

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Ephesians 6:1-4 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth. And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”

Quote: Children are an heritage of the Lord and should be regarded and raised as His gift and for His glory.

We live in a day when rearing children in the fear and admonition of the Lord has never been more challenging. Godly offspring won’t “just happen.” The Pied Pipers of secular thinking abound in most schools and in the media. “Soft porn” in advertising invades every home that has a television, and much worse is available at the touch of a computer or cell phone key. Whether a person is an intentional viewer who seeks out immoral images, or a victim of imbedded images that have nothing to do with what he is searching for, the result is the same—his mind is polluted with that which feeds carnality. Add to these attacks on moral purity the fact that young people, and many parents, are ill-equipped to handle the onslaught against biblical Christian values. We must respond to this battle for our thoughts with the realization that God has given us all that we need for life and godliness in His inspired, written Word.¹ We have to see our need for it, read it and heed it. A neglected Bible is like an unloaded gun—useless to ward off the attack of anything that would do us harm.

David wrote, “How can a young man cleanse his way? By *taking heed* according to Your word. With *my whole heart* I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, *That I might not sin against You!*”² If you read the entire Psalm, you will see that growing in grace takes purpose and a plan. “I will *meditate* on Your precepts, And *contemplate* Your ways. I will *delight myself* in Your statutes; I will *not forget Your word.*”³ Along with purposing to learn the word of God in his head, to love the word of God in his heart, and to live the word of God in his habits, he understood his

dependency upon God for success. “I will run the course of Your commandments, *For You shall enlarge my heart.* Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, And I shall keep it to the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it.”⁴

In our text, it seems obvious that Paul is addressing children who are old enough to understand the concepts of obedience, honor and reaping blessing for compliance with God’s commands. Likewise, Proverbs is filled with admonitions that only older children could understand about steering clear of evil influences. Paul admonishes children in Colossians 3:20 to “obey your parents *in all things, for this is well pleasing to the*

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Lord.” Only a child who is trusting in Christ as Savior can care about, or conform to this truth. All “natural men” are born sinners and are evil from their youth!⁵ We all have a innate bent from the cradle to the grave towards wanting to get our way. Adam and Eve saw what appealed to them and directly disobeyed a clear command of God that had consequences for them and for the human race. It was only the grace and provision of God that restored them to fellowship with Him.⁶ The same has been true of every sinner saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone for God’s glory alone. The faith that saves comes by the Word of God.⁷

It behooves parents to expose their children when they are young to the truth of God’s Word through age-appropriate devotionals and through explaining the Word to them in ways that they can best grasp. We do this with the full realization that only God can take this truth that they have learned and implant it in “heart soil” that He has prepared.⁸ We do this praying for God’s grace and mercy to “quicken them to life.”⁹ We do this with the confident expectation that this will happen by God’s grace. Salvation is of the Lord!

1 || Pet.1 2 Psa.119:9-11 3 Psa.119:15-16 4 Psa.119:32-35 5 Gen.8:21; Eccl.11:10; Ps.51:5; Jer 17:9 6 Gen.3 7 Rom.7:15-25; 10:14-17 8 Mark 4 9 Eph.2: