

Leaving a Legacy

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Bible Text: Romans 16
Preached on: Sunday, May 8, 2011

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Mother's Day is one of my favorite holidays. I must confess that I get tender hearted on Mother's Day. In 1982 the Lord called my mother home. So I am coming up upon 30 years of, in some measure, feeling myself to be an orphan, looking forward to the day when we will be reunited.

Mother's Day was started in Grafton, West Virginia. Being a West Virginian I always say that on Mother's Day. After having to deal with all of the uncomplimentary comments throughout the year it is just great to come to Mother's Day and remember that Anna Jarvis thought, in the early part of the 1900s, that it would be a good thing to lay aside a day simply to say thank you to mothers.

Typically cemeteries are morbid places. Walking through cemeteries is not most people's idea of a happy day. But once in a while when walking through a cemetery great lessons can be learned and along the way some headstones have been chiseled in order to be humorous. For instance, on the headstone of Mary Keith in Marshal, Kentucky they chiseled the following. "She was good, but not brilliant, useful, but to great." Carved over the resting place of Ellen Shannon, these words. "Fatally burned March 21, 1870 by the explosion of a lamp filled with R E Danforth's non explosive burning fluid." In Rudesio, New Mexico there is a headstone that says, "Here lies Johnny Yeast. Pardon me for not rising." When Ezekiel Akiel died his family carved these words, "Ezekiel Akiel, age 102, the good die young." Then over the headstone or on the headstone, rather, of Kirk Wallace these words. "The children of Israel wanted bread and the Lord sent them manna. Old Kirk Wallace wanted a wife and the devil sent him Anna."

Now not all headstones are humorous, but there ought to be a lesson in the headstones. This morning I am going to take you to the great cemetery, if you will, of the New Testament. We are going to turn this morning to the book of Romans the 16th chapter. And you will see in a minute why we would call this the great cemetery of the New Testament. The 16th chapter of the book of Romans.

In the 16th chapter of the book of Romans the Spirit of God allows us to walk through two ancient cemeteries. The first 15 verses of Romans 16 contain 27 names of Roman believers punctuated along the way, as we look at those 27 names and those first 15 verse, the cemetery of Rome, an epitaph or two worthy of our careful consideration. In

verse 21 down through verse 23 the cemetery of the Church of Corinth, if you will. Eight more names recorded. There are 35 names recorded in Romans chapter 16. The names of these individuals, recorded for all eternity, for to one jot or one tittle shall in any wise pass from this Word till all be fulfilled.

These individuals had two things in common. First, they loved the Lord. And then, secondly, they loved the apostle Paul. Sixteen times the Spirit of God is going to lead the apostle Paul in the 16th chapter of the book of Romans to just share the word greeting or salute. This is a very personal passage. Paul has been spending 15 chapters developing some of the deepest doctrine in all of God's Word, allowing us to rejoice in our common salvation, revealing for us the themes of salvation and sanctification and glorification and justification. And when he comes to the 16th chapter he moves from that deep doctrine to share, if you will, his deep affection for these fellow believers who meant so much to him during his life.

These individuals were of varied nationality. We know that because when we read in verse one of Phoebe we read a Grecian name. When you come to verse three and read of Priscilla, why, her name was Latin. When you come to verse six you see the familiar name Mary. That is a Hebrew name. These individuals came from varied backgrounds. It seems that at least 12 of them were slaves.

You say, "Well, how do you know that?"

In verse nine, salute Urbane. The word urbane means city. This was a common name of a slave in the time of the Romans.

In verse 14 in the middle of the 14th verse Hermes is greeted, again, a common slave name in the Roman Empire. The 22nd and 23rd verses we read of Tertius and then we read also in verse 23 of Quartus. These, again, names typical to those who were slaves.

But some buried here, if you will, in Romans 16 were very noteworthy during the time of their life. The ninth verse introduces us to one by the name of Stachys. In verse nine, Stachys, my beloved. Stachys the word means royal house. This person, no doubt, came from royal lineage. In the 23rd verse the apostle Paul is sending greetings from Erastus, you will see in the middle of the verse, the chamberlain of the city of Corinth. He was the treasurer of Corinth, a noteworthy position to say the least.

