

God placed the responsibility of teaching children about the Lord and His will on their fathers (Ephesians 6:4). If a father is not present or is delinquent in his duty, the mother must step forward to assume the work. Timothy's father was not Jewish and apparently an unbeliever, so Timothy was taught the Bible by his mother and grandmother (II Timothy 1:5; 3:15). But whomever the teacher, it is meant to be in the home and the instruction of our children in the word of God viewed as critical!

Now it is a shame that the Bible cannot be read in public school and that the accomplishments and contributions of Bible-believing people in history is being either rewritten or blatantly removed; but God does not depend on the school system to teach children anyway. And neither should we.

It is wonderful that most congregations of the Lord's people arrange for children to study the Bible in classes, but God has not mandated that be the case everywhere, all the time. And even if children are

involved in two or three class hours a week, it will fall short of what is needed to successfully bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

As much as we might think it important to send our children to school to educate them in the "3 R's", more important still is the learning of the Lord. As much as we might think it important to expose young people to extra-curricular activities, i.e. Scouting, sports, hobbies, outings, etc., more important than these, is their exposure to spiritual matters. As much as we might think that working hard to feed, clothe and shelter the kids is important, more important still, is equipping their souls with these three things.

Now, I understand and am sympathetic to the difficulties in balancing our lives to best rear our children in an all-around sort of way. I have five and can well relate. But my friends, we have got to place our teaching of the Scriptures to our children at the top of our priority list. Since we think they should have a

good education, we schedule practically everything to accommodate their going to school. If we want them to have piano lessons, play soccer, or have a coin collection, we write notes and place them on the refrigerator to remind us of it, speed up supper to go to this or that, and generally go to all lengths to get it done. Why? Because it is a priority and it is obvious by the way we treat other activities of lesser importance. They get placed on the "back burner".

If we are to teach our children the way of the Lord it will have to be likewise prioritized. Reminders on the refrigerator may help. Rising a half hour earlier may be required. Canceling another event, in order to make time for it, may have to take place. But whatever approach you take, just do it! If we don't, our children may not go to heaven when they die and we may sorrow in our older days when they grow up to care nothing for the ways of the Lord.

Now, I don't mean to say that you have to read X-amount of chapters a day, but do teach them the will of the Lord everyday. You might

wish to do different things, eg. discuss moral issues, read Bible story books, pray and sing together, etc. Of course, you must not neglect actual reading of the Word of God, too. Get a good modern translation of the Book and keep it accessible. Get each of the children their own Bible when they get old enough to read. Make them to take it to all the church assemblies. Read to them at home. Let them read to you.

Last of all, let me say that because we are creatures of habit, all this will best be accomplished by developing a routine of home Bible study. Like brushing their teeth, a habit of Bible study will go a LONG way in getting the job done. Though you may wish to take advantage of the classes of the church and only do home devotionals on the other five days of the week, nonetheless make it a daily routine. When you wait for a convenient time to open up for it, it doubtless will happen less often than it should So, make time for God. Make a habit of it. And feel guilty when a day goes by and you have failed to open the Book with those precious little ones.

**We are the Lord's church  
which meets at:**  
3601 E. Newberry Street  
Appleton, Wisconsin 54915

**Building telephone**  
920-733-5009

**Whit Sasser (evangelist)**  
920-759-0254

**E-mail**  
wsasser@tds.net

**Internet Website**  
[www.appletonchurchofchrist.org](http://www.appletonchurchofchrist.org)

### **Service Times**

#### **Sunday**

Bible Classes - 9:30 a.m.  
General Worship - 10:30 a.m.  
Evening Worship - 6:00 p.m.

#### **Wednesday**

Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.

*The Appleton church of Christ is totally  
undenominational*

# **TEACHING OUR CHILDREN**

