

## To-Do List - Cont.

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over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' (Matt. 25:21). My father was a faithful steward. May I be the same.

**Lead my family to the Lord.** My father did not grow up in the Lord's church. Mom introduced dad to the gospel when dating in high school nearly 60 years ago (1 Pet. 3:1-3). Not only did he obey the gospel, he was also instrumental in leading his family to the Lord; past, present, and future. Not only did he lead his children and grandchildren to the Lord, dad patiently taught and converted his sister, his mother, and his father. Even as recent as last year, he baptized his sister's husband. My father was a multi-generational influence for good (Deut. 6:1-9). Like Abraham, dad trained "his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord" (Gen. 18:19). My father led his family to the Lord. May I do the same.

**What is on your current to-do list?** James does not condemn making plans, he only condemns making plans outside the consideration and will of God (Jas. 4:1-3). Is your list filled primarily with worldly or heavenly pursuits? Don't be fooled into thinking worldly pursuits are more pressing and rewarding. "What profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" (Matt. 16:26).

**What will be on your last to-do**

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**list?** One day, like it or not, you will make your *last* to-do list. Hebrews 9:27 affirms, "it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment." It doesn't matter if you are eighteen or eighty, your time to die will come. Solomon explains, "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die" (Eccl. 3:1-2). If you knew your death was imminent, how big would your to-do list become? Keep God on in your to-do list (Jas. 4:1-3). I will forever be grateful for the father who introduced me to the Father.

- Kevin Maxey -

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# THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

## Guest Article: Dad's Last To-Do List

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My father was a detailed note-taker. Dad made to-do lists every day and everywhere. He rarely concluded a family meal or business lunch without making one more to-do list, even on a napkin if necessary. Dad posted notes before there were Post-it® notes.

Despite his adept propensity to plan, an unplanned tragedy struck our family Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. Less than 24 hours after a cardiac stent procedure, my father suffered a massive brain stroke leaving him disoriented, speechless, and in a state of rapid decline. Six heart-wrenching days later, dad passed.

Desperate for comfort, understanding, and connection, my brother Chris soberly ventured into dad's office. There it sat. Dad's weekly planner. Slowly opening to the last recorded week of dad's life, Chris found the following entries: Mon. Mar. 29th, new glasses, Wed. Mar. 31st, cardiologist apt., Fri. Apr. 2nd angiogram. Looking closer, Chris discovered another to-do list. This list, however, was different. It was dad's *last* to-do list. Dad carefully organized his plans into three categories: personal, church, and business. These categories included typical tasks such related to diet, exercise, yardwork, finances, business training, household maintenance and church projects. No surprises there. However, one item stood far above the rest. In the middle of his last to-do list, dad wrote the sobering words, "burial

plans and will." I was stunned.

On the morning of dad's funeral, my 10-year-old daughter observed my subpar shoe-cleaning efforts. She astutely remarked, "Grandpa would have already polished his shoes ... *yesterday*." Surrounded by reminders of dad, I find myself constantly thinking, "If dad were here, he would do this," or "he would say that." For me, he is like faithful Abel, who "though he died, he still speaks" (Heb. 11:4). As our family deals with the traumatic shock of dad's sudden passing we find great comfort in his steadfast faith and righteous character (1 Thess. 4:13-18). In an effort to keep dad's example alive, I encouraged my children to identify and personally develop one of their grandfather's best qualities. These "grandpa resolutions" motivated me to create the following "dad-inspired" to-do list of my own:

**Put my house in order.** I initially was disturbed by dad's "burial plans and will" entry. Upon closer reflection, however, I now find comfort in these words. This final entry reveals my father was aware of his need to prepare for his death. In fact, just weeks before, dad updated a number of financial matters. The night before his cardiac surgery, dad prepared a six-page list of important account passwords for my mother. My father put his house in order. May I do the same.

**Finish what I start.** It didn't matter what the job was, dad always finished what he started. If he was replacing a household appliance, repairing a vehicle, landscaping the yard,

painting the house, or fixing something at the church building, my father completed each task. Godly men finish what they start. Noah finished the ark (Gen. 6:14-22). Nehemiah finished the wall (Neh. 6:15-16). Paul finished his race (2 Tim. 4:7). Good builders finish what they start (Luke 14:28-30). Dad did not allow himself to be paralyzed by slothfulness, frustration, or distractions (Prov. 12:11). My father finished what he started. May I do the same.

**Pursue excellence.** Dad not only finished what he started, he finished well. Many would call my father a perfectionist. Dad did not take shortcuts. He lived according to Solomon's charge, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might" (Eccl. 9:10; Col. 3:23). God rejects lukewarm mediocrity (Rev. 3:15-16) and praises those who excel in every good work (2 Cor. 9:8). My father pursued excellence. May I do the same.

**Be a faithful steward.** My father was not the wealthiest person in town, but he maintained a high standard of living because he was a faithful steward of God's blessings. Dad's careful maintenance and responsible stewardship literally made everything he owned look new. For example, he was the original owner of a pristine year 2000 Jeep Grand Cherokee. His 21-year-old car glistens like new even to this day. God rewards faithful stewards saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you