Something else interesting when studying the names of Romans 16, six were quite possibly the relatives of Paul. In verse seven salute Andronicus and Junia—a little phrase here, but ever so important—my kinsmen. In verse 11 Salute Herodian, my kinsman. In verse 21 Timotheus my fellow worker and Lucius and Jason and Sosipater my kinsmen salute you. This is a passage that is filled with epitaphs.

As we walk amidst the headstones that are discovered in Romans 16, we ought to walk carefully, humbly and teachably.

Newel in his commentaries on Romans said, “The 16th chapter of Romans is often neglected and always neglected at great loss.”

There are many practical applications that can be made immediately when we look I Romans 16. I discover, for instance, that every soul that is born is important to God, the one who knows the hairs on our head, the one who knows our footsteps, our down sittings and up our uprisings. He is one who knows the names of every single person who has ever been born. And the Bible reminds us in Revelation 21 that our name can be recorded in the Lamb’s book of life.

What wonder to be able to read the names of these who 2000 years ago came to meet the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and now for these 2000 years have been enjoying the splendor of heaven and one day we will join with them to sing, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain.”

There is something else that we would immediately say when reading Romans 16, that the laborers behind the scenes are never forgotten by the Lord. Many of these individuals were lesser known in life, slaves, perhaps living in poverty. But 2000 years later their journey now being over the Spirit of God records their valiant efforts on behalf of the Lord Jesus Christ in this the common cemetery of the book of Romans.

We ought to be challenged as we read Romans 16 to live our lives with gratitude. For, after all, the apostle Paul models that as the Spirit of God leads him to write, rather, these verses that we today study. But I would like to introduce you this morning—for after all into is Mother’s Day—to some very special loved ones whose names are recorded in Romans 16. There are at least eight ladies amidst the headstones of Romans 16. We don’t have time to visit every one of them this morning. But since it is Mother’s Day will you walk with me this morning in the New Testament cemetery and pause at four headstones as we allow these dear ones of the apostle Paul to become dear to our hearts this morning for they are those who live lives for the Lord Jesus Christ and left for us a legacy of faith.

I would like to challenge everyone of us—husbands, wives, mothers, singles, grandparents—all who love the Lord this morning ought to be challenged as we come to the 16th chapter of Romans. Would you live to leave a legacy for the Lord? Would you live your life so that your name would be remembered not only in the Lamb’s book of life, but also so as to hear: Well done, good and faithful servant? Would you live your life as a legacy for him?

If you would, let me commend to you four women whose names appear in Romans 16 who no doubt lived their lives to leave a legacy for the Lord and lived their lives in a way that challenges you and me even this morning as we gather here at Colonial Hills Baptist Church.

Verse one of Romans 16.

“I commend unto you Phebe.”¹

I am going to circle Phebe’s name this morning.

“...Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.”²

What is the challenge of Phebe’s legacy? Surely it is this. We need to be willing to be servants. We need to be willing to serve. The first verse introduces her as a servant, a *διακονος* (dee-ak’-on-os). We get our word deacon, one who serves others. She is not the only one in this chapter to be described as a servant. In verse six Mary bestowed much labor. In verse 12 Tryphena and Tryphosa labored in the Lord. Oh, how good God is to remember those who are servants. He is not looking, you see, exclusively for scholars. He is not necessarily looking for those who have high social standing. He is not impressed with your status, but he will always remember your service.

Phebe is commended for she was a servant. Mark 10 reminds us whoever will be great among you, let him be your servant. Jesus said it this way in the book of Matthew, he said:

“...the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”³

We live in this constant tension, don’t we, a tension between self and Satan that often causes our service for the Lord to be stagnated. You see, self says this. Self says, “That is below me.” I don’t think I want to humble myself that far. To do that. And we forget the model of the one who putting a towel around his waist washed the disciples’ dirty feet. Self needs to hear: Deny yourself and take up your cross.

And then there is that other voice, the voice of Satan that says, “You are not worthy. Why you shouldn’t usher or work in the nursery or teach Sunday school or seek to be a testimony in your neighborhood. Who are you? You are not worthy.” Oh, the accuser of the brethren. How he accuses us night and day and causes us to become paralysis in our analysis, rather than powerful in our service.

