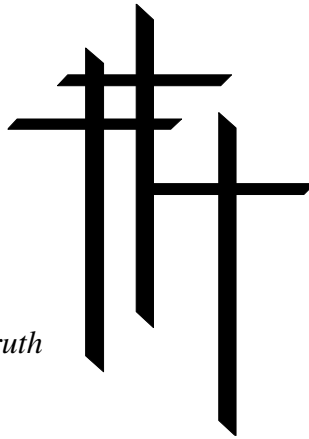


Timely Messenger

*Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth
Speaking the Truth in Love*



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LEARNING THAT LASTS

By Charles W. Wages

“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (2 Tim. 3:14-15)

It is generally accepted that all of us are products of inheritance and the things we have experienced in our environment. However, if the spiritual rela-

tionships are ignored, we are nothing more than natural born sinners. We inherited our natural or sinful nature, and the environment of this world system is certainly not conducive to a life for God.

Our Scripture text teaches us that Timothy had heard and known of the Lord through the Scriptures. This is clearly shown in 2 Timothy 1:5,

“When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois and

thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.”

One thing we can be assured of, salvation does not come by acquired inherited factors from our parents, neither do we come into this world knowing the Scriptures. We learn the Scriptures after salvation by hearing, reading, and studying them diligently. If we reside in the right atmosphere, have the right attitude, and give proper attention to all that God says, we can grow in grace and knowledge of Him and His Word.

Paul admonished Timothy to,

Continue in Things Learned

Learning that lasts is enhanced by a real perseverance or steadfastness in things already known. Many have the mistaken notion that if they have heard a truth one time, they know it forever. Truth, to really be known, must be thought about intensely and lived or practiced seriously. This principle is clearly

stated in James 1:22-25.

“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass. For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he, being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

We learn from Paul’s statement to Timothy that we should,

Continue to Learn Things

The Word surely informs and encourages believers to grow. 1 Peter 1:2 admonishes,

“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”

In Ephesians 4:12, we are instructed that God has given dedicated men (4:11) for,

“The perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”

There are always things to be learned. Old dogs can be taught new tricks. The Word of God is inexhaustible. When a person sees that we are to “rightly divide” the word of truth, and their eyes are opened to dispensational study, new vistas of learning arise on their horizons, and they really take off in mature growth.

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Tim. 2:15)

There is a great impetus to learning when a believing person is sure, not only of their salvation, but of the Scripture knowledge they have attained. It should be

noted that 2 Timothy 2:14 says,

“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of ...”

Secure people tend to secure more and more truth. It has often been noted that children who are continually upset and confused at home, learn far less than children coming from a stable home. There is so much religious confusion in the world, so much false teaching, that it is absolutely imperative that we be “assured” of our salvation, “assured” of the infallibility of the Scriptures and that they are real and relevant for our lives.

Finally, we should see the importance of knowing

Of Whom Thou Hast Learned Them

Reference has already been made in this article to Timothy’s mother and grandmother. No doubt, others were instrumental in helping Timothy. However, the person most responsible for teaching him the

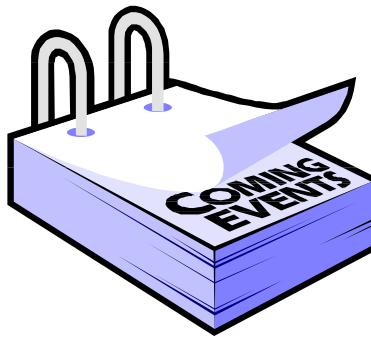
truth for us today was the Apostle Paul. In 2 Timothy 1:13-14, Timothy is told to,

“Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.”

The “fair and honorable trust” (that good thing) was the mystery revealed to Paul by special revelation. He was passing this great truth for our age on to Timothy to be committed “to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:2).

We should know that the Apostle Paul was the divinely chosen and appointed servant of God of whom we learn our position and walk for today. No doubt Timothy acknowledged this, do we?

Learning that lasts depends on a lot of yielding to and wielding of the Word of God. If we heed the instructions of the Word, we will learn at last the learning that lasts.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

June 6-10, 2005

Grace Bible Church will hold their Vacation Bible School June 6-10 this year from 9:30 to 12:00 each morning. There will be singing, Bible study, crafts, and memory verse games. The theme will be: “A Man Called Peter.”

