

As a child I grew up living just a short distance from Grandma and Grandpa's farm. I could see the house from my upstairs bedroom window. As I went to bed I would look up there and the lights were on, and when I got up in the morning I could see the smoke of the woodstove rising out of the chimney. I used to wonder if they ever slept!

As soon as I was old enough I would go to the barn with Grandma to help with the milking. I can still picture her in her cotton housedress and apron sitting on that 3-legged stool, the pail wedged between her knees, and the cow's tail tucked tightly between her head and the side of the cow. (Did you ever get switched by a cow's tail?) I can still hear the sound of the milk as it hit the side of the pail and see the foam. I would take the pail of milk, dump it through the strainer and into the milk can which would go into the cooler until the milk truck came for it, saving some for the barn cats.

Looking back I am not sure how much help I was, but every morning and every evening the milking had to be done, and when Grandpa couldn't do it Grandma had to do it...and much more. And looking back I can see that my grandparents had a part in shaping my character. I credit my Father with my strong work ethic, but I realize that time spent in those early years with my grandparents helped as well.

Looking ahead leads me to wondering what kind of legacy I am leaving for my children and grandchildren. As long as God gives us breath we have opportunities to influence the perceptions our family and those around us have of God. When they look back, as I am doing now, will they remember me above all else as one who loved Jesus Christ and had a grateful heart. When their faith gets a bit shaky, will their thoughts of me and my faith be a steadying influence? Did they learn anything from me that helped prepare them for eternity?

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in His law doeth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so; but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in judgment, not sinners in the congregation of the

righteous. For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous; but the way of the ungodly shall perish.” (Psalm 1)

“I will love Thee, O LORD my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my strength, in whom I will trust....” (Psalm 18:1-2a)