There are two characteristics that stand out as I pause and read Phebe’s name here once again in this New Testament passage. First did you note in verse two that she was to be received by the men and women in Roman? Receive her. Now that reminds me of her service in carrying the Word and then she has been a succourer, verse two, at the end of the verse. That reminds me that she was always one who was looking out for the needs of others.

¹ Romans 16:1.

² Romans 16:1-2.

³ Matthew 20:28.

Let me explain. Phebe carried the Word. Paul writes the book of Romans from the city of Corinth. Near the city of Corinth there was a port city named Cenchrea. It was eight miles from Corinth to Cenchrea. You will note here in verse one that Phebe was one who was from the Church of Cenchrea, not the Church at Corinth. Paul was serving in the Church at Corinth as he writes this letter to the Romans. He knows of a dear woman who lives in Cenchrea, the port city, and he commends that dear woman to the Romans. And as he commends her to the Romans he commends a woman whose very name Phebe means radiant. She must have had a radiant testimony, this servant of the Lord. And I believe that it was Phebe who has the privilege of carrying the manuscript of the book of Romans from Cenchrea to the Roman believers.

You say, "Well, why do you believe that?"

Well, she is the only woman in this... or the only name in this whole book that is recommended to the Roman believers and it is expected, according to this text that as she arrives and as she is introduced to the Roman Church she is carrying something that will commend her to the people there. Can't you imagine Phebe, as she is packing her purse for the trips from Cenchrea to Rome. What does she have in that purse?

I don't even want to go here on Mother's Day. We are going into the deep abyss when we inquire what is in that purse? Hairspray, lipstick, a little mace. After all, she is in a port city. Maybe she has got those eye lash curler things, you know. Have you ever seen those? Who would do that?

Tucked into that purse she has the manuscripts of the book of Romans. She has the letter that would spawn the Reformation, for the just shall live by faith.

She has the letter that will explain the pathway of salvation. For there is none righteous, no, not one, Romans says. And all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, Romans says. But God commendeth his love toward us that when we were yet sinners Christ died for us, Romans says. And with the heart man believes unto righteousness and with the mouth profession is made unto salvation, Romans says. And whoever will call upon the name of the Lord... can we finish it together? Will be saved. So says the letter of Romans. And Phebe tucked it into her baggage. She carried the Word that has been translated now innumerable to languages around the world. And will echo throughout heaven for who has not been blessed by the knowledge that we receive in the book of Romans that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them which are called according to his purpose.

She was a woman who loved the Lord and had the privilege of carrying the Word. Are you such a person? Leave a legacy for the Lord. Be a courier of the gospel. Leave a legacy for the Lord. Be one who carries the Word to the world. Leave a legacy for the Lord. Tuck that Bible into your luggage, into your purse. Tuck those tracks into your pocket and carry them out from this place. And some day it will amaze you to see that God's Word never returns void.

She had no idea she carried in her luggage this letter that the apostle Paul had so labored to right that 2000 years later we would gather together on a Mother's Day and we would say, "Be a woman of virtue. Be one who brings the Word into those daily encounters with your children and your loved ones."

When my mother passed away in 1982 she left no will and so there was no dividing up of her assets. But my sister Lois got probably the greatest asset that my mother left. She left a well worn Bible. I envy my sister for getting it. I won't arm wrestle her over it or anything, but she left a well worn Bible.

I love that song that says there is a dear and precious book that was old and faded now. It reminds me of the happy days of old when I sat on mother's knee and her hand upon my brow and she whispered sweet and wonderful words so old. Precious book, blessed book on my dear old tear stained page I long to look.

Are you leaving a legacy because you are a person of the Word? And do you have what Phebe had? She had a burden for others. The end of the second verse she has been a succourer of many. She had been a patroness, one who cares for the needs of others. She was one who understand the burden of Galatians six, bearing one another's burdens and so fulfilling the law of Christ.

There are a lot of Christians who are like velvet. Opportunities for service just slide right off of them. God wants you to be a Velcro Christian. He wants you to see the opportunity near and far away and grab hold of it. You may say, "I have very little that I can do. I am not a speaker. I am not a singer. I can't play an instrument. I have every little by way of assets and means."

