

Sunday Morning Message

January 19, 2020

*Living a Life That Will Bring Glory to God*

Text – Genesis 49:1 – 12; 2 Corinthians 5:6 - 10

Congregational Reading – 2 Corinthians 5:6 – 10

Theme Verse - *"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."* (1 Corinthians 10:31)

## **Introduction**

Illustration – Awards Ceremony – High School Graduation, Middle School Graduation, College Graduation.

Did you ever sit at an awards ceremony where your peers were being awarded for the achievements that they had accomplished and wish that you had done more, done better.

I haven't received too many awards in my life. I got decent grades, but I wasn't a straight "A" student, and I wasn't very athletic, especially after I broke my leg. I did get "Best All Around Student" for my 6<sup>th</sup> grade class. I won the "Eighth Grade Spelling Bee"; Our little league team won the district championships in my first and third year.

In college, I had the distinction of being the first male to graduate from an all-girls college, and the only part-time student to receive a bachelor's degree in four years.

In Bible college, I did nothing outstanding – except maybe survive.

But every time I was in an assembly of students, I always sat there wishing that I had done a little better, and worked a little harder.

In our text today, Jacob is on his death bed and he is handing out rewards. He is reviewing the life of each of his sons and he is prophesying about what each of them would accomplish based upon (at least partially) what they had already done. It's kind of an award's ceremony. I bet that a few of Jacob's sons could go back and re-do some things that they had gotten wrong in their past. I know that I wish I could.

Read the text again:

What did Reuben do? - Genesis 35:21 – 22; Was Reuben all bad? – Genesis 37:20 – 29; But, it is apparent that Jacob remembered his sin of passion more than he remembered his attempted act of mercy.

What did Simeon and Levi do? - Genesis 34:25 – 31

Judah was far from perfect also, but he did demonstrate leadership: he was the one who convinced Jacob to let them bring Benjamin down to Egypt as Joseph requested (Genesis 43). He is also the one that interceded on behalf of Benjamin to Joseph, offering to take the punishment for Benjamin (Genesis 44:14; 31 – 34)

Read the rest of the text regarding Jacob's children up to v. 28.

There are three considerations that will determine the final outcome of your life:

1. The Friends You Choose.
2. The Direction You are Going.
3. The Decisions You Make.

## Transition

If I had my life to live all over again, there are definitely some things that I would do differently. I am 55 now, and I am still trying to get some things right. I can't go back and re-do the mistakes, or the lack of effort that I put forth in my past, but I can make the most of my future. As we consider the new year before us, we can determine to do our best this year.

You may not have excelled as perhaps you could have, or even should have yesterday, but you can change things today that will affect your successes tomorrow.

When I look back over my life, there are some things that I would have done differently. There are some things that I would have done better.

**If I had my life to do over again, here is what I would want to do:**

**I would develop a more consistent walk with God.**

Psalm 1:

*"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish." (Psalm 1:1-6)*

Enoch walked with God:

*"And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him." (Genesis 5:24)*

Noah walked with God:

*"...Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God." (Genesis 6:9)*

Develop a consistent and scheduled time that you read the Bible and pray.

**II I would develop a greater burden for lost souls and struggling Christians.**

Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost.

Paul's hearts desire and prayer to God for Israel was that they be saved. (Romans 10:1)

*"I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:" (Romans 9:1-3)*

Struggling Christians – I used to be more judgmental than I am now – because I and some people I love dearly have made some big mistakes, and I care for them. I want to help them.

**III I would give myself 1000% to whatever God has called me to do.**

*"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." (Ecclesiastes 9:10)*

*"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons." (Colossians 3:23-25)*

**A To My Studies**

Illustrate – my brother Bill

While you are here at college, learn as much as you can from all of your instructors.

*"A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels." (Proverbs 1:5)*

Work to strengthen your weak areas.

**B To My Ministry**

**C To Everything** – if it's worth doing, it's worth doing well

Don't get lazy – stay busy – Don't waste time ("redeem the time")

Live life to the fullest.

Illustrate – Brother Bob – at 70, he is taking piano lessons.

Jesus said that He came to give us “[life] more abundantly”

Too often we approach life half-heartedly and that’s a shame.

#### **IV I would forsake my foolish friends**

*"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3)*

You need to limit your relationships with people who are not going the same direction that you are going; or maybe are going the same direction, but their pace is slowing you down.

You need to love all people and be kind to them, and also do what you can do to help them; but, you cannot let anybody hinder your walk with God, or His will for your life.

Hang around positive people. Negativity and criticism are like a cancer.

Hang around people who will be truthful with you.

Hang around people who will challenge you to be a better Christian.

#### **V I would wean myself off of the world’s influence**

*"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." (1 John 2:15-16)*

Jesus said that we are to be in the world, but not of the world.

Paul told a very carnal church at Corinth:

*"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you," (2 Corinthians 6:17)*

The world’s influence is flooding into our churches.

Be careful with the internet and social media.

#### **VI I would learn to develop better character**

*"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way." (Psalm 37:23)*

**A Live by Schedule** (don’t procrastinate – don’t be late)

**B Live by a budget** – good stewardship, not only involves giving back to God what he has blessed you with, but it also involves wisely using what you have left.

**C Learn to be More Organized**

**D Learn how to say “no”**

**E** Learn to keep my mouth shut

**F** Learn to take better care of this temple – eat better, exercise, take better care of my teeth.

**G** I would read more, and read better material.

**H** I would strive to present myself well – be more concerned about my appearance, my actions, and my words.

We are God’s ambassadors, so I should be concerned about what others think. Not to bring glory to me, but so I can glorify the Lord – make Him look good to the world around me.

## Conclusion

Someday, I am going to stand before my Lord and answer for what I did for Him while on this earth.

*"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (2 Corinthians 5:10)*

*"For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." (1 Corinthians 3:9-15)*

I want to hear the Lord say to me, “Well Done”.

At that time, it really won’t matter what my peers thought of me, but what will be of tremendous importance is what He thought about me.

This is still a new year. Tomorrow is a new day. We want to glorify the Lord as much as we can. Allow God to use you to the fullest.