

Posthumous Influence¹

Nehemiah 12:24

INTRODUCTION:

1. “And the chiefs of the Levites: Hashabiah, Sherebiah, and Jeshua the son of Kadmiel, with their brothers who stood opposite them, to praise and to give thanks, according to the commandment of David the man of God, watch by watch” (Neh. 12:24).
2. One’s influence continues after he is dead (cf. Heb. 11:4).

DISCUSSION: A man’s influence continues...

I. By his will.

- A. “...according to the *commandment* of David....”
- B. By way of wills, laws, and testaments, the grip of the dead is on our governments, schools, hospitals, and congregations.

II. By his writings.

- A. Cf. David’s psalms and Solomon’s proverbs
- B. Cf. the writings of Milton, Shakespeare, and thousands of others

III. By his example.

- A. “...David the man of God....”
- B. Goodness is greatness.
- C. “...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matt. 5:16).
- D. Intentional influence may fail; unconscious influence cannot.
- E. For good or evil a man lives. For good or evil his deeds will live after him.
- F. “The memory of the righteous is a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot” (Prov. 10:7).

¹ *The Preacher’s Complete Homiletic Commentary on the Book of Nehemiah*, chapters 7-13, Booth, Goodman, and Gregory, eds. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, reprinted 1974), p. 244. Adapted by Andy Kizer.