

THE HARVESTER

"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2)

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SET YOUR MIND ON THINGS ABOVE

In reading the writings of early Christians from the second and third centuries, we find them to be dedicated to living the teachings of Christ and the Apostles. Typically, they chose to remain poor as far as earthly possessions. They were willing to serve as martyrs and be thrown into prison or be burned at the stake or be thrown to the lions or even be crucified rather than deny their faith in Jesus. They demonstrated the attitude that this earthly life is short and temporary and not to be held onto. The apostle Paul had this attitude when it was prophesied that bad things were going to happen to him.

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But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God. (Acts 20:24)

Paul also wrote in Colossians 3:1-2, *“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”*

I ask you to do a self-examination. Are you seeking those things that are above or the things of this earth? Have you set your mind on things above or on things on the earth?

(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself. (Php. 3:18-21)

When you fully appreciate that your citizenship is in heaven and not here, it should cause you to set your mind on things above.

Jesus taught the same principle.

Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Suffi-

cient unto the day is the evil thereof. (Mat. 6:31-34)

He requires you to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Heb. 11:6).*

He will reward you if you diligently seek him. God will give eternal life *“to them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality” (Rom. 2:7).*

After describing those who lived in faith, the writer states in Hebrews 11:13-16,

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

Do you see yourself as a stranger and a pilgrim on the earth and do you truly seek the holy city? Or do you love the world? *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (1 John 2:15).*

The Apostle Paul was critical of the actions of some. He wrote in Philippians 2:21, *“For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.”*

We have an example of the contrast between seeking the things of God and seeking the things of this earth that occurred at the end of Jesus' ministry. Jesus began to describe how he was going to suffer and be killed and rise the third day.

Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he

turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. (Mat. 16:22-23)

Peter wanted Jesus to play it safe and stay around so that he could be with Him. If Jesus had done that, He would not have died for you and me. Continuing in Matthew 16:24-27,

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

If you want to be a true Christian, you must deny yourself and take up your cross and follow Him.

I encourage you to live your life in such a way that you seek those things which are above, and that you set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

ED ANDERSON
(Sierra Vista, AZ)

DEUTERONOMY 6:7-9

And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

THE FAITH OF OUR CHILDREN

Faith is always but one generation away from extinction. No matter how much people may love and serve God, they cannot believe for their children.

Yet parents can help them take their first steps of faith. That's why Moses urged the Israelites to teach the words of the Law to their children (Deu. 6-7-9, 20-21; see also 4:9-10; 11:19).

The Israelites already had a rich legacy of stories to draw upon in explaining God's way to their children: the creation narrative, the lessons of the patriarchs, the account of the Exodus, the memory of the wilderness journey (6:20-25). Now the Law of Moses would further help them talk about practical ways to follow God.

Moses offered a number of suggestions for teaching these statutes to young people. The following principles are just as useful to believers today:

1. ***Know what you are talking about.*** Know the Word of God for yourself first before trying to pass it on. Moses wanted his people to be known as a "*wise and understanding* [or discerning] *people*" (4:6). Thus he instructed them:

- not to add anything to the words of the Law (4:2).
- to speak from experience by putting the commandments into practice (4:5-6).
- not to forget any of the things that God had said or done for them in the past (4:9).
- not to forget the Lord or substitute anything or anyone for Him (4:15-19, 23-24).

This is a challenge to parents today to gain firsthand acquaintance with what God has said by reading and studying the Bible for themselves. There's no need to pass along secondhand information.

2. *Cultivate your own faith.* Moses exhorted the people to develop personal contact with God (6:1-9). He told them:

- to fear the Lord all the days of their lives (6:2).
- to love the Lord with all their being--heart, soul, and strength (6:5).
- to establish habits and strategies for recalling and rehearsing the story of God's dealings in their own lives and in the lives of their ancestors (6:7-9).
- to live lives of gratitude, remembering that all that they had, where they lived, and what they ate were gifts from a good God, not the results of their own efforts (6:10-11).

Parents today cannot give to their children a faith that they themselves do not possess. It's one thing to talk about religion; it's another thing to speak to the issues of life out of a vibrant relationship with the living God.

3. *Teach by example.* Moses urged the Israelites to practice the Law so that their children could see it in action not just hear it recited (10:12-13; 11:1-2, 7-8).

- to live with the perspective that God owns everything (10:14).
- to maintain a commitment to integrity by refusing bribes, by ensuring justice for orphans and widows, and by showing loving care for strangers (10:17-18).
- to worship the Lord regularly through fasting, praise, and the remembrance of His dealings with Israel (10:20-22).

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- that it was they, the parents, who needed to acknowledge the Lord in all of life. Their children had not yet had much experience with Him; therefore they needed to see it in their parents first (11:2).
- to keep a singular focus on the Lord and avoid any other loyalties, especially to idols (11:13, 16).
- to talk about truths of God during the day-to-day activities of life (11:19-20).

Children quickly see through empty religion. They know instinctively what their parents truly believe and where their loyalties lie. Thus parents today have the same need to model Christlikeness before their children if they want to see their children take any interest in the things of the Lord.

4. *Be creative.* Moses wrote a song to declare God's way to Israel (32:1-47). It was a good lesson in the use of the arts to celebrate the Lord and encourage children to learn about the faith (31:9-13, 19, 22, 30). Likewise, Moses urged the people:

- to rehearse the Law for the entire community, including children and aliens, every seventh year during the Feast of Tabernacles (31:10-13).
- to develop music that would bring honor to the Lord and tell of His mighty works (31:19, 22).
- to teach the children music that praised God (32:46-47).

A famous youth worker followed the motto, "It's a sin to bore a kid with the gospel." Parents today will want to avoid boring their children with what and how they teach them about God. With so many creative, affordable resources now available, parents have an unprecedented opportunity to impact the minds, hearts, and imaginations of their youngster for the Lord in a positive way.

COPIED

"The Faith of Our Children."

The Word in Life Study Bible. 1996, p. 338-339

GOSPEL MEETINGS

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
Oct. 4 - 7	Goochtown Eubank, KY	J. D. McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
Oct. 5 - 7	Delvinta Beattyville, KY	Joe Hill (Hagerhill, KY)
Oct. 19 - 21	Fayetteville Road Fairburn, GA	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
Oct. 26 - 28	Napoleon Woodland, AL	Joe Hill (Hagerhill, KY)

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Who closed the door of Noah's ark?
2. "Hatred stirreth up strifes", but what does love cover?
3. What was the new name given to Daniel while in captivity?
4. What was Jesus' first miracle?
5. To what preservative does the Lord compare his disciples?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH

...and remember last month's questions?

1. Who did Jesus appear to first after his resurrection?
MARY MAGDALENE (Mark 16:9)
2. Who was Jacob's grandfather? ABRAHAM (Mat. 1:2)
3. What happened to the man who built his house upon the sand?
HIS HOUSE FELL (Mat. 7:27)
4. Who suggested that Jonah be thrown overboard?
JONAH HIMSELF (Jon. 1:12)
5. Which disciple wanted to see the imprint of the nails before he would believe? THOMAS (John 20:24-25)