

My mom died today. It came as no surprise, for we had seen that her nearly 21 year battle with Alzheimer's was drawing to a close. She died peacefully, surrounded by loving family. One moment she was here, and the next she was gone.

But she left behind a powerful legacy. Naturally shy, she learned to step out to serve other people. Even in the middle stages of her disease, she would seek out people at church sitting alone and sit and talk with them. She knew how it felt to be lonely, and she did what she could to ease that in other people.

She sang in the choir because she knew it took more than the very best singers to make up a choir, and she was willing to risk sounding imperfect so that the group could sing beautiful praises to God.

She learned to walk according to conscience, even when others around her disagreed or didn't understand. She studied the Word constantly, to better understand her Maker. And she lived the words that others only said.

Mom's legacy is one of Christian character.

What will mine be?

It has been said that the biggest obstacle to Christian evangelism is Christians. Perhaps we think that the only legacy we have to leave is the whole fabric of our lives. But every time we leave a room we are creating our legacy.

We expected Mom's passing. But every time I hear of a young athlete dying of cardiac arrhythmia, or a middle-aged person struck down by cancer or heart disease, or someone of any age lost in a car accident I am reminded that my days on this earth are numbered, and only God knows when my number is up.

What will I leave as my legacy?

While it is an absolutely priceless treasure to know that God accepts me just as I am, and that Jesus died for my sins and His blood wipes them all clean, I don't believe for one minute that He expects us to stop there. Believers who accept His sacrifice and remain unchanged by the experience are poor advertisements for the transforming power of the blood of Jesus Christ. As James said, "Faith without works is dead, being alone." (James 2:17)

Proclaiming the salvation of Jesus Christ is an integral part of Christianity. Encouraging all to know their God and King and looking to the day when all men can be united in worship gives us hope for the future. But today, now, in this instant, I hope to live a legacy of faith.