FAMILY BIBLE CAMP

July 4-8, 2005

Our Family Bible Camp will be held July 4-8 this year at Camp Copass in Denton. The theme this year is: “Our Blessed Hope.” This camp is for all ages. See the included information and registration form for more details.

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Gregg Bing — Editor

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Sunday Services:

10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Morning Worship
6:00 PM Evening Worship

Mid-Week Services:

Tues. 10:00 AM Ladies Class
Wed. 7:00 PM Bible Study

ADDRESS CHANGED?

If so, please notify Grace Bible Church. Be sure to include your name, your old address, and your new address. This will help us keep our mailing list current and reduce the cost of postage.

*Thanks for your help
in this matter!*

SEVEN MARKS OF A BIBLE CHRISTIAN

By John LaVier

Reprinted from the August
1950 *Timely Messenger*.

God's people are a SAVED people.

Theirs is not a hope-so salvation, but a know-so salvation. They know on the authority of God's own Holy Word. "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life" (1 John 5:13). Having believed, they are saved from sin. They are saved from the wages of sin, which is death. They are saved from the lake of fire, and the blackness of darkness forever. They are saved, not by their own works, but by God, "Who hath SAVED us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began" (2 Tim. 1:9).

God's people are a SANCTIFIED people.

"But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through SANCTIFICATION of the Spirit and belief of the truth" (2 Thess. 2:13). Like the Corinthians, they were sinners of the deepest dye, yet now it may be said of them: "But ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Cor. 6:11). Sanctification is that work of the Holy Spirit by which the believer, even before he is conscious of his justification, is set apart to God. It is based upon the redemptive work of Christ. "By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Heb.

10:10). Christ Himself becomes the believer's sanctification. "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption" (1 Cor. 1:30).

God's people are a SEPARATED people.

Just as God of old "put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel" (Exo. 11:7), so there is today a difference between the people of God and the people of the world. Jesus said, "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you" (John 15:19). The separation is to be manifested by God's people, for the Lord's command is, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye SEPARATE, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you" (2 Cor. 6:17). Though in the world, God's people are not of the world, and they are to walk in separation from the evil

that surrounds them.

God's people are a SPIRITUAL people.

Paul wrote, "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the SPIRIT, if so be that the SPIRIT of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the SPIRIT of Christ, he is none of his" (Rom. 8:9). All of God's people are indwelt by the Spirit, and their bodies are temples of the Holy Ghost. They are taught by the Spirit (John 14:26), they are led by the Spirit (Rom. 8:14), and they are empowered by the Spirit (Acts 1:8). They should all be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18) and manifest the fruit of the Spirit, which is "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, faith, meekness, temperance" (Gal. 5:22-23).

God's people are a SEALED people.

The believer is instructed, "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are SEALED unto the day of redemption" (Eph. 4:30). Then in

Ephesians 1:13, "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, in whom also after that ye believed, ye were SEALED with that Holy Spirit of promise." The words "after that ye believed" are in the Greek only one word "pisteusantes," which means "believing." Simultaneously with their believing the gospel, God's people are sealed. First, the seal signifies a finished transaction. The work of our redemption has been completed. Jesus cried, "It is finished" (John 19:30). The seal also signifies ownership. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (1 Cor. 6:19-20). They belong to God. His seal is upon them. Finally, the seal signifies security. They are sealed unto the day of redemption. There will be a safe delivery of God's purchased possession at the end of the

line. They are safe and secure in Christ. Sealed in Him so that all the legions of hell cannot touch them.

God's people are a SEATED people.

The Lord Jesus, "after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God" (Heb. 10:12). Those who have trusted Him and are resting in His finished and all-perfect work, are also seated with Him. "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, and hath raised us up together, and made us SIT together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:4-6). The saved are, in very truth, a heavenly people. Their names are written in heaven (Luke 10:20). Their citizenship is in heaven (Phil. 3:20). Their home is in heaven (2 Cor. 5:1). Their blessings are in heaven (Eph. 1:3). Their inheritance is in heaven (1 Pet. 1:4). They are seated in heaven. As members of

the Body, they are there with the Head, seated at the Father's right hand in the heavenly places, "far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come."

