

The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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Evangelist and Editor:
Dempsey Collins

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Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30

What Have They Seen in Thy House?

by Dempsey Collins
Conclusion

6. Home devotionals – Deut. 6:4-7; Eph. 6:4 – One of the best ways to train a child in the home is through the medium of a daily devotional. Your time couldn't be better spent with your children. Each family must of course decide the best time, but it should be a time when all can be present. Right after dinner is an excellent time. It should not be long and tedious, but an enjoyable occasion. The things done should be adapted to every age. I suggest that your devotionals include three things:
 - a. Bible reading – Read a short passage from the Bible. After explaining it, let everyone make a comment to show they understand. Select a choice verse for the entire family to repeat several times (theme verse).
 - b. Singing – We need to sing with our children. So many people underestimate the power and influence of the song. Someone has said, “Let me write the songs of a nation, and I care not who makes their laws.” Napoleon once said, “Give me the keys to the songs of a nation and I can rule the world.” These men recognized the great power in song and we should too. It is clear from the New Testament that the early Christians sang on many occasions outside of the worship services:
 - 1). James wrote, “Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praises” (Jas. 5:13).
 - 2). “And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them” (Acts 16:25).
 - 3). “After singing a hymn they went out to the Mount of Olives” (Matt. 26:30). Jesus also recognized the importance of singing spiritual songs and hymns. Jesus did not sing the hymn because it was a Passover tradition, but because He recognized the encouragement and influence that comes from such singing. Let us sing with our children!
 - c. Prayer – Not only by the father, but with each child participating as well. Children need to be taught the reality of talking to God.

- d. Such devotionals will help:
- 1). Provide the child with the standard of living which he so desperately needs, God's guidance. It will help guide him in the way he should go.
 - 2). Give encouragement and spiritual strength.
 - 3). Provide confidence and security since he will know what he is to do and why. It gives reason and purpose for living.
 - 4). Lead to their obedience to the gospel.
 - 5). Help the child realize you must truly be concerned about him.
 - 6). Draw families closer to God.
- e. In the years ahead these minutes will constitute a priceless harvest and precious memories such that we will be forever grateful that we made the time.
7. What Have They Heard? Eph. 4:29 – Especially is this teaching needed in homes where human characters are being molded.
- a. Our children are like tape recorders with the record button always on. Everything said registers and will be played back at some time or another. In view of this, it is extremely important that we guard what we say. If their ears hear:
- 1). Continual criticism – they will be critical and unhappy since there must be little to be happy about.
 - 2). Anger – fear and anger will be the result.
 - 3). Filthy speech – expect filthy speech.
 - 4). Indifference – expect indifference.
 - 5). Pride – expect a haughty spirit.
 - 6). Negativism – expect negativism.
- b. The following contains excerpts from a letter written by a father about his children:
- “What can I do to lead my children to the deepest possible love and strongest possible loyalty to the Lord’s church?... My home, in an unbelievable measure, regulates my children’s attitudes toward the church and their loyalty to it. My home is a divinely created unit of present day society. As an institution of divine origin, it has a purpose. It also has a divine task I cannot delegate to others. My own parental indifference will be reflected in unconcern on the part of my children. If I am careless in loyalty to the Lord’s church or Bible class attendance, what can I expect of them? What can I as a parent do to make my children loyal to the Lord’s church? The first step is to inspire loyalty in them by my own words and example of unquestioned allegiance of Christ and His kingdom. Parents who love the church help their children love the church. Love for the church is not just a fact that is taught, it is a spirit that is caught, and my children’s attitudes are apt to be the same as mine. By God’s help I want to do all within my power to lead our children to love the Savior and His church and to be loyal to His plan in their lives. What better legacy can I leave my children than a spirit of loyalty like that?”*

News and Notes:

Reminder: Bible Study – Every Tuesday @ 10 a.m. (Old Testament) and @ 7 p.m. (Romans)

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.
“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16