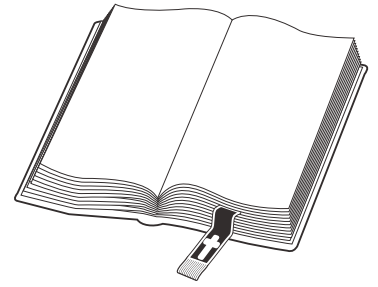


A Heritage from God

“Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever, for they are the rejoicing of my heart.” Psalm 119:111



Number 63 in the series “The Joy of Obeying God’s Word”

Beloved, some of you are proud of your heritage. You can look back over generations of ancestors who loved and obeyed God: men and women who faithfully lived their faith before you, who taught you how to love and serve God. You grew up in church, weekly being taught the Bible and how to apply God’s Word to your daily life. You have *an incredible heritage!* My hope is that you are grateful to God, grateful to your godly ancestors and all the godly influences in your life. I also hope you take seriously your responsibility to live and pass on that godly heritage to future generations.

Some of you grew up with a godly heritage, but from early childhood or in your teenage years, your heart lusted after this world and all it had to offer. You *despised* your godly heritage. Now you are reaping the consequences in your life and are passing on a worldly and evil heritage to your future generations. Beloved, it is not too late! Humble yourself. Repent before God and those whom your life has influenced for evil. Ask Jesus to help you restore the godly heritage to your family and all future generations.

Some of you grew up in church; however, you saw one or both your parents be hypocrites. You saw that how they spoke and behaved at church and around believers was very different than how they lived at home. I am asking you to think about what I am about to say. We have all had a bad meal in a restaurant, but we did not stop eating in restaurants. We have all had a bad haircut, but we did not stop having our hair cut. You may have had a bad experience at home or at church with hypocrites, but that is

no excuse. There are many men, women, and young people who love Jesus and who are allowing the Holy Spirit to transform their lives. You need to look to them! Most important of all is the example of Jesus Christ—He was not a hypocrite! No matter how many hypocrites we see around us, our Lord holds each of us responsible to read and obey His Word and to follow His example of forgiving and loving our enemies as He forgave and loved us when we were His enemies.

Some of you grew up with a heritage of religion. Religion is man trying to be good in his own strength, expecting his good works to earn him eternal life in heaven. Others hope their good deeds outweigh their bad deeds. They hope they will go to heaven when they die. Beloved, God created us to have a relationship with Him. Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us we are saved by GOD’S AMAZING GRACE. Salvation is a gift. We cannot earn it by good works. Only when we confess that we are sinners and accept Christ as our Savior are we saved through Jesus Christ and have a heritage from God for ourselves and to pass on to all future generations.

Now some of you are not believers. That is your starting point. Acknowledge you are a sinner. Put your trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior, and you can have a whole new heritage for yourself and to pass to other generations.

— *Janice McBride*

All scripture is taken from the New King James Version of the Bible.

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