

The Family Time

December 10, 2014

By: *Pastor Cameron Bowen*



Deuteronomy 11:26 Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse;

Deuteronomy 11:27 A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day:

Deuteronomy 11:28 And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.

In the past few sessions, we have been looking at the youthful lives of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah and Moses. We have established that the decision making of our youth in later years depends to a great degree upon their training during the early years. That is why it is so important that we recognize how significant the early years are.

1. But few parents realize that their children are what their example and discipline has made them, and that they are responsible for the characters their children develop.
2. If the hearts of Christian parents were in obedience to the will of Christ, they would obey the injunction of the heavenly Teacher: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."
3. If those who profess to be followers of Christ would do this, they would give not only to their children, but to the unbelieving world, examples that would rightly represent the religion of the Bible.
4. If Christian parents lived in obedience to the requirements of the divine Teacher, they would preserve simplicity in eating and in dressing more in accordance with natural law.
5. They would not then devote so much time to artificial life in making cares and burdens for themselves that Christ has not laid upon them, but positively bade them avoid.
6. If the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, were the first and all important consideration with parents, but little precious time would be lost in needless ornamentation of the outward, while the minds of their children are almost entirely neglected.
7. The precious time devoted by many parents to dressing their children for display in their scenes of amusement might better, far better, be spent in cultivating their own minds, in order that they may be competent to properly instruct their children.
8. It is not essential to the happiness of these parents to use precious probationary time God has lent them, in dressing, in visiting, and gossiping. *{The Health Reformer, December 1, 1872 par. 11}*

Time wasted can never be regained. Opportunities lost can never be replaced. Listen to this from Baby Center News



Kids' brains develop faster than their bodies grow. Young children grow much more slowly than other mammals because their developing brains require so much energy to prepare for the challenges of later life. Researchers analyzed data from PET and MRI brain scans and found that enormous amounts of energy are used by the human brain in the first few years of life, which means physical growth has to take a back seat during that time. *Baby Center News, Tuesday, August 26, 2014*



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This is why: The Health Reformer, December 1, 1872 par. 13 says:

- 1.** Parents will never realize the almost infinite value of the time they misspend until the final settlement, when the cases of all will be decided, and the acts of our entire life are opened to our view in the presence of God, and the Lamb, and all the holy angels.
- 2.** Very many parents will then see that their wrong course determined the destiny of their children.
- 3.** Not only have they failed to secure for themselves the words of commendation from the King of glory, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord;" but they hear the terrible denunciation, Depart.
- 4.** This separates their children forever from the joys and glories of Heaven, and from the presence of Christ.
- 5.** And they themselves also come under his denunciation, Depart, "thou wicked and slothful servant." Jesus will never say, "Well done," to those who have not earned the well done by their faithful lives of self-denial and self sacrifice to do others good, and to promote his glory.
- 6.** Those who have lived principally to please themselves instead of doing others good are meeting with infinite loss. *{The Health Reformer, December 1, 1872 par. 13}*