

The Family Time

December 11, 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.

We are asked to choose the path that God has laid before us. That choice is up to us. Satan has no power over us that we do not give him.

We are not to follow Christ fitfully or capriciously, only when it is for our advantage. We must choose to follow Him. In daily life we must follow His example, as a flock trustfully follows its shepherd. We are to follow Him by suffering for His sake, saying at every step, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him" (Job 13:15). His life practice must be our life practice. And as we thus seek to be like Him and to bring our wills into conformity to His will we shall reveal Him. *{HP 298.3}*

This is important, because the work of parenting is serious. The consequences for ignoring the importance of the work in the home are severe. We cannot afford to waste a moment or an opportunity to prepare ourselves and our households for the Kingdom of Heaven. We must be committed to doing the work that God has entrusted to us.

- 1.** In order to arouse the moral sensibilities of your children to the claims that God has upon them, you should imprint upon their minds and hearts how to obey the laws of God in their physical frames; for health has a great deal to do with their intellect and morals.
- 2.** If they have health and purity of heart, they are then better prepared to live and be a blessing to the world.
- 3.** To balance their minds in the right direction and at the right time is a most important work; for very much depends on the decisions made at the critical moment.
- 4.** How important, then, that the minds of parents should be as free as possible from perplexing, wearing care in needless things, that they may think and act with calm consideration, wisdom, and love, making the physical and moral health of their children the first and highest consideration.
- 5.** The inward adorning should be the great object for parents to attain for their dear children.
- 6.** Parents cannot afford to have visitors and strangers claim their attention, and rob them of life's great capital, *which is time*, making it impossible for them to give their children patient instruction, which they must have every day to give right direction to their developing minds. *{The Health Reformer, December 1, 1872 par. 15}*



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So let's not waste time. Let us redeem the time. Let us make the necessary changes now.

This lifetime is too short to be squandered in vain and trifling diversion, in unprofitable visiting, in needless dressing for display, or in exciting amusements. We cannot afford to squander time given us of God to bless others, and for us to improve in laying up a treasure for ourselves in Heaven. We have none too much time for the discharge of necessary duties. We should give time for the culture of our own hearts and minds, in order to qualify us for our life's work. To neglect these essential duties, in conforming to the habits and customs of fashionable, worldly society, is doing ourselves and our children a great wrong. *{The Health Reformer, December 1, 1872 par. 16}*

And while we seek not to neglect our responsibilities, let us give as much encouragement as we can to our children, as we lead them in path of righteousness.

Many children, for want of words of encouragement, and a little assistance in their efforts in childhood and youth, become disheartened, and change from one thing to another. And they carry this sad defect with them in mature life. They cannot make a success of anything they engage in; for they have not been taught to persevere under discouraging circumstances. Thus the entire lifetime of many proves a failure because they did not have correct discipline. The education in childhood and youth not only affects their entire business career in mature life, but the religious experience bears a corresponding stamp. *{CE 15.2}*