

What My Life has Been About...

"The greatest legacy one can pass on to one's children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of character and faith."

- Billy Graham -

"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit." - Nelson Henderson -

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds that you plant." - Robert Louis Stevenson

June Birthdays

9 Debbie Pescador 20 Mike Bruni
12 Celina Perales 23 Agripina Carrillo

June Anniversaries

5 Kurt & Debbie Hoffman 11 Marcos & Celina Perales

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:

Mike McKnight

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"How am I spending my life?..."

To Be or Not to Be

Bob Prichard

Syndicated columnist Sydney J. Harris made the following keen observation: "Men may be divided almost any way we please, but I have found the most useful distinction to be made between those who devote their lives to conjugating the verb 'to be,' and those who spend their lives conjugating the verb 'to have.'"

It is a necessity of life, I suppose, that we must spend a certain amount of time conjugating the verb 'to have.' Could it be possible, however, that our focus becomes blurred when we forget that it is much more important who we are than what we have? The Master said, *"Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth"* (Luke 12:15). He followed those words with the story of the rich fool, who had no time for God. *"So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God"* (Luke 12:21).

There is, however, more to the observation of Mr. Harris, I believe. Conjugating the verb 'to be' is really our life work. We are certain things - parents, sons, daughters, Americans. We are most importantly Christians, children of God. But beyond what we are, there is something even more important. What we must remember is that we are all constantly in the process of becoming. We are becoming more faithful or less faithful, more Christ-like or less Christ-like, more godly or more ungodly. Life is not static, and neither are we. We are always becoming. We ask the child, What do you want to be when you grow up? The questions for us are always, What do we want to be? What are we becoming? and most importantly, Who are we becoming?

Paul told the Romans, *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of*

your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:1-2). The reason we should not be conformed to the world is that God has something better in mind for us. *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren"* (Romans 8:28-29).

Hamlet began his soliloquy with the words, "To be or not to be, that is the question." He then mused about whether it was better to struggle on or just prepare for the time when we have shuffled off this mortal coil. The time will come when we will not be on this earth. How well we can live with ourselves now and later, depends on whether we devote more time to who we are and are becoming than on what we have.

I Didn't Come Here to Read

Ronnie Scherffius

It was the World Series and the New York Yankees were hosting the Milwaukee Braves. Hank Aaron stepped into the batter's box only to be greeted by the ceaseless chatter of Yogi Berra: "Henry, you're holding that bat wrong. You're supposed to hold it so you can read the trademark."

Aaron never spoke a word. As the next pitch crossed the plate, the home run king put the ball into the left-field bleachers. After rounding the bases and tagging up at home plate, he looked at the cheerless Yogi Berra and said, "I didn't come up here to read."

How often do we allow distractions to take our focus off of our spiritual goals? I'm not talking about distractions that are dripping with the venom of wickedness, but distractions from those things in this life that are good in and of themselves and which provide us a measure of joy, happiness, and satisfaction. For instance, those of us who have children know how busy our life becomes when baseball/softball season rolls around! Life can become chaotic, especially if you have more than one child playing ball. There is practice for this one on that field and a game for that one on this field.

Then there is the yard that needs tending, the house that needs keeping, a small business that needs expanding, livestock that need managing, crops that need harvesting, a 401K that needs adjusting, the automobile that needs servicing, the pet that needs attending,

clothes that need washing/drying/folding, supper that needs preparing, dishes that need washing, the garden that needs weeding/watering, the troop meeting that needs attending, fish that need catching, books that need reading, Wal-Mart that needs shopping, and on and on we could go.

The problem is that by the time we tend to all of these we have forgotten about the Bible that needs reading, our marriage that needs nurturing, our children that need loving, sick folk that need visiting, worship that needs attending, Christian brethren that need encouraging, prayers that need praying, souls that need saving, and God who needs serving. If Satan can't get us with worldly temptations, then I suppose that he will try to get us through the distractions of our busy lives.

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" Philippians 3:14

Erma's Legacy

By Dave Branon

Her writing career spanned three decades, from the mid-1960s through the mid-1990s. She wrote 12 books and received 16 honorary doctorate degrees. But three years before she died of cancer in 1996, popular humorist Erma Bombeck told an ABC TV interviewer that no matter how many columns she had written, her legacy would be her three children. 'If I did a bad job with them,' she said, 'then everything else I do isn't very important.'

Bombeck had riches and fame and the goodwill of millions of readers, but she realized that her top priority was taking care of her children.

Although no parent can be guaranteed that his or her child will turn out to be a godly model citizen, those of us who are parents must start with Erma's attitude. Our motivation is to provide spiritually, physically, and emotionally for our children. They will be our legacy. This means introducing them to the Savior, providing spiritual guidance, praying for them, and encouraging them to find mentors who can guide them in godly living. Sometimes it is a battle. Often it is expensive in time and toil. But the value of a child overshadows it all.

"Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, 'Is it well with thee? Is it well with thy husband? Is it well with the child?' And she answered, 'It is well.'"

2 Kings 4:26