Let me tell you a story of a dear lady in West Virginia. She is just a little bit older than I. she just barely squeaked out of high school. I know because she was just a little ahead of me. She started working in the children's ministries of her home church, my home church. She was in one of those back away places that hardly anyone saw. In fact, she is still there. She has been working with preschoolers in her home church for now over 30 years.

After my mother passed away, when my father would visit her grave and different members of our family would visit her grave, there would always be flowers there. Our family has never been that sentimental and so I knew my sisters weren't bringing those flowers and my dad he sure wasn't bringing those flowers. His heart was tender, but his hand was not one to go down to the florist. But always flowers there.

One day my dad just happened by and saw this dear lady, never married, who has worked with preschoolers for all those years and as she was depositing those flowers which she faithfully has done for now nearly 30 years, our family has been challenged because we realize that dear lady never stood on the platform, never sang a solo. But she never forgot to ask my mother about her health or to pray for her or to be encouraged. God wants you. God wants me to be that kind of person.

Every church, every county, every community needs a Phebe, somebody who carries the Word and has a heart for others. May God help us to be such people.

Greet Priscilla, verse three, and Aquila, my helpers in Christ Jesus. If you would leave a legacy for the Lord I would encourage you to be a servant like Phebe. But as we come to the third verse we read of another familiar name in the New Testament, Priscilla and her husband Aquila, who were helpers in Christ Jesus.

The fourth verse says:

“Who have for my life laid down their own necks.”⁴

Let me challenge you by the life of Priscilla to be willing to sacrifice for the Lord. For the four verse etched upon her headstone throughout eternity this epitaph the Spirit gave:

“...for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.”⁵

Do you realize that it is a social snafu to do what Paul did in the third verse, to put the woman’s name first? This couple, Priscilla and Aquila, or Aquila or Priscilla, which ever way you want to say it, because the New Testament gives their names together five times, but twice in the New Testament when you read their names you read her name coming first. Why? Why would the apostle Paul be led of the Spirit to put her name first? Perhaps to give us this challenge. Are you willing to live a life of sacrifice for the Lord?

Put a mark here in Romans 16 and come back with me to Acts chapter 18 for just a moment, Acts chapter 18. What kind of sacrifice did Priscilla endure during her life? Well, in Acts chapter 18 we read in verse one:

“After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla.”⁶

The second verse, Priscilla and Aquila had recently arrived in Corinth having moved there from Italy, probably from Rome. When we read in Romans 16 they are living in Rome, but when we read in Acts chapter 18 they are living in Corinth. And you come to the 18th chapter of Acts 18.

“And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn his head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow. And he came to Ephesus, and left them there.”⁷

⁴ Romans 16:4.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Acts 18:1.

⁷ Acts 18:18-19.

Rome, Corinth, Ephesus. They are not done yet. Verse 24.

And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.⁸

They were stationed in Ephesus as gospel witnesses in order to share the gospel and explain it more clearly to this man Apollos who would be a great orator sharing the gospel to others.

We come back to Romans 16. Paul is writing to these who were from Italy, went to Corinth, left Corinth and through Cenchrea were stationed at Ephesus. Now they are back in Rome.

Have you ever heard of the nesting need? Sociologists talk about a woman's nesting need. Men take your fingers out of your ears right now and listen to this. This might be good for you today. Women like to nest. That means they like things in their home to match. They like to have some stability. The house is nice. The bedroom, a bed of their own. They have a nesting need.

Most women grow fingernails for a purpose. The purpose is to stick them in the wall tightly when any thought of moving comes up. No. But not Priscilla. Priscilla was willing to put her neck in the noose, to speak, willing to give up her own desires in order to serve, the Word of God reminds us. And from one place to another, from Rome to Corinth to Ephesus we find this dear missionary couple in pursuit of souls serving the Lord with gladness. Sacrificial servant this woman, this dear woman about whom we read, Priscilla, willing to leave those things familiar.

