**Sermon Title: Growing a Consistent Legacy**

**Sermon Text: 2 Peter 1:12-15**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to a consistent generational legacy of living and the results of Salvation.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 4 steps necessary to develop a consistent legacy of Salvation.**

**Introduction:** Definition of Legacy fits this text extremely well. Truth always needs repetition because believers forget so easily.

**2 Thessalonians 2:5** Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things?

**Jude 5** But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

“Research has shown that within an hour after hearing a spoken message, people forget up to ninety percent of what they hear.” [**John MacArthur Commentary 2 Peter, p.47**]

**John 21:15-19** So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs **16** He said to him again a second time, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." **17** He said to him the third time, "Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep. **18** "Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry *you* where you do not wish." **19** This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me."

**Isaiah 17:10** Because you have forgotten the God of your salvation, And have not been mindful of the Rock of your stronghold, Therefore you will plant pleasant plants And set out foreign seedlings;

**Hosea 8:7-14** "They sow the wind, And reap the whirlwind. The stalk has no bud; It shall never produce meal. If it should produce, Aliens would swallow it up. **8** Israel is swallowed up; Now they are among the Gentiles Like a vessel in which *is* no pleasure. **9** For they have gone up to Assyria, *Like* a wild donkey alone by itself; Ephraim has hired lovers. **10** Yes, though they have hired among the nations, Now I will gather them; And they shall sorrow a little, Because of the burden of the king of princes. **11** "Because Ephraim has made many altars for sin, They have become for him altars for sinning. **12** I have written for him the great things of My law, *But* they were considered a strange thing. **13** *For* the sacrifices of My offerings they sacrifice flesh and eat *it, But* the LORD does not accept them. Now He will remember their iniquity and punish their sins. They shall return to Egypt. **14** "For Israel has forgotten his Maker, And has built temples; Judah also has multiplied fortified cities; But I will send fire upon his cities, And it shall devour his palaces."

**Hebrews 12:5** And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;

**I. Growing a consistent legacy requires a focused faithfulness. V.12**

**II. Growing a consistent legacy requires a focused fervency. V.13**

**III. Growing a consistent legacy requires a focused finish. V.14**

**IV. Growing a consistent legacy requires a focused forethought. V.15**

**I. Growing a consistent legacy requires a focused faithfulness. V.12**

Peter uses the future tense to say “I will always be ready, to remind the hearers and readers.

**Philippians 3:1** Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you *is* not tedious, but for you *it is* safe.

Even though Peter was confident of two things,

1. They were **aware** of the truth they had been taught.

2. They were **established** by the truth they had been taught.

“Established” is from (sterizo) which means “to be strengthened” or “to be firm”. (**1 Peter 5:10**)

**1 Thessalonians 3:2** and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith,

**1 Thessalonians 3:13** so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

**2 Thessalonians 2:17** comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.

**Colossians 1:5-6** because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, **6** which has come to you, as *it has* also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as *it is* also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;

**1 John 2:27** But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

**2 John 2** because of the truth which abides in us and will be with us forever:

**Ephesians 4:24** and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

**Ephesians 6:14** Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

**II. Growing a consistent legacy requires a focused fervency. V.13**

A. Fervency is necessary because of the **shortness** of life. v.13a (**2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 5:1-4**)

B. Fervency is necessary because of the **sleepiness** of life. v.13b

The phrase “to stir up” means to, “wake you up” “to refresh” it is in the present tense, which means to “keeping on refreshing” or “waking up.” We who preach and teach the Word of God are responsible for feeding and tending the flock of God. But in order to keep people from falling into a deep spiritual sleep, or drowsiness, they must be consistently and constantly stirred up!

Even though these believers were well grounded in the truth of God’s Word, they need to be shepherded, well fed, in order to protect them from false truth coming in, and wandering after false truth outside, as well as false truth in their flesh, mind, and heart.

**III. Growing a consistent legacy requires a focused finish. V.14**

A. Every believer must live like they will not live on earth forever. V.14a

(**James 4:13-17; 2 Corinthians 5:1-2; Ephesians 5:14-17**)

**Psalm 39:5** Indeed, You have made my days *as* handbreadths, And my age *is* as nothing before You; Certainly every man at his best state *is* but vapor. Selah

**2 Timothy 4:6** For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

**1 Peter 2:11-12** Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, **12** having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by *your* good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.

B. Every believer must live in light of the future **judgment**. V.14b

(**1 Peter 1:5-9; 2 Peter 3:7-15**)

**2 Corinthians 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

**Hebrews 9:27** And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

**IV. Growing a consistent legacy requires a focused forethought. V.15**

**Conclusion:** “The leader of the 12 wanted believers to avoid the hazards of spiritual negligence, therefore, he labored diligently through his preaching and writing to reiterate the important issues. He desired to leave a final will and testament to remind saints of the greatness of salvation, the blessedness of assurance, and to make certain that false doctrine did not rob them of their rich spiritual heritage.”

[**Ibid., p.53**]