

# Fulton County Gospel News

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## The Goodness and Severity of God Towards Youth

**GOD HAS CERTAIN COMMANDS FOR YOUTH:**

"Children obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord", Col. 3:20. God said to parents in the Old Testament, "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him", Prov. 13:24. Here God teaches that the parent who corrects his child, even if punishment is necessary, is showing his love for him! God will chasten every disobedient child whom he loveth, this is HOW he shows his love, Heb. 12:5-6. God first shows his love for a child through the parents who respect his will enough to instruct and train the child in the ways of God. Therefore, even the severity of God, shown in discipline, is also a part of His love. The child who submits to the instruction and discipline of a father who fears God and walks in His ways, is coming under the instruction and care of God! This is good!

### THE CHILD MUST

#### LEARN SELF DISCIPLINE

"Flee also youthful lust: but follow righteousness, faith, love, peace, with them who call on God out of a pure heart", II Tim. 2:22. Even Paul had to exercise self discipline, I Cor. 9:27. The child must come under the doctrine of God and continue therein, for without this he will be lost, I Tim. 4:16. The child has the same obligation to God, to set an example for good, as the adult, I Tim. 4:12. If the parents have been successful in training the child, God says that he will not depart! So children obey your parents and honor them, this command comes from God!

### WELL, WHAT IF THE

#### CHILD WILL NOT

#### OBEY HIS PARENTS?

God gave certain instructions concerning such a child in the Old Testament and gives us an example of what the severity of God is, toward a disobedient child. "If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they

(Continued on Page 2)

## REVIVAL

A real revival begins with an individual's personal relationship with the Father. Remember not to make the least excuse for sin of any kind in your life, for "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" (Prov. 28:13). You can be free from sin—**SELF—Examination:**

I Cor. 4:2—Are you undependable so that you cannot be trusted with responsibilities in the Lord's work? Are you allowing your emotions to be stirred but do nothing about it?

I Cor. 6:19-20—Are you in any way careless with your body? Do you fail to care for it as the temple of the Holy Spirit? Are you guilty of intemperance in eating or drinking?

I Cor. 10:31—Do you take credit for good deeds rather than give the glory to God? Are your statements mostly about "I"? Are your feelings easily hurt? Have you made a pretense of being something that you aren't?

Eph. 3:20—Are you self-conscious rather than Christ conscious? Do you allow feelings of inferiority to keep you from attempting things for God?

Eph. 4:28—Do you underpay? Do you do as little work as possible. Have you been careless in the payment of your debts? Have you sought to evade payment of debts? Do you waste time? Do you waste time for others?

Eph. 4:31—Do you complain? Do you find fault? Are you critical toward any person or thing? Are you irritable or cranky? Do you ever carry hidden anger? Do you get angry? Are you impatient, harsh or unkind to others?

Eph. 5:20—Have you neglected to thank Him for all things? Are you taken up with the cares of this life rather than the Lord and His word?

Phi. 2:14—Do you ever by word or deed seek to hurt someone? Do you gossip? Do you speak unkindly concerning people when they are not present?

Phil. 4:4—Do you carry any bitterness toward God? Have you complained against Him in any way? Have you been dissatisfied with His provision for You? Is there in your heart any unwillingness to obey God fully?

Col. 3:9—Do you engage in empty and unprofitable conversation? Do you ever

lie? Do you ever exaggerate? cheat? Steal? Carefully consider - do you overcharge?

II Tim. 2:22—Do you have any personal habits that you are not pure? Do you allow impure thoughts to stay in your mind? Do you read that which is impure? Are you guilty of lustful looks.

Heb. 10:25—Do you stay away from the meetings of gospel preaching? Do you whisper about other things while God's word is being read or preached. Are you irregular in attendance at services? Do you neglect private prayers, thanksgiving at meals, family devotions? Do you find the Bible uninteresting?

Heb. 13:17—Do you hesitate to submit to leaders in the church or elsewhere? Are you lazy? Do you rebel at requests given to you to help in the work of the gospel? Do you in any way have a stubborn or unteachable spirit?