God's people are a SATISFIED people.

The prophet asked, "Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not?" (Isa. 55:2) Many there are today who are giving all their time and attention to the things of earth; seeking satisfaction in that which satisfieth not. How happy are those who have found Him Who alone can satisfy. "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! For he SATISFIETH the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness" (Psa. 107:8-9). Lasting joy, and peace, and satisfaction is to be found only in the Lord Jesus Christ. He satisfies.

Daily, hourly, moment by moment, He satisfies. All through life's journey, He satisfies, and when God's children close their eyes to this earthly scene, and open them in the realms of end-

less glory—Ah! then, their satisfaction will be complete. "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be SATISFIED, when I awake, with thy likeness" (Psa. 17:15).

UNLESS THE LORD BUILDS THE HOUSE

By Gregg Bing

Continued from last month

"Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it ..." (Psalm 127:1)



In this series, we have been looking at God's principles for building a godly home (or family) as found in Colossians 3:18-21. The last two months we

looked at God's directive to children to "obey your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord." Now we turn our attention to the responsibility that God has given to parents.

"Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged." (Col. 3:21)

God's Directive to Fathers

The first thing we notice about this verse is that God does not address this directive to "parents" but specifically to "fathers." Why is this the case?

Mothers obviously play a vital role in the raising of

their children. This is seen in Titus 2:4-5, where we read about how the older women in the church are to teach the younger women.

“That they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.”

Clearly the focus of young wives and mothers is to be on their homes. They are taught to “love their husbands,” to “love their children,” and to be “homemakers.” This word “homemakers” is not a description of one who is merely a housekeeper or cleaning woman. The King James Version translates this word as “keepers at home,” an expression which speaks of one who keeps, watches, or guards the home. This is what young wives and mothers are to be—the guardians of their homes. Although society often downplays this role for women, in God’s eyes it is a tremendous

work that is of great value to the family, to society, and to God Himself.

Why then are the instructions of Colossians 3:21 (as well as those of Ephesians 6:4) specifically addressed to fathers? In the same way that the husband is the head of the wife in the marriage relationship, the father is the spiritual head of his household. He is responsible for providing spiritual leadership for his wife and his children. While both parents can and should be involved in raising and providing spiritual training for their children, it is the father’s responsibility to see that this work gets done.

In Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, he gives the same instruction to fathers as he gives in Colossians 3:21, but he adds some responsibilities.

“And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” (Eph. 6:4)

The negative side of a father’s responsibility is to

“not provoke your children to wrath,” while on the positive side a father is told to “bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” We will examine the positive side first.

Bring Your Children Up

Fathers are directed to “bring them up,” an expression which means to raise or to rear, but particularly to nourish or to feed. In general it speaks of supporting them, providing for their needs. This same word is used in Ephesians 5:29 to describe how a man “nourishes” his own body and how Christ “nourishes” the church, which is His body. Oftentimes we hear the husband and father described as the “provider” for the home. Usually this is taken to mean the “breadwinner,” the one who provides for the physical needs of his home and family, things such as food, shelter, clothing, etc. There is no question that the Bible strongly encourages men to provide for their own families.

“But if anyone does not

provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” (1 Thess. 5:8)

While many men are conscientious in providing for their family’s physical needs, there are too many who neglect an even more important area of their family’s needs—their spiritual needs. The spiritual and moral training of children is not the responsibility of the community in which they live; it is not the responsibility of the government (federal, state, or local); it is not the responsibility of the schools; it is not even the responsibility

of the local church. The spiritual and moral training of children is the responsibility of the parents, in particular the fathers! Husbands and fathers are charged by God with providing spiritual leadership for their wives and children in their worship of the Lord, their study of God’s Word, their walk with the Lord, and their service and work for the Lord. This is what it means “to bring them up.”

Next month we will continue this study, looking at two key ways that fathers (and mothers) are to “bring up” their children.

(Continued next month)

My son,
hear the
instruction of
your father, and
do not forsake
the law of your
mother; for they
will be a graceful
ornament on your
head, and chains
about your neck.
—Proverbs 1:8-9

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