How I Wish to Be Remembered

Bob was a man who wanted to learn and to grow and to become all he was supposed to be and do. Was there another person who needed him at a certain time or place? If so, he wanted to get there. There are so many regrets, things he should have done but didn't get around to. And things he should have avoided to which he succumbed. Regrets? More than Sinatra sang about. But how to be remembered?

*As a person who cared and wanted everyone else to care. As a person who was loved by God.

*Someone who changed according to biblical principles and watched God make a mensch out of the mess he caused.

Bob loved to laugh and to sing and to eat and to play sport and cheer his teams on to victory. And he loved his wife and children and grandchildren, and wanted only the best for each of them.

Passing the Torch

Two things come right to mind. Because the 'next' generation is already here. If I'm the previous one, and as I write this I'm in my 75th trip around the sun, then 'next' should be about 40-55. And that's my two older children, already well into their adulthood and parenting responsibilities. So do I have a single message for them? For their peers? Or for the GenZ, Alpha, Millennials, whatever people will label the generation of my seven grandchildren. What is the single message I would share with them?

I can't simplify it down to a single message.

* Optimism makes sense, not because things will always get better, but because biblical hope is the helmet that guards our mind from depression and its effects.

* When playing sport, sportsmanship matters long past the results are posted.

* The famous line "'Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all" comes from the 1850 poem In Memoriam A.H.H. by the Victorian poet Alfred, Lord Tennyson. That's certainly true. What that says is that loss will come and that it's part of life. Acceptance is the key

along with honesty to a happy and joyous freedom you could otherwise never know.

* The two great commandments are still my #1, if that's mathematically possible. Love God with all your heart and might, and love your neighbour as yourself.

OK, all that was my message to my next generation. But I said that I had two things that came to mind.

The second is that you should look for others into whom you can pour your life. Whether that's your own kids or mentees, and be faithful to that task. Develop your own 'single message' and pass it on. It only takes a spark to get a fire going. And soon all those around can warm up to its glowing. That's how it is with God's love, once you experience it. You spread his love to everyone, you want to pass it on.