



Estate planning sounds daunting, doesn't it? It's merely planning to divide, when you die, items you own as a steward, less outstanding loans. Usually the **will** is the tool we use to capture our allocation instructions.

If you don't write a **will**, the Government decides how to share God's properties that you manage. So ensure you have an up to date **will**.

Jesus' followers' primary goal in Estate Planning is to continue acting as God's steward by following His directions to share His funds. Next time, I will talk about details to prepare the **will**, but today I want to talk about the more important, spiritual legacy.

When people discuss their wills, they wrestle with dividing possessions among children and grandchildren. Always the focus during these discussions is to provide material stuff for a secure future, seldom on their descendant's *spiritual inheritance*.

Listen to Apostle Peter in 1 Peter 1:3-4 pointing out the true, lasting *inheritance* each born-again believer gets when he surrenders his life to Christ:

1 Peter 1:3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade...

Did you get that? *Never perish, spoil, or fade!* What a wonderful assurance about our spiritual *inheritance*. Let's teach it to our children and grand children by our lifestyles.

Moses showed us how to leave this legacy in Deuteronomy 6:4-9:

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

⁵"You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶"These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up....

Nothing is wrong leaving material assets to your children when you die, if God directs it. But you need to realize these material assets will not provide a secure future. You don't know the future and you can't secure it! Only through a personal relationship with Jesus can we have a secure future in eternity.

**Presentation to 100 Huntley Street
April 6: Estate Planning- A Spiritual Legacy**

Teach your children to depend on Jesus for everything, not on material objects that are here today, gone tomorrow. Apostle Paul puts the material and eternal in perspective in 1 Corinthians 15:50 and 58:

1 Corinthians 15:50

I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Don't worry about your children's future; teach them to focus on the eternal. Jesus has secured a place in heaven for each believer. Leave a spiritual inheritance for your descendants by obeying Christ and teaching them as Moses commanded in Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

Material wealth left to our children who do not know Jesus as Lord and Savior will become a curse and entrench them in the *world*: they will be unable to subject these belongings to His direction.

For those children who know Christ, don't remove their dependency on Him by providing for all their foreseeable material needs. Teach them how to view and share money, wealth, and belongings. Most of all, seek Jesus to know how to include in your **will**, these material belongings you hold on His behalf.

Next time, we will continue talking about preparing the will.

God bless and remember Jesus loves you.