev. Jerry Rea

What Will You Hand On?

Have you ever wondered what people will say about you when you're gone? We talk often in flowery terms of our "legacy." It's common for someone to have "fond memories" of Uncle Joe, or Mom, or Dad. We will remember their habits and the way they talked and quirky habits. Some of us will be remembered for our voice. I hear people say all the time "Have you ever heard him sing?" Do you know someone who lines up his/ her cups in the cabinet a certain way? What about the person who is almost ritualistic about how they lay out their belongings or in what order they put their clothes on? Then there are habits that we pick up and never know where they came from. You might be one of those people who can say with confidence "My dad did it this way." We often speak like our parents. The walk or "gait" of an individual is very commonly passed down from mom or dad. Saying "You look like your mom" is only the surface. Very often we also "think" like her. Some of you were raised in a "Chevy" home; others are "Ford" die-hards.

These are innocent enough I guess, but there are some things handed on that are much more important. My parents handed to me the habit of church attendance. It was an unwritten rule that we were going to be in church. It really didn't matter how you "felt", or if the weather were wet, cold, or tornado-like, you were going to church. The alcohol habit/ custom is another one. Some make a lifestyle of drinking, and others make a lifestyle of not drinking. In some homes, and in some individuals, there is the unspoken rule that you will wind up in college. It is not even questioned. The only option some kids have is which college they will attend. I'm not sure when I learned to drink sweet tea. It is a part of the Alabama culture I know. In other parts of the country you can't even get sweet tea. Lord bless those people who are missing good Southern culture. People don't even have to say a full sentence before you can tell they are from the South. Some even brag they can tell which state of the Union someone "hails" from by the tone of their voice.

We don't even think about most of these things we just receive them as a part of our heritage. Mom and Dad said this, or that and we accept it. Uncle Bill did it this way, and I always liked Uncle Bill. Seldom do we ponder the direction that these words, habits, attitudes, and actions take us. They are so much a part of us that we don't think; we just do. If everyone else is spending their money this way, then so will I.

Jesus taught us another Way. Granted, His way is often harder. Often His way requires we be different from others. His words are different. We just don't talk like everyone else. We want to say what Jesus would say. While others are looking out for number one, we want to be vessels of His compassion. We want to truly care as a lifestyle. We don't want to care as an occasional event or a little service project. All our ways are somehow like us. All His ways make

us behave, talk, and even think like Him. We celebrate the Lord's Supper to remind us of that for which He lived. We meditate on His care in reaching out to us from heaven. We honor His willingness to come, to suffer, and to die for us. This would be something to "hand on." The more we're like Him, the better off those will be who receive what we hand on.

I Love You

Jerry Rea