February of 1812 America's first missionary, Adoniram Judson stood for his doctoral review. As he stood for his doctoral review there was a dear woman in the service who had become only very recently very dear to him. You see, Adoniram Judson was married to the day before. Then came his ordination and then quickly following, within two weeks, setting sail and landing in the land of Burma. Anne, his dear wife, was to get on an ocean voyager for a cruise of a lifetime. She was getting on a frail ship heading, she thought, to India, believing she would never see her parents again. In fact, she never did.

God challenges us along the way of life to make sacrifices for the name of the Lord. And sometimes the Lord stirs in the hearts of a husband. In that husband's heart there is a stirring to sacrifice in some way that you can become an enabler of or an inhibitor of. Oh, dear ladies, may God help you to be as Priscilla, willing to sacrifice for the Lord.

⁸ Acts 18:24-26.

Look further with me at verse seven as we leads our way through this passage and we learn how to leave a legacy for the Lord. We have met Phebe, what a servant. We have met Priscilla, what sacrifice. And when I come to verse seven I read, “Salute Andronicus and Junia.”

I love this one because my mother’s name was June.

“Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellowprisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.”⁹

Now there are other Jews that are listed in Romans chapter 16 who are not so designated as kinsmen, but in verse seven and verse 11, as we have already noted, the apostle Paul notes a few names in particular and says, “These are my kinsmen.” And note what he says about these kinsmen in verse seven.

“...who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.”¹⁰

They were fellow prisoners and in Christ before Paul. Who are these people? Who is this Junia? Was she Paul’s sister? I don’t know. Was she Paul’s cousin? I don’t know? Was she Paul’s aunt? I don’t know. As to the specifics of the family relationship, I don’t know, but this I know. These were family members of the apostle Paul who were in Christ before him. They were now fellow prisoners. How did that happen? What do you think would happen to you if you were related to Paul the apostle? Popular in every port and city?

Well, let’s ask this question. What would have been on our heart if you were related to Saul the rabbi? What would have been on your heart if you were related to Saul, the blasphemer who persecuted the church? I know what would have been on my heart. I would be praying, “Oh, God, that Saul would be converted. Oh, God, that my brother, my nephew, my cousin, my loved one would come to know you.” Verse seven says they were in the faith before him.

Have you ever thought that perhaps no one really comes to the know the Lord without someone ahead of them praying for them? Some of you in this room have been praying for sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, family members for years. Keep it up. God answers prayer. He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

What do I learn from Junia? Oh, I learn that to leave a legacy for the Lord I need to be a person of prayer. I need to be a person of prayer.

In the 1930s Monroe Parker was scheduled to come to Kentucky. Some of you have heard me share this. And as he came into that rough coal mining town there was a teenager who met him at the foot of the train. That teenager with a number of the adults, as well as pastor Wade who had invited the evangelist to come to that town went

⁹ Romans 16:7.

¹⁰ Ibid.

immediately to the prayer meeting and they bowed together and they prayed, “Oh, God, be with the preacher. Help him not get killed.” They prayed that. The last preacher who had come to that town had been killed. “Help him not get killed,” they prayed.

Parker said, “Nobody said amen in that prayer meeting any louder than I.”

They rose up from their knees and God brought a revival. Over 500 people were saved.

My Aunt Gladys was that teenager. At the foot of that train she met the preacher. She prayed for her father, my grandfather, her brother, my Uncle Victor. Because of the prayers of the faithful, my family members one by one came to Jesus Christ.

Junia. I don’t know much about Junia, but I know this. Paul loved her and remembered her. He said she was a fellow prisoner. She was in the faith before him.

If you would leave a legacy, be a servant. Be willing to sacrifice. Always be willing to pray. Look at verses 12 and 13.

Salute Tryphena and Tryphosa, who labour in the Lord. Salute the beloved Persis, which laboured much in the Lord. Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.¹¹

Just a couple of names here to consider. Tryphena, verse 12. It means dainty. Tryphosa, it means delicate. They were still laboring according to the text that we read in verse 12. They were still laboring in the Lord. But then there is this one Persis or Persia. It means lady like. She labored no longer. Oh, she had labored, according to verse 12, but now having labored much it seems by the way the verb reads that her labors are not ongoing and then, “Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord.” And I love this little phrase, “His mother and mine.”