James 1:27—Have you allowed yourself to become "spotted" by the world? Is your manner of dress pleasing to God? Do you spend beyond what is necessary? Do you neglect to pray about things that you buy?

James 4:6—Do you feel that you are doing quite well as a Christian? That you are not so bad? Do you insist on having your own way? Do you insist on your "rights"?

James 4:11—Have you dishonored Him and hindered His work by criticism? Have you failed to pray regularly for your pastor or other spiritual leaders? Do you find it hard to be corrected? Is there rebellion toward one who wants to restore you? Are you more concerned about what people will think than what will be pleasing to God?

**IF YOU HAVE BEEN HONEST IN THE MATTER OF ADMITTING YOUR SINS, THEN YOU ARE READY FOR GOD'S CLEANSING.** Sins that are admitted, are sins that are confessed and forgiven.

Remember, if the sin is against God, confess it to God, and make things right with God. If the sin is against another person, confess it to God, and make things right with the other one. If the sin is against a group, confess it to God, and make it right with the group. Cleansing comes from confession, and the joy of the Lord will follow. Then the Lord can

(Continued on Page 3)

## The Fulton County Gospel News

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EDITORS: Erwin Cowen  
and James E. Henley.

## Up-To-Date Prayer Life

*"Jacob said, 'O God . . . Deliver me, I pray thee . . .'" (Genesis 32:9, 11).*

Jacob's sin had him in deep trouble. He had cheated his brother, Esau, out of his birthright. Fear had driven him from his homeland. Now, twenty years later, he was going home. He had sent his scouting party ahead. They returned saying, "Your brother . . . is coming to meet you, and four hundred men with him."

"Jacob was greatly afraid and distressed." Knowledge of his sin caused him to jump to the conclusion that his brother was coming to do him harm, when actually he was only coming to welcome him home.

Frightened and distressed, Jacob asked God to deliver him and his family from his brother. Lewis McCurdy writes, "Abraham had set up altars wherever he went and kept his prayers up to date. Apparently Jacob had neglected to follow this example. His prayer deficit had mounted up until it required an agonizing all-night vigil to get things straightened out. Like many others, he waited until he was in serious trouble before he resorted to prayer. His persistent wrestling with God finally brought him victory. However, Jacob would have been a lot more noble if he had kept up the practice of daily intercession during his 20 years of service for Laban, rather than trying to cram it all in on the banks of Jabbok. His neglect caused him much anxiety. Jacob's experience should challenge us to keep our own prayer-life up to date!"

Keep your prayer-life up to date. It will keep you from sin. And it will keep you from fears that cause you to jump to false conclusions.

As someone has said, "Too many people pray only for 'emergency rations' rather than asking for 'daily bread'".

from the pen of — Joe R. Barnett

## The Goodness and (Con't.)

have chastened him, will not hearken unto them: Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place; and they shall say unto the elders of his city, this our son is stubborn and rebellious he will not obey our voice, he is a glutton, and a drunkard. And all the men of the city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shall thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear and fear", Deut. 21:18-21. This is the wrath and severity of God on youth in the Old Testament. Not that God did not love children, he did and does, but when one became a rebellious child (bad apple). God said that the evil should be removed before others were contaminated. The youths who were responsible for nearly thirty other youths losing their lives; it would have been better under the Old law to have killed the two, rather than thirty! Just think how many lives can be touched by one rebellious youth today! Even in the church, the whole church comes before one, or even a few members. God teaches us to withdraw from the one, or few, lest we lose the whole church. Now we are taught that those who disobey God will receive "greater" punishment than those who disobeyed God under the Old Testament, Heb. 10:26-29. The rebellious youth today will not be taken to the elders of the city and stoned to death, but the wrath and severity of the same God will administer unto him a "greater punishment", including the loss of his soul if he dies in rebellion! The parents today who do not maintain discipline over their children and instruct them in the way of the Lord more perfectly, are showing plainly that they neither love their children, nor respect and fear God. The child who is rebellious, is showing plainly that he does not love and honor his parents and fears not the wrath and severity of God! We can not mock God! We may choose the goodness, or the severity of God, we can not have both at the same time. Let youth be warned!

Glynn V. Purdy

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Have you no joys to tell me about? Why do you not share your happiness with me? Tell me what has happened since yesterday to cheer and comfort you. Whatever it was, however big, however small, I prepared it. Show me your gratitude and thank me.

Are you determined to run into no temptations? Have you made up your mind about bad books and bad friendships? They disturb the peace of your soul. Are you going to be kind to that one who has hurt you?

## Message In an Echo

WILL THEY BE EMPTY?

You basic attitude toward the church will determine your performance. The challenges before us are vital—as critical as they can become when you view the love of Christ that we are to communicate to the world. All will give lip service to the need for revival and evangelism, but many will not give their fullest, enthusiastic support to special opportunities. We often wonder why and speculate concerning reasons and motivations. It may be that we have become victims of the critical attitudes of our day. The popular cry is that the church just is not needed, it is irrelevant to basic human need, it is archaic, perpetuating a sterile creed and not the deep love of an eternal God. Only if you believe, to the contrary, that the church is essential, that it alone is equipped to meet desperate human need, that although ancient it is still dynamic, and that its convictions, divinely given, must be passed along in love to every succeeding generation, will it be worthwhile to you to elevate the church to the dominant place in your activities.

We need to mark carefully the impact of these words of Canon Bryan Green:

"Fifty years ago our English churches were full like your American churches are today. But we were satisfied with big congregations that focused on the pulpit, routine attendance is the pew . . . and our shallowness. Consequently, people became disillusioned by an ineffectual church and indifferent to her message. And today our churches are empty.

"Your American churches are crowded with people today, but there is no Biblical or spiritual depth among your laymen. Religion is largely a sentimental Sunday affair which does not radically influence daily life. If something doesn't change, fifty years from now your churches will be as empty as ours are today.

"If I were an American minister, rather than concentrate on the people outside the church I would spend all my time seeking the conversion and deepening of those people who are already church members."

Enough said!!!!!!!

(Taken from the Avondale Advocate, Decatur, Georgia, August 22, 1971.)

Let each one strive to know God's will - not man's.

## Living It Up and Living It Down

James D. Bales

If more people recognized that it takes more time, as a general rule, to "live it down than it does to live it up," this might furnish additional motivation which would keep them from sin. One may live it up for a year and the rest of his life be trying to live it down in the minds of at least some people. The memory, for example, that some of us have of certain people, for the past twenty-five years, is a memory which was built in our association with them in school. It may be that they have changed since this time. This would be our hope, and yet unless we have learned something of them in the meantime to the contrary, we would still not know how they are doing now. This does not mean that we should go about being suspicious of other people, but it does mean that we know of their manner of life many years ago and we have not heard of any change since that time. Thus our only information concerning them is drawn from the period of life wherein they were "living it up".

The Apostle Paul persecuted the church; but the Lord appeared unto him and he became a believer. When Ananias came to him, he heard and obeyed the instructions in Acts 22:16 and became a Christian. He preached Christ in the synagogues. (Acts 9:20) (After a period of years he went up into Jerusalem. We are told however that "when he (Saul) was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: and they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. And he was with them going in and going out at Jerusalem." (Acts 9:26-28) The last the church in Jerusalem had definitely known of Paul was that he had left town as a persecutor of the faith; now they evidently wanted some assurance that he was a changed person instead of being a fifth columnist.

It is obvious that people can repent and change their manner of life. It is equally obvious that an individual ought not to refuse to repent simply because it may take him longer to live down his past than it did to create his past. It is also clear that Christians should not throw stumbling blocks in the path of those who have changed. But it is still true that it usually takes a lot longer to "live it down that it did to live it up". This is just

## From the Mouths of Babes

For several years I have been vitally interested in the teaching of babies in our educational program of the church. I am constantly amazed at what these children learn. Even infants learn far more than we ever believe they would. From these classes some very interesting stories have been related to me by their teachers. I want to share some of them with you.

My favorite story concerns a little girl named Carol who was about 2 years old at the time. One night while sitting on her fathers' lap as he studied his Bible lesson she noticed a picture of man. "Who is that man?" she asked her Dad. "That's Moses", he replied. "Oh", said Carol, "I knew him when he was a baby". Of course she had been studying about baby Moses in her class.

Another favorite concerns a little boy named Dallas. One day while riding in the car with his mother, he began talking about his friend down the street coming to live with him. His mother explained that the friend couldn't do that because his father loved him like Dallas' father loved him. After a minute he said, "I have the best daddy in the whole world". Then lifting his head toward heaven he said, "Ain't that right God?"

One of our teachers told how she had taught the story of the good Samaritan. She had been extremely careful to say samaritan so they would understand what she was saying. When she finished one of the boys named Kyle said, "Tell us again teacher". When she asked what he wanted to hear again, he said, "Tell us about the good american".

What would you say to a two year old who, when told the story of Hannah, insisted upon being told "where is Hannah now"? Or to a two year old boy who wanted his tiny baby sister put in a laundry basket because that was how Moses was taken care of?

Kids! How we love them. What better way to show that love than to have them in Bible class every time the church meets. We have a class for the babies and you would be surprised what they learn. Won't you bring your child and enroll it in class this week?

a fact of experience which we may ignore at times and pay for later.

There are many things that should keep one from a life of sin. And one of those things, although it may not be the strongest motivation actor, is that it may take a lot longer to live it down than to live it up. One might also remember that illusion is often times brief while repentance is long.

## A Whole Life

Joe R. Barnett

Many boys and girls retreat from a commitment to God for fear of losing the joys and pleasures of the world. They feel that religion is the foe of an exciting, happy life. They plan to seek peace with God after they have had their fling.

The Christian life is not only for the nonadventurous and the aged. That's the devil's deceit. Nothing can contribute so much to a person's happiness as remembering God in the days of youth. I have heard the despondent say, "I wish I had never been born." Even good men, such as Job and Jeremiah, cursed the day of their birth. But have you every known of a person to curse the day of his "new birth?"

The longer one delays the hour of decision the less likely it becomes. Interest in Christ fades, Satan entices and evil habits enslave. Then the possibility of spiritual arousal and salvation is slim.

About the only thing which will bring one to Christ in later years will be his need of escape from his problems. After he has strayed into the far country and wallowed in misery, as a last hope he may say, "I will arise and go to my father."

It is much better to "remember" God than to one day try to get "re-acquainted" with him. To "forget" God is terrible. Listen. "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God" Psalms 9:17.

It is marvelous to see an adult snatched "from sin and the grave". But it is even more glorious to see a child converted to Christ. He brings a whole life to the Master.

## REVIVAL (CON'T.)

use you mightily and a real revival has begun. Psalm 19:12—"Who can understand his errors? Cleanse thou me from secret faults."

A SURGEON'S RESOLVE—The little girl lay on the operating table. The surgeon told her, "I will put you to sleep so you will suffer no pain". She said "Mister, before you put me to sleep, I must say my prayer — Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep . . ." The surgeon then said to the Nurse, "Before every operation there is something I never fail to do, and that is to pray to God to steady my hand." The nurse said, "My prayer goes along with yours. SO BE IT. AMEN."

Submitted by G. A. Ammann

# Good Fathers, Bad Children The Launching Pad

## IS THIS POSSIBLE?

This is a question which no doubt will never reach agreement in the minds of all people. Yet, there could be some light shed on it, if we will examine the Scriptures, which could be helpful to any parent. Often we hear something like this; "Well, I just don't know what could have happened to this child, he has the finest parents in the world." Could this be possible? Some help toward the answer will be presented later, Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21.

