

Bill's Bestowals:

"Only Jesus"

*The Apostle Paul: "Though I am free and belong to no man,
I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.
I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings."*

(I Corinthians 9:19, 23)

A harsh reality: Unless you happen to be 1) a major celebrity, 2) a notorious criminal or 3) really young, the fact is that one hundred years from now your name will be gone from the memories of the living, except as an entry in your family tree. I know that making such statements will not cause me to grow in popularity, but I do have a reason for mentioning it.

My favorite Christian band is called "Casting Crowns," and a couple weekends ago I attended one of their concerts in Benton. AWESOME! They had a new hit called "Only Jesus." The words:

"Make it count, leave a mark, build a name for yourself.
Dream your dreams, chase your heart, above all else
Make a name the world remembers ..."

This is what we people so often try to do, but few make it. It goes on ...

"... All the kingdoms built, all the trophies won
Will crumble into dust when it's said and done,
But all that really matters:
Did I live the truth to the ones I love,
Was my life the proof that there is only One
Whose name will last forever?"

That is what it is about! Living to be remembered through the ages is futile. Wouldn't it be better to live for something (or Someone) that will last?

The point is for us to use our one and only lives to enhance the Name that will be remembered after we are gone. Jesus. When you work to enhance your own name, it will be forgotten, eventually. But when you work to enhance Jesus' Name, your work has what I call "Eternal Value."

That is what Casting Crowns means by their chorus:

"I don't want to leave a legacy,
I don't care if they remember ME ... only JESUS!"

Let Jesus in you come alive as you offer Him your life!

"May the Lord bless and keep you ..." always! Pastor Bill

PS – As you consider ways to live for Jesus, may I offer a suggestion based on need? We, as a church, are called to shine with Jesus' light in the world. Just as with any organization, serving a purpose requires a budget. Due in large part to the deaths of generous family members, our giving for the year is down about \$1,275 per month, which means that we're showing a substantial deficit for the year. To keep the deficit from getting larger, would you prayerfully examine your give to see how you can help make up the monthly difference? May God bless you as you bless His Kingdom!