The mother of Rufus. There are only two ways that you can figure out verse 13. Either he is greeting two mothers, the mother of Rufus and Paul’s own mother, or that Rufus’ mother has somehow become a surrogate mother to the apostle Paul. I kind of think that might be what we are reading.

Let me explain. Take your Bibles and go back with me to Mark chapter 15 and we will end here this morning. The gospel of Mark chapter 15. In the gospel of Mark we really read a gospel much influenced by two apostles. Mark was not an apostle, but Mark, it seems, was led to Christ by the ministry of Peter and Mark no doubt traveled with the apostle Paul. And so we read a gospel influenced by two apostles and written by the pen of inspiration through Mark.

Mark 15. You remember the 21st verse how they compelled one Simon a Cyrenian who passed by coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus to bear the cross of the Lord.

¹¹ Romans 16:12-13.

Has it ever crossed your mind that it is amazing that Simon the Cyrenian's children were well known by Mark and well known by the apostles. Why is that? Well, you can trace this same family and see the names of this family also in the book of Acts. It seems that the encounter of Rufus with the Lord as he carried the cross is that which brought not Rufus, but Simon, rather, which brought Simon to the Lord and caused his family members to be known within the Church.

So we have Simon's sons, Alexander and Rufus being spoken of in this text. And Paul writes in Romans 16 and he says, "Now, I want you to greet Rufus and his mother and mine." Might it be that Simon's dear wife, the mother of Rufus and Alexander had become so dear to Paul and so kind to him that every time he thinks about her, he just thinks about one who had the heart of a mother toward him?

These names that we just read in Romans 16 just speak of sweetness, dainty, lady like, heart of love, just sweetness. Paul never forgot it. The Spirit of God never forgot it. The Lord Jesus Christ that we serve this morning never forgot it.

I was teaching a class a number of years ago sitting at lunch one afternoon with a lady who is old enough to be my mother. I had been her children's youth pastor back in the early 80s. Before the meal was over this dear lady said to me, "Stand up a minute, will you?" The lady old enough to be my mother tells me to stand up, I usually do. I stood up. She came around the table, this little five foot slender lady. She stuck her arms around me. Now her husband was sitting right at the table, so I was ok. She gave me a big squeeze. I was a little bit embarrassed. I wondered if she was checking my girth.

And then she looked up at me and said, "I remembered that your mother died. I just thought you needed a mother's hug."

I haven't forgotten that. Neither has the Lord. When I read this text this morning and I walk through this ancient cemetery I am reminded that the Lord remembers those who are servants, who are willing not sacrifice, who never cease in their supplication to pray for lost ones who need to come to Christ as Savior and those who just fill the congregation with sweetness, who demonstrate a mother's love and throw out their arms wide to little ones whose names they don't yet know, but they will get to know them because they want to impact them and show them the only way of gladness, coming to Jesus Christ.

Dear lady, this morning you may feel like your bank account is slim, your notoriety marginal, your accomplishments in the eyes of the world debatable. But, friend, if this morning you are willing to serve the Lord and to sacrifice for him, to pray with all your heart for the souls of others, to simply fill the congregation with sweetness that is exuding from the Holy Ghost, your reward will be great and there will be many who will rise up to call you blessed.

Let's stand together, please, this morning as we pray.

Father, we have been in your Word and we marvel at what we find there: names, some hard to pronounce, foreign to us, lesser known but luminaries, people who leave a legacy for the Lord. May that be our burden and our desire, not for our glory, but for yours, Lord. May we be found faithfully serving, knowing that the one who counts the hairs on our head never forgets a cup of cold water given in his name. Oh, Lord, I pray that you challenge someone this morning not to give up on doing good works for the name of the Savior that we go out of this place committed again, Lord, to loving you with our hands wide open, to living for you with our feet on the faithful path, that Lord, may, from Colonial Hills Baptist Church there would be many a life that would be the legacy that we hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Heads are bowed and eyes are closed and no one looking around this morning. Friend, I have visited the graves of many a famous person and I have seen graves of presidents, explorers and pilgrims and war heroes. But Romans reminds us that they that trust the Lord shall be as Mount Zion which cannot be removed but abideth forever. How good to know that the Lord rewards those who live for him.