

The Messenger



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

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Children's Behavior in Worship

by Bill Hall

One of the greatest responsibilities parents face is that of teaching their children proper behavior in worship. The children's ultimate interest in spiritual matters depends so greatly on their parents' success.

Teaching children that they are to be quiet is important. But good behavior in worship reaches far beyond this. Children must be taught reverence and respect for God. They must learn to sing, to listen, to participate. Their interest should grow as their capacity for learning grows. By the time they reach accountability they should be able to discuss intelligently the preacher's sermon (assuming it is sufficiently organized to be intelligible). If they cannot do so, they have not behaved properly, no matter how quiet they have been. At this point in their lives they should be ready to offer a reasonably mature expression of adoration and praise to the true and living God. With such goals in mind, faithful parents set out to train their children. We offer the following suggestions:

1. **Sit near the front.** There are fewer distractions up front. If adults are distracted in the back (and they are bound to be), children may totally forget where they are. You might teach them to be quiet back there, but you will hardly teach them to listen and participate.
2. **Don't let your children routinely go to the restroom.** The time for using the restroom is before they leave home or just before the worship begins. Then they will probably not need to go during the worship period. The restroom parades that occur in most worship periods are unnecessary, distracting, and counter to the goals we ought to have for our children. Never let your children go to the water fountain. They can wait.
3. **Don't let them play.** Toddlers will need something for entertainment, but when children reach four, five or six years old, they are old enough to sit quietly without entertainment. You will be surprised at how soon they will learn the words of songs and what they might glean from a sermon. Pencil and paper should be used only for taking notes on the sermon.
4. **If possible, see that they get the proper rest the night before.** Lack of sleep increases irritability and restlessness. Children will be better behaved in Bible classes and during worship when they have slept normally.
5. **Set a good example before them.** Children whose parents demonstrate little fervor, interest and reverence in worship will likely demonstrate little of these qualities themselves.
6. **Pray for God's help.** The task is not easy, but great joy awaits those who are successful.

How Do You Spell Relief?

by Morris Norman

Man is plagued with sin, its curse and all its accompanying burdens and anguishes. He is constantly seeking relief from all the consequences of sin. He may not know that it is the presence of sin in the world that is the cause, but he still wants the relief. How often he tries to get relief in every way, but it never comes, for he never tried the right “product.” How can man spell relief from the burdens of life? J-E-S-U-S!! That’s the only relief there is; He answers all the needs of man. *“Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world.”*

Sin, since Eden, has been the curse of man, the source of every pain and anxiety. He may not realize it, but it is true nonetheless. Paul realized it, and he cried out, *“Wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”* But relief is possible, for Paul answers, *“I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord”* (Rom. 7:24, 25). Paul had determined that *“by the works of the law shall not flesh be justified in His sight,”* but there has been revealed *“the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ unto all that believe”* (Rom. 3:20-22). So, *“there is no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus”* (Rom. 8:1). What joy! What relief! *“We are more than conquerors through Him.”*

Jesus invites us to come to Him for relief. *“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”* (Matt. 11:28). *“Cast all your anxiety upon Him, because He careth for you”* (I Pet. 5:7). *“...for He hath said, I will in no wise fail you, neither will I in anywise forsake thee”* (Heb. 13:5).

When sin overtakes the children of God, *“If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness,”* for *“if any man sins we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and He is a propitiation for our sins”* (I John 1:9-2:2). *“He is able to save to the uttermost them that draw nigh unto God through Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them”* (Heb. 7:25). *“Let us therefore draw near with boldness unto the throne of grace that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help in time of need”* (Heb. 4:16).

He is our relief when the burdens of the world are more than it seems we can bear. When temptation overtakes us, He is our strength to overcome. When a “thorn in the flesh” afflicts us, His grace is sufficient unto us. When we face death, we are more than conquerors through Him. When we lose a loved one, and sorrow bears too heavily upon us, we sorrow not as those who have no hope. He is our strength, an ever-present help in time of need. He is the rock of our salvation. How foolish it is indeed for many to attempt to seek relief apart from Him, for ONLY in J-E-S-U-S can we spell relief.

News and Notes:

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