

A Father's Shoes

A local store advertised a *Father's day shoe sale*. It occurred to me, however, that there is a sense in which a Father's shoes are not bought and sold — they are handed down from one generation to another! We often speak of a son *walking in his father's shoes* when we mean that he is following his father's example. The Bible says of Jehoshaphat that, *He walked in the way of Asa his Father and did right in the sight of the Lord. 1 Kings 22:43*. On the other hand, it was said of Ahaziah that, *he walked in the ways of his Father (Ahab), and so, did evil in the sight of the Lord. 1 Kings 22:52*. Both men walked in their father's shoes. One father influenced his son for good, the other influenced his son for evil!

Fathers, if your children walk in your shoes where will they go? Let me suggest some places where a Father's shoes should lead.

Into Paths of Righteousness. In the beloved words of the 23rd Psalm, David spoke of being led in paths of righteousness by his Father in heaven. A Father needs to watch his habits, guard his speech, and control his conduct to provide an example which he will not be ashamed for his children to follow. As one father said, *I want to live in such a way that when people tell me my son is like me, he'll stick out his chest and not his tongue.*

Into Places Of Honest Toil. The Jews had a proverb: *The father who fails to teach his son to work, teaches him to steal.* Blessed is the son who can walk in his father's shoes to shop, factory, field or office where an honest day's work is given for a day's pay! The Bible commands that *if any should not work, neither should he eat. 2 Thessalonians 3:10*. The father whose example teaches the necessity of honest labor contributes not only to the well-being of his child, but also to the well-being of the nation.

Into The House Of Worship. There are many fathers who prefer a Sunday game of golf or visit to the lake to worshipping God. Jesus said: *Suffer little children to come to me and forbid them not ... Matthew 19:14*. But if they are to come, mothers and fathers must bring them by their example instead of keeping them away.

Into Fields Of Service. Christianity is service. Jesus said, *I am among you as one who serves. Luke 22:27*. He also said, *My Father works and I work ... John 5:17*. More young people need the example of a father who will sing the words of the old song and mean it: *I want to be a worker for the Lord!* Young people need a father's example of faithfulness, dedication and involvement to prepare them for service in the Lord's Kingdom.

The Bible says, *The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord ... Psalm 37:23*. Only when we walk this way can we pass shoes on to our children we do not fear for them to walk in!

- Bobby Dockery, Fayetteville, AR

The skin you love to touch. Dad's old pigskin wallet.

News & Notes

CONFESSIONS: Bob Cyphers, Linda White, Sharon Roberts.

BIRTH: Congratulations and best wishes to Mike & Kathy Hissom on the birth of a son, Roscoe. Grandparents are: Joe & Sue Collins. Great grandparent: Jean Logston.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Jason & Tamara (Geiselman) Sprout who were married yesterday. We wish them much happiness in their life together.

GRADUATED: Congratulations to Rebecca McClung on her recent graduation from Coastal Carolina University in Conway, SC. She plans to continue her education at Medical University of SC to become a pharmacist.

RETIREMENT: Best wishes and God's blessings on Elaine McClung on her retirement from the Hancock County School System.

CHESTER'S VBS: Begins today through the 18th. **Speakers:** This morning - Frank Higginbotham; Tonight - Jeremy Main; Monday - Steve Smithbauer; Tuesday - Denver Cooper; Wednesday - Bob Noland. Money donations for the VBS picnic should be given to Don or Crystal Spencer.

CARE & SHARE BEARS: Canceled this Tuesday and next Tuesday, June 24th. Resumes Tuesday, July 1st at 9:00 a.m. All ladies invited.

SUMMER BIBLE CAMP: June 23-28. See Gerald Clutter if you want to help with the camp.

PANTRY: Canned vegetables.

DISHES: Those who have not picked up their empty dishes or pans after preparing food for funerals or our covered dish dinners, need to do so as quickly as possible; they are in the basement of the church building.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: Those of our congregation who have serious health concerns or need encouragement.

SICK: Ella Beagle, Bob & Scharlotte Cyphers, Ruby Eddy, Dan Williams, Ruth Brewer, Bette Gentry, and others confined to their homes and in nursing homes are listed on the bulletin board.

The Three Terms of Life

Life is divided into three terms -

That which was, which is and which will be.

*Let us learn from the past to profit by the present,
and learn from the present to live better for the future.*

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow -