

## ARE WE TRAINING OUR CHILDREN?

Mike Thomas

A little boy came to his father and asked him, "Dad, who made God?" The father, engrossed in the evening paper, responded, "Beats me, son." The little boy would not be put off. "Dad, why is the earth round?" The dad answered, "I don't know, son." The boy played for a minute, then asked, "Dad, is there life on other planets?" The father patiently answered, "Nobody knows the answer to that." Finally the boy asked his father, "Dad, do you mind me asking you all these questions?" The father put down his paper, "Why not at all son," he said, "How else are you going learn?"

Fathers, are we *training* our children to know God? Mothers, are you *showing* your children how to have faith in God? Opportunities to talk to our children about God's greatness and love will come when we least expect it. Anticipate such encounters by being prepared to give a reason for the hope that is within us. Our goal with our children is the same we would have with winning anyone to the Lord — "*that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light*" (1 Pet. 2:9). The greater advantage, of course, is that we should have more time and trust in winning our children to the Lord. Our family life should present us with more opportunity to show our children an example of God's love and righteous judgment.

If you are wrong, correct it. If you are right, endure it with conviction. If you are negligent, repent. If you are scared, pray. No other task should have the priority of saving our family from sin and introducing them to God (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14, 15). -

Welcome to our services and thank you for visiting. If you have any questions about our beliefs or practices, please don't hesitate to ask.

God has not only commanded us to worship Him, but has also told us how, in His word. **The elements of our services, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:**

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7



### COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00  
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00  
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00

- [www.defendthegospel.com](http://www.defendthegospel.com)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
- Men's Business Meeting. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday evenings following services.



## SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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"They...searched the scriptures daily..." —Acts 17:11

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### PARENTAL DON'TS

Michael Pickford

As part of providing protection for their children, parents often have to tell them, "Don't do this," or "Don't do that." As our Father in heaven, there are many times when God tells us "don't"...

**DON'T SLOUCH.** Children often have the tendency to slouch in their seat, or while they stand or walk; and parents will say, "Don't slouch." Also figuratively, children will sometimes slouch when it comes to their chores, or their homework; and their parents will tell them, "Don't slouch." But sadly, when it comes to the spiritual family, there are those who slouch in the kingdom of God. They have adopted the "do-nothing Christianity" mentality. And God is saying in His word, "Don't slouch!" Romans 12:11 says, "Not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord." Folks sometimes slouch in their attendance (Hebrews 10:25), their prayer life (1 Thessalonians 5:17), their soul winning (Acts 8:4), their exhortation of brethren (Hebrews 3:12-13), and the list goes on. Don't slouch!

**DON'T SQUABBLE.** "v. To engage in a disagreeable argument, usually over a trivial matter; wrangle. n. A noisy quarrel, usually about a trivial matter." This is certainly one I'm familiar with, having grown up with a brother close to my age. As many brothers do, we certainly had our share of arguments, fights and squabbles. It's never a good thing when brothers and sisters in Christ squabble over trivial matters (Romans 14:1-8). Many friendships and churches have suffered division over senseless squabbles. I've seen some of the worse squabbles among God's children over the color of the carpet, whether the fan should be on or off, or what kind of curtains should be hung in the auditorium. Shameful! As brethren, we must strive to "Avoid foolish disputes" (Titus 3:9). God says "Don't squabble!"

**DON'T SLIP.** When going out the door to go down those snow and ice covered steps, our mom would say, "Don't slip." In a figurative sense, people in the kingdom will sometimes slip. They'll slip back into the world (2 Peter 2:20). They'll slip back into sin (James 5:19). They'll slip back into spiritual darkness in the kingdom of the evil one. Well, God is saying in His word, "Don't slip!" We must "Give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away" (Hebrews 2:1). Be faithful until death (Revelation 2:10). Don't Slip! 🔍

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## NEEDY CHILDREN

Michael Pickford

It is tragic that so many children in this world are in situations of great poverty, not possessing even the most basic needs for the support of life. More tragic still are those children in need of a proper upbringing by strong, supportive, godly parents. It is essential for parents to realize that their children need proper...

**DIRECTION.** "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). A New Testament counterpart to this bit of divine wisdom says "Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). The first passage mentions the way he should go; the second tells us what this way is: The training and admonition of the Lord. Too many children are being directed in any way but the Lord's way; even those being brought up by "Christian parents." Often, more emphasis is placed on sports, making good grades in school, securing a lucrative career, etc. than on putting the Lord and His work first regardless of the sacrifices that must be made. By the way, if you train them up in the way they shouldn't go, they are likely to take that path.

**DISCIPLINE.** In speaking of "Needy" children today, it seems painfully obvious that too many children are neglected when it comes to discipline. The old adage "Spare the rod, spoil the child" is not found in the Bible, but the concept is certainly taught, and in much stronger terms. A small sample of such passages says "He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly." The world has this backwards, saying that a parent hates his child when he whips him. As a consequence, children are brought up with no respect for authority. What a disservice toward a child to withhold the rod! I guarantee you that when he gets out into the world and disrespects the rules the result will be pain! It won't be viewed as "Cute" or "Funny." If your child is "Begging for a whipping," show him your love and give it to him!

**DEMONSTRATION.** My children need to see me living the right kind of life. All too often the child of a drunk will himself become a drunk. The same is true of a spouse abuser, smoker, etc. Demonstrate to them a faithful walk with God; show him the way and he is likely to follow. Children are insightfully sensitive to hypocrisy. Supply spiritual needs to your children! 🔍



# FATHERS!

*Be Patient  
Be Persistent  
Be Present*

## SERMON NOTES

*Search the scriptures daily to see if these things are so.*

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY  
DAILY!  
Acts  
17:11**

### DUTY LIST...

#### SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Sam Miller  
Reading: Psalm 15:1-5
- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Opening Prayer.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table:
  - Lead.....Tony Jenkins
  - Serve.....Michael Pickford
  - Serve.....Frank Anderson
- Closing Prayer.....Kenny Todd

#### SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Johnson
- Invitation.....Kenny Johnson

#### WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Kenny Johnson
- Invitation.....Michael Pickford

## Thank You For Serving!

### GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16;  
Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

***Obey Today!***

***Home Bible Studies  
Available Upon Request!***