### Aaron

From reading the Bible, we learn that Aaron was the first high priest under the law of Moses, a fine man who seemed to please God and do his will. Yet the first and second sons of Aaron come under the wrath of God and were consumed by fire, Lev. 10:1-2. They had disobeyed God by obtaining fire from a source which God has not commanded. Aaron had four sons; Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. Eli

Eli was a descendant of Aaron, through Ithamar, the youngest son of Aaron. He was the first of the line of Ithamar to become high priest. The priesthood had been from Eleazar, until Eli, and was returned to his descendants during the reign of Solomon, in the person of Zadok. Eli allowed his sons Hophni and Phinehas (I Sam. 2:22-25) to corrupt themselves and the worship of God. Therefore, God allowed the Philistines to take the ark of the covenant and slay these two sons of Eli. There was not a blemish on Eli's character, on the contrary, his life is marked by eminent piety as he meekly submitted to the will of God, in his personal life.

### Samuel

Samuel was truly a man of God. He was the last judge of Israel, and God allowed him to anoint the first and second kings of Israel (Saul & David). It was because Samuel, when he was old, let his two sons (Joel & Abiah) serve in the position of judges, that the people rebelled against God and demanded a king like the other nations. His sons were bribed and perverted the judgment of the people, I Sam. 8. It seems that if Samuel had been able to control his sons, that the Israelites would have continued under the system of government which God had given them. Space is too short to go into detail of the problems and causes of Aaron, Eli and Samuel, so it would be of much profit if you would make a full study of each case.

### Today

God has commanded that man earn his bread by the sweat of his face, and if he

does not work he is not to eat. He is the head of his family and if he does not provide for them he is worse than an infidel. He is to bring his children up in the teaching and correction of God, Gen. 3:19; 2 Thess. 3:10; Eph. 5:23; I Tim. 5:8; Eph. 6:4. Therefore the father has an obligation, a command from God, to provide for his children, both spiritually and physically, and the spiritual comes first, Matt. 6:33. Too many "good" men today are too busy doing the Lord's work (?) like Aaron, Eli, Samuel, the priest and the Levite) to take care of the first duty assigned them by God, their own family. Many preachers neglect their own children, while they think they are doing their duty, instructing other children. Many good (?) fathers who are members of the church, are too busy providing for the physical needs of their children, to provide for their spiritual needs. While preparing for the future of their children, they lose them at the present! Can a father really be a good father and "neglect" to do for his children what God has charged him to do? IS THIS OUR ANSWER? THINK ABOUT IT!

Glynn V. Purdy

## GOSPEL MEETING

The Church of Christ at Mammoth Spring, Ark. plans a three night meeting November 30th through December 2nd. Bro. Boyd Morgan will be the speaker. Services at 7:30 Friday and Saturday nights; 6:30 p.m. on Sunday night.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Viola Church of Christ . . .	\$5.00
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Jeff Church of Christ . . .	\$5.00

Some parents never learn that their children are not given them as permanent property, but merely as theirs to prepare and "launch". Many children have been ruined because mother and dad never instilled a spirit of independence within them but rather made all provisions as if they would remain forever at home . . . and some children have! This type parent cannot bear the thought of his children growing up and leaving home, to make their own life. This is a domestic and spiritual tragedy!

One as common and as pathetic is the man who lives as if this world is to be "home" forever, as if time were a never-ending commodity. This could not be further from God's truth, however, or, for that matter, from pure common sense. How many years will it take before you are forgotten completely upon this earth? Only the most notable of history have left an account of their words and deeds, and even the authenticity of some of those are hotly contested. Even granite grave markers eventually wear away (have you ever visited one of those old cemeteries where you couldn't even read the chisel marks of the stones less than one hundred years old?).

Someone has well observed that this life is merely a "launching pad" and we are preparing to be hurled into eternity. This accords with God's word: "You are like a thin fog, which appears for a moment and then disappears" (James 4:14). "I appeal to you, my friends, as strangers and refugees in this world! Do not give in to bodily passions, which are always at war against the soul" (I Peter 2:11). Are you like the blind parent, unaware that there comes a time of separation? Are you making plans to be here forever, or are you aware that you are just "passing through?" Are you trying to build concrete foundations or are you driving tent pins? It makes all the difference in the world (and the next) how you answer these questions!

—Bob Mize

Rosa Ragsdale  
Mammoth Spring, Arkansas 72567

The reason that gossip is so quick to pass on a rumor is that he feels he must tell it before he finds out it isn't true.