

“Making a great Thanksgiving permanent”

Colossians 2:6-10 NIV

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught and overflowing with thankfulness.

“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than in Christ.”

**A victorious life depends on:
Making Jesus our Lord as well as Savior;
Continuing in Christ;
Overflowing with gratitude.**

**If someone wrote your biography,
Womb to winding down,
Birth to the grave;**

**Would it highlight victory or retreat?
I’m not referring to your financial success,
your ability to get your way,
or skill at flimflamming your friends.**

If you faced the Lord today and accounted to him, what would he say about your life decisions?

***1 Kings 22* tells the story of two nations going to war in in the middle-east.**

Ahab, king of Northern Israel wanted to wage war against the Aramean king (present Syria).

Ahab wanted Jehoshaphat, King of Judah (southern Israel) to join him in the war.

Jehoshaphat wanted to help Ahab, but he thought they should first consult the Lord about the matter.

“Sure, why not?” **Ahab said,**
“I keep 400 preachers as advisors.
Let’s consult them.”

Ahab’s wife, Queen Jezebel,
fed and housed 850 guys,
who claimed to be prophets.

They were really just well-fed “yes men.”

Were the other 450 prophets being treated for indigestion that day?

Ahab’s 400 prophets told King Jehoshaphat: “Your chances of defeating the Arameans are 100%. Guaranteed; you’ll win. Go fight them.”

If you can get, 400 preachers to agree on any subject, you have likely paid them well.

To Jehoshaphat’s credit, those 400 preachers didn’t convince him to go to war.

King Jehoshaphat wanted a second opinion and he held firm.

“Have you got anyone else here?” he asked.

“There is one more prophet,” said King Ahab, **“a guy named *Mike*¹, but he never says anything good about me.”**

When the prophet *Mike* arrived, King Ahab whispered in his ear: **“All the other preachers advise us to go to war. Don’t let me down.”**

They brought *Mike* before the kings and popped the question:

“Shall we fight against the Arameans?”

“Sure, King Ahab, go for it!” said *Mike*.

The King must have read Prophet *Mike*’s body language or tongue in cheek.

“Give me a serious prophecy!” he demanded.

In all seriousness, *Mike* prophesied: “I saw all Israel (your combined troops) scattered on the hills like sheep without a shepherd.”

“Ahab, this venture won’t succeed. Go home.

You and your armies face disaster.”

One of the 400 prophets, a guy we’ll call *Zeke*, went up to *Mike*, punched him out, and said, **“Which way did the Spirit of the Lord go when he went from me to speak to you?”**

God’s true prophet *Mike* answered:

“You will find out on the day you go to hide in an inner room.”

For *Zeke, Mike* (Micaiah), foresaw an experience destined for all of us.

What will happen when we encounter God, our Creator, face to face?

Will that day be a day of victory or shame?

Last week, Randy Weflen emphasized a biblical truth about our legacy.

He pointed to scriptures regarding the fact that we are no more than dirt, earth’s soil.

As the Lord told Adam, “You are dust and to dust you will return,” *Genesis 3:19*.

A cousin recently called me to tell me that he visited a cousin from a different Blair branch in another state.

Our grandfather and numerous Blairs are buried there in an old, smalltown cemetery.

¹ Micaiah

My two cousins visited the graveyard and saw the erosion of the Blair grave markers.

Those cousins paid to have the markers cleaned and restored.

In a few decades, those gravestones will wear away once again.

I doubt that many Blair descendants will be around then to care.



We human being tend to be concerned about our legacy.

Will we be remembered?

Randy mentioned that there are no memorial

bricks in the Cleghorn Community center with his family name.

I can't recall whether the Blair name is on a brick there either; it won't matter.

At the rate things are replaced, how long will the average community center last before it's replaced?

Los Angeles Times, February 2, 2003:

“Editor’s note: World War II hero Rodger Young gave his life to save his platoon in 1943. Last week’s column featured a veterans housing project that was

named for him -- which, in turn, inspired another honor. *

“From the day it opened on Jan. 30, 1926, as the social and athletic center for a German American club, the auditorium that would later be named for World War II hero Rodger Young was one of the biggest gathering places in Los Angeles.

“It stood on “Mortuary Row” in the West Adams District, brimming with life. Judy Garland, Rudy Vallee and Dinah Shore sang there. Comic Jimmy Durante broke a piano there. Richard Nixon, Hubert Humphrey and John Kennedy spoke there. The Los Angeles Rams ate and napped there.”

In the Solomon Islands, Sgt. Rodger Young died to save his platoon. That auditorium on Washington Blvd. in Los Angeles, named after Sgt. Young in 1946 is now permanently closed. Though a ballad about Rodger Young was popular at one time, few current Los Angeles citizens likely know anything about him.



Recall our text’s emphasis?

A victorious life depends on:

Making Jesus our Lord;

Continuing in him;

Overflowing with gratitude.

If we are soon forgotten, how does Scripture help with our legacy?

If we eventually return to dust, what have we gained by trusting gratefully in Christ?

In ancient times, cities often honored their outstanding citizens.

City leaders inscribed the names of exceptional town folk on pillars, gates, and prominent buildings.

Archaeologists continue to find names inscribed of individuals who distinguished themselves.

Thought they discover numerous inscriptions in the ruins of ancient Ephesus, but they knew little about the person’s character.

The letter to the Sardis church in the *Book of Revelation* contains this legacy promise:

Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

4Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. 5The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels. (Revelation 3).

The writer of Hebrews (12:22, 23) affirmed: You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, 23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all . . .

We don’t have to be perfect.

We put Jesus first,
remain faithful to him
and thankfully praise God.

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. 16For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.

*17 The world and its desires pass away,
but whoever does the will of God
lives forever, (literally, “into the eons”).
I John 2 :15-17 NIV*

*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord,
continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him,
strengthened in the faith as you were taught and
overflowing with thankfulness,*

Colossians 2:6-10.

**Luke chapter 10 tells of Jesus appointing seventy
other disciples beside the 12, whom Jesus sent.**

Their mission:

warn folks to repent and turn to God.

The 70 returned to report great success stating that
they were even able to cast demons out of people.

They likely thought of their legacy.

“We’ll be known as miracle workers.”

Jesus told them:

**Don’t rejoice at this: “Rejoice that your
names are recorded in heaven.” Verse 20.**

We human being are forgetful and we rarely last 100
years in good condition.

Our God is eternal, and he doesn’t forget.

Make Jesus your Lord.

Continue in him.

Overflow with gratitude.

Hebrews 12:28, 29 IEB

*We should be thankful because we are receiving a
kingdom that cannot be shaken, we should worship*

*God in a way that will please him—
with reverence and fear ...*

**When your name is inscribed in God’s Book of
Life, you’ll enjoy lasting thanksgiving.**

Bob Blair

PO Box 176

Cleghorn, IA 51014

www.robertblairbooks.com

