

How Will You Be Remembered?

How will you be remembered? What legacy will you leave behind?

These are appropriate questions to ponder on this journey called life. It is quite sobering to grasp just how short life is, but a reminder that life is a gift to be lived to the fullest.

In James 4:14, the Bible reminds us how quickly life passes by: “Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.”

But back to those opening questions. As you consider your answer, you might be interested in what has been said about others – celebrities who have words chiseled on their tombstones:

- He did it all – Sammy Davis Jr.
- The passive master lent his hand, to the vast Soul which o’er him planned – Ralph Waldo Emerson.
- Like the cover of an old book ... Its contents turn out ... And strip of its lettering & gilding ... Lies here. Food for worms ... For, it will as he believed appear once more ... In a new and more elegant edition corrected and improved ... By the Author – Benjamin Franklin.
- The Cowboy’s Prayer: Oh Lord, I reckon I’m not much just by myself ... I fail to do a lot of things I ought to do ... But Lord, when trails are steep and passes high ... Help me to ride it straight the whole way through ... And when in the falling dusk I get the final call ... I do not care how many flowers they send ... Above all else the happiest trail would be ... For You to say to me, “Let’s ride, My friend.” Amen – Roy Rogers.
- Here was buried Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of American Independence, of the statute of Virginia for religious freedom, and father of the University of Virginia.
- That nothing’s so sacred as honor and nothing’s so loyal as love – Wyatt Earp.
- I never met a man I didn’t like – Will Rogers.



With the shortness of our time on this earth, it’s even more important to plan and focus on the quality of our lives – character, integrity, compassion, and the love and service shown to others.

(more)

Toward the end of his life, author and theologian Elton Trueblood made this observation: “At the age of 93, I am well aware that I do not have many years to live. Consequently, I try very hard to live my remaining years in such a manner that I really make a difference in as many lives as possible. How do I want to be remembered? Not primarily as a Christian scholar, but rather as a loving person. This can be the goal of every individual. If I can be remembered as a truly loving person, I shall be satisfied.”

And here is what Steve Goodier, ordained United Methodist minister and founder of *Your Life Support System*, a widely read newsletter, said on the subject: “After you are gone, people may forget most of what you have said and done. But they will remember that you loved them.”

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:19-21 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter