



Clady Water Baptist Church

Beacon

'Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path' (Psalm 119:105).

Freely Provided

Summer 2009

Our Children, Our Future

by Matt Parrow

Today's children are tomorrow's future. One of our greatest concerns should be the children we are forming into tomorrow's adults. Sure, we desire to rear children into morally responsible people who can benefit society. Eminently more important is *our* responsibility to see them develop into spiritual adults with a love for God and His Word.

The person of highest honour in Christianity is its namesake, Jesus Christ. More than being a good man, Jesus was God in the flesh (Philippians 2:5-11). We may rightly say that Christ's thoughts, words and actions were the thoughts, words and actions of God Himself. So how did Jesus view children? Consider some of the following examples of God's view of children.

The Bible – A Child's Book

The Bible speaks often of children. One of the greatest examples of this can be found in the Proverbs of Solomon. The book of Proverbs, stresses parental responsibility, as well as childhood respect and honour.

The Bible remains the greatest literary achievement of all time. As a piece of literature, apart from its spiritual nature, the Bible stands above the works of Homer, Shakespeare, Milton, Chaucer, and any other great writer of any century. The poetry astounds; the prose stimulates; the narrative excites.

While modern scholars attempt to overthrow the accuracy and integrity of God's Word, they cannot argue against the Bible's history. Political leaders have been attempting to destroy the Bible for centuries, but this amazing Book remains the most published, copied, and purchased volume in history. In spite of the numerous copies, scholars find 93% agreement among all the copies in existence.

This great literary work, the supernaturally preserved Word of God, can still capture the minds of children. Noah and the Ark, Moses and the Red Sea, David and Goliath, Jonah and the whale, are timeless stories ingrained in most children from a very early age. Bible stories extol virtue and frown upon vice. Bible heroes are real people, and



Priorities

Charles Francis Adams, 19th century political figure and diplomat, kept a diary. One day he entered: 'Went fishing with my son today - a day wasted.' His son, Brook Adams, also kept a diary, which is still in existence. On that same day, Brook Adams made this entry: 'Went fishing with my father - the most wonderful day of my life!' The father thought he was wasting his time while fishing with his son, but his son saw it as an investment of time. The only way to tell the difference between wasting and investing is to know one's ultimate purpose in life and to judge accordingly.

(Silas Shotwell, in *Homemade*, September 1987)

their faults lie at the heart of many of the stories. As children learn the truth behind these stories, their spiritual and moral senses are awakened, and realisation of their own responsibilities to God and to other people dawns upon them.

H. G. Wells, himself no advocate of Christianity, wrote that ‘the Bible has been the Book that held together the fabric of Western civilisation.... The civilisation we possess could not have come into existence and could not have been sustained without it.’ As we train and commission our children to carry the torch to the next generation, we must instil a knowledge both of the Bible and of its Author.

Born Again – A Child’s Faith

And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 18:2-4).

Jesus taught the necessity of people being born again. Nicodemus, a great religious leader in his day, questioned Christ one night. As a Jewish leader, Nicodemus

recognised that Christ’s unique ministry distinguished Him from other prophets. Although Nicodemus was an extremely religious man, Christ informed him that before people can enter God’s kingdom they must be born again. The truth rings true today: *‘Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God’* (John 3:3). Christ likened the spiritual birth to physical birth.

Some time later in the city of Capernaum with His disciples, Christ repeated the necessity of child-like faith. They questioned Christ concerning their ranking in the kingdom of heaven. In response, Christ beckoned to a little child. With all eyes on the lad, Christ issued an unexpected warning: *‘Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven’* (Matthew 18:3). Judas Iscariot, standing in that group of disciples, would never enter the kingdom of heaven because he never heeded Christ’s words.

Any individual, from the highest religious leader to the lowest traitor, must come to the point of child-like faith before they can enter the kingdom of God. If your children are to be born again, you can be the greatest example to them. Have you ever trusted

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WHY DO YOU GUYS KEEP COMPLAINING ABOUT DOGMA? WHAT'S WRONG WITH DOGMA? MAYBE DOGMA IS A GOOD THING, EVER THINK OF THAT?

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Christ as your Saviour?

The offer does not stand for parents alone. Any person can be saved, regardless of their past or present condition. Perhaps you think you are too religious to make this decision. Becoming like a little child involves humility. Perhaps you feel that you have done too much wrong for Christ to ever want you. You cannot sink lower than Christ is willing to go to save you. The greatest decision you can ever make in your life is the decision to trust your eternity to Jesus Christ.

We should not be surprised to find children as an example of faith. Simply defined, faith is dependence. The life of an infant or toddler supplies a perfect picture of faith. Everything that child does depends upon the aid of others. An infant possesses no ability to provide food, clothing, housing, or transportation for itself. That child places all of its 'faith' upon parents or minders. In the same manner, adults must have the spiritual faith demonstrated physically by a little child.

Statistics indicate that most believers today placed faith in Christ at an early age. As a person grows older, faith in someone or something else becomes harder. Self-sufficiency crowds dependence. Human reasoning replaces faith. We must reach our children before they outgrow their natural child-like faith.

The Millstone – A Child's Promise

And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea (Matthew 18:5-6).

You don't have to watch television or read the newspaper often to find tragic stories of child abuse. Parental neglect occurs far too

Diamonds

IN THE ROUGH

*A diamond in the rough,
Is a diamond sure enough;
For before it ever sparkles,
It is made of diamond stuff!
Of course someone must find it,
Or it never will be found;
And then someone must grind it,
Or it never will be ground;
But when it's found and when it's ground,
And when it's burnished bright,
It sparkles everlastingly,
Just shooting forth its light!
So parent of the little child,
Don't say, "I've had enough,"
That little mischievous toddler,
May be a diamond in the rough.
Perhaps you think he's grinding you,
And maybe you are right,
But possibly you need the grinding,
To finish you out bright!*



Advance Notice!

Special Meetings

**with guest speaker
Lawrence Kennedy**

Clady Water Baptist Church

**19-22 October
Beginning at 7.30 each evening**

Plan now to attend!

often. Molestation by religious figures offends the conscience of our nation and shreds the fabric of society.

These societal blights cry out for justice. So many events occur that we ask ourselves if there is any justice for the children. If Christ loves children so much, then why must they suffer because of vulnerability?

We must admit truthfully that not every case surfaces. While our justice system works well, sometimes the offenders find loopholes. In spite of this, Christ promised to exact unfailing justice upon those who 'offend' the vulnerable children.

Regarding the future of those who harm our children, Christ said that they would be better off to have someone take a millstone, tie it to their neck, and cast them into the depths of the sea. That picture, Christ said, is *better* than the punishment they will receive from the ultimate Judge for their offence.

'Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven' (Matthew 18:10).

Jesus Christ – A Child's God

Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, 'Suffer little children, and forbid them not to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.' (Matthew 19:13-14).

Christ's ministry emphasised the importance of the downtrodden of society. Political activists today tells us that we live in a man's world. They would do well to go back two thousand years and experience society before the time of Christ. Men were considered the ultimate part of society. Women, children, handicapped, and the elderly mattered little in that society. When

we read of Christ's ministry, we find Him often among these people. He spent time healing the sick, dealing with women on a peerage level with men, and caring for children.

On a hillside near the Sea of Galilee one day, a crowd of more than five thousand men had gathered. After spending all day listening to Christ preach, the people became hungry. While the disciples fretted over the lack of food, a young boy brought a simple lunch to Christ. Taking the small meal, Christ fed all the people there and still had leftovers.

In the passage mentioned above, people sought Christ's blessing for their children. In typical adult fashion, the disciples sought to protect Christ from such mundane things. Christ rebuked the disciples and blessed the children, spending time with them. The scene touches the heart: Christ, with the children gathered about Him, investing His valuable time on the future.

If Christ, busy as He was, invested time in the next generation, should we as parents not be willing also to spend quality time with our children? Our time with them swiftly passes; we must give of our time to them today.

~ End ~

Over 50?

Don't forget the

Friendship Hour

at Clady Water Baptist Church
on the first Wednesday
of each month.

Meetings begin at 2.30

Problem Kids

by Stephen Moore

Have you ever been a victim of antisocial behaviour caused by roaming children and teenagers? During the school holidays, the problem of antisocial behaviour seems to intensify. But we must ask ourselves the question: *Is it always the children's fault?* Certainly there are children who behave badly in spite their parents' best efforts, but for many children better behaviour would be a natural result of greater interest on the part of parents or guardians. Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, called children a gift from God. *Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward*' (Psalm 127:3). Sadly, many parents take no interest in the comings and goings of their children, and have no desire to rear them with respect for others and with the fear of the Lord.

Children should be loved

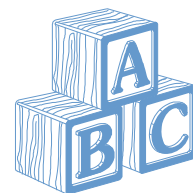
Parents have no interest because they fail to see their children as a gift from God. Therefore, they feel no obligation to rear children in accordance with the guidelines God has

established in His Word. Parents should love their children in the same manner that God loves His children - unconditionally.

In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him" (1 John 4:9). Our society will continue to suffer until parents decide to take an active role in the lives of their children. Our children crave love, and we must be mirrors of the unconditional love of God.

Children should be disciplined

'The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame' (Proverbs 29:15). Today's society frowns upon the discussion of child discipline. Today's taboo about discipline stems from two problems. First, uncontrolled discipline is child abuse. Child abuse blights today's society. Children should never have to live in fear of volatile parents. The problem with child abuse lies with the parents, not the system.



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Countdown Club

For boys & girls ages 3 - 11

Every Friday 7:00-8:15 pm

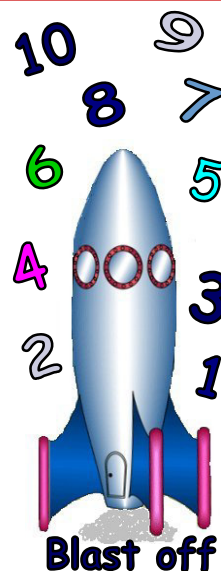
Exciting Games! New Songs!

Puppets! Memory Verses!

Hear exciting Bible stories filled with adventure!!

Clady Water Baptist Church

Clady Road, Templepatrick



Clady Water Parents & Tots Club



Parents! Need a break?
Spend the morning with us!

Parents enjoy -
*A break!
Tea, food & fellowship
Some adult conversation
Did we mention a break?*

Tots enjoy -
*Toys!
Food!
Songs!
Games!*

*We meet at the church every Thursday during school terms
10 - 11:30 AM*

For more information ring Michelle on 07765465730

S C A Z T U Q I J T M I R I A M
B I S A A C D N B O F P H R B C
E O T H V B E L A E S X O J G U
T K O I K M E X M C L I D L S D
Y R E L M B T L R G E U A N G O
M I W F O O Y P T W I Y I H X A
D O A J S E T B E D R A K O L E
G X D S E C N H A Q U N J R B H
E R G L S O B I Y E C N O W E U
A F D N F E O P U M T H S A N O
H I S A M U E L R V I P E B J P
Z P H X V Q N C A D R L P T A D
O J Y E V I T Y P G J O H N M A
C F M S F U D K B C M R F X I J
M J E S U S O L P T H C A I N K
L S I A H N E H Z I D G S E A Y

Word Search

Find the names
of people the Bible
mentions as
children or teens.

CAIN
ABEL
ISAAC
JOSEPH
BENJAMIN
MOSES
MIRIAM
SAMUEL
DAVID
JOSIAH
JOHN
JESUS
RHODA
TIMOTHY

Second, even within families where child abuse is not a problem, discipline does not work because of a misunderstanding of true discipline. The word 'discipline' literally means 'to make a disciple of.' The purpose of child discipline is not solely to develop that child into a respectable adult. While self-discipline results from proper child discipline, the real aim should be the development of a disciple of Christ. This aim supposes that the parents are themselves born again, and able to develop Christ-likeness in the child. Self-discipline and respectability flow naturally from true discipline.

Children should be taught

'Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it' (Proverbs 22:6). Parents have the responsibility to set a course for their children. Although babies look so nice and seem so innocent, they are not naturally good people. Before a sporting event, officials set boundaries for the coming contest. Whether those boundaries mark a long course for a marathon or golf course, or a football pitch, the nature of the event demands bounds. Life needs boundaries. Adults refer to life's boundaries as laws. Break a civil law, and punishment will result.

The same rule applies to every area of life. Parents have the responsibility to mark the course for a child's life.

Without these life boundaries, a child roams, purposeless and confused. Parents must train their children to respect others, to live moral lives, and most of all to believe the message of the gospel: that Jesus Christ died and rose again to pay the price for sin. Society will continue to suffer, unless parents decide to take control of their children today.

Johns Hopkins University researchers report that 30 years ago, the five greatest fears of 6-12 year old children were: animals, being in a dark room, high places, strangers, loud noises.

Today, kids are afraid of the following: divorce, war, cancer, pollution, and being mugged.



Clady Road
Templepartick

Times of Meetings

Sunday
10:45 am - Breaking of Bread
11:30 am - Family Service
6:00 pm - Gospel Meeting

Tuesday
8:00 pm - Bible Study & Prayer

1st Wednesday (September - June)
Friendship hour 2:30 pm

A warm welcome will be received by all visitors

(Creche Provided at Sunday Service)

*Jesus is coming for His own
in the twinkling of an eye.*

Are you ready?



Can Queen
Esther
Help Save
her People
from
Destruction?

Come find out . . .

Holiday Bible Club

Clady Water Baptist Church

Templepatrick

24-28 August 2009

10:00 am to 12:00 pm

(Directions from Templepatrick: Take the road to the airport.
The church is on the right. Turn on to the Clady Road.)