



“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:20

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The Fathers Absence

Scott Richards

According to the U.S. Census bureau more than 25% of all children live without a father in the home. There are 10 million homes in the United States with single mothers, and there are 2 million homes with single fathers. The consequences of children growing up without a close connection to their biological fathers are life changing and can be disastrous. The website of the National Fatherhood Initiative reveals the positive and negative impacts of fathers who are actively involved in their children’s lives:

- Children with their fathers in the home do better in school.
- Children with their fathers in the home are less likely to be abused.
- Children with their fathers in the home are less likely to be obese.
- Sons with a father in the home are less likely to go to prison.
- Children with their fathers in the home are less likely to live in poverty.

More points could be cited here, but it is clear children need their biological fathers just as much as they need their mothers.

God’s word tell fathers to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). Earthly fathers are tasked with the serious responsibility of bringing up their children to be faithful children of our heavenly Father. An absent father, even one who has visitation rights, is either totally incapable of fulfilling this duty, or he is severely handicapped.

The absence of biological fathers in the lives of children is largely the result of the absence of the eternal Father of all mankind in the lives of the general population. Without God and His word to

guide him, man experiences all manner of hardships and tragedies. The presence of our spiritual Father in our families prepares our children to be the parents they need to be for their children.

Brother Jesse L. Sewell, a gospel preacher from the mid-1800’s, as quoted in his biography written by brother David Lipscomb, indicates children’s training should begin 100 years before their birth. By that, he referred to the need for several generations of Christian living to be demonstrated by the grandparents and parents of the new generation of parents. By having the eternal Father influencing and shaping the lives of their forefathers, the new parents are more likely themselves to be able to properly train children in the way of righteousness.

Brother Sewell further expressed the idea that a child’s training needs to begin before the child is three months old. How true this is. A child needs to see the overriding importance the parents place upon seeking a close and constant relationship with the Father above. This closeness is demonstrated by regular attendance at worship assemblies, daily Bible reading and study in the home, and a fervent prayer life. As children develop, they will also observe the parents efforts to conform their lives to that of the Savior. This will include a personality that exudes a loving, compassionate, and forgiving spirit. One more important trait the child should observe in their earthly father is a desire to share the gospel with the lost.

Our heavenly Father wants, “all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4). Jesus came to “seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). These facts need to be firmly planted in the minds and hearts of every child of God. While our children are still young, they need to see and hear their fathers and mothers inviting friends and neighbors to worship services and Bible classes. Earthly fathers and mothers need to be involved in gospel meetings, mission campaigns, and other ways of sharing the gospel with the lost. By their actions, earthly parents will instill an urgency for evangelism and a love for the lost in their children, and bring about the next generation of fishers of men.

The church of our Lord is losing members and congregations in the United States at an alarming rate. The number of young men preparing to be gospel preachers and missionaries is decreasing. To reverse this trend, we must recapture the zeal of first century Christians who went everywhere preaching the word. Parents must place God the Father, His Son Jesus, and the Spirit inspired word as the central focus in their homes.

A SUMMARY OF THE BIBLE

Franklin Camp

There are some things one needs to carefully consider as one engages in the study of the Bible. This book which we are studying is no ordinary book. It may affect us in one of two ways: properly studied and applied, it will affect us for good in time and eternity; the improper study of it will cause one to lose one’s soul.

The Bible is every man’s book. It is not intended for some special group. But not only is the Bible every man’s book, it is written for the average person. Scholars may study it, but it was not written necessarily with scholars in mind.

No one ever outgrows the Scriptures. The more one studies them, the wider and deeper they become. The Bible is a book which enables one to look into eternity. The best evidence of the inspiration of the Bible is to be found between its covers. No one will ever be a useful Christian unless one is a student of the Bible. Matthew Henry said, “The Scriptures were written not to make us astronomers, but to make us saints.” It is no wonder that Paul urged Timothy to study the Scriptures, “rightly dividing,” or handling aright, the Word of truth, that he might be an approved workman before God.

The Bible is the greatest book in the world. It is the most accessible, and in it one finds truth that can be found in no other book.

The Bible is the only book that can give a satisfactory explanation of God, the world, man, sin, salvation, service, and life here and life hereafter.

The Bible acknowledges man’s faults, it is patient with man’s weaknesses, it is severe with man’s sins, and it is honest with his virtues and his hopes.

To own the Bible is to be rich. To study, to know, and to trust the Bible is to find life. To study the Bible is to be wise; to obey it, to be strong.

To know the Bible and to handle it aright is the greatest accomplishment within the reach of any person. One may know English, astronomy, literature, music, sociology, and philosophy; but if one does not know the Bible, one has failed in the only subject that brings all things into their proper relationship and that enables one to know life at its best.

The one who seeks to know the Bible will endeavor to study its contents book by book, meet its characters as they unfold through its pages, study its types, its doctrine, its topics, paragraphs, sentences and words. This is a lifetime work.

The Bible is the one book that can save many a heartache. The following was found on the flyleaf of a Bible placed by the Gideons in a motel in Birmingham, Alabama: “May God bless the man who placed this book here. I am a young lady twenty-one years old, fatherless and motherless. Tonight this book saved me from taking a wrong step. May the next reader find in it the comfort that I did.”

There is no greater accomplishment in life than to be able to rightly divide the Word of truth. It is worth all the sacrifice that is necessary to give to such a study. One can never be great in the true sense of that word who does not know the Word, love it, live it, delight in it, and teach it without perversion and without misrepresentation.

The one who studies this book and knows how to handle it is in a position to render the greatest service in the world. No wonder Paul told Timothy: (1) to study, (2) to be a workman, and (3) to seek to be approved of God. There is no higher ambition on earth.

The Bible is a mirror that enables us to see ourselves. It is food which supplies the strength that we need, a lamp to guide our way, a hammer to break and to build, a sword to fight and to defend, the seed to plant and grow, and the goal to own and to become our reward.

There are no experiences in life for which the Bible does not furnish a passage. May these thoughts lend encouragement to all of us to become diligent students of the Word that we may know the way of life and find the life that is life indeed.

Observations and Concerns

March 22, 2023

Welcome Visitors! We are so glad you chose to be with us.

“Confounded be all they that serve graven images, that boast themselves of idols: worship him, all ye gods” (Psalm 97:7).

Expression of Gratitude: Let’s remember this week to give thanks to our Father in heaven for the institutions of marriage and the home.

The annual Oologah lectureship this year is March 24-26 on the theme of “Hold Fast...” Flyers are available in the foyer. In conjunction with this, we will be having potluck on Saturday for lunch.

Azalea Gospel Meeting is April 2–5, 2023 with Toney Smith on “The Christian Life.”

Weleetka Gospel Meeting is April 16–19, 2023 with Jamie Beller on “In God We Trust.”

Remember in Prayer:

- Dicie Jackson has a spot in her Thymus gland and is scheduled to have surgery April 6th to have it removed.
- Walter Jackson fell recently and spent several days in the hospital with pneumonia. He is home and doing better.
- Lisa Earl is home recovering from hernia surgery.
- Dan Dennis is awaiting the results of a recent CT scan.
- Nelda Hudson continues to have issues with her heart.
- Jim Allison asked for prayers. He fell and was taken to the ER. While testing, they discovered an arterial blockage and later inserted a stint.
- Ed Dindy, father of Tia Swearingen, has cancer and is waiting to begin radiation treatments.
- Ed Clark, who many of us know, is recovering from a recent fall.
- Amanda Georgakus, friend of Sherry Carmona, is improving after infusion therapy. She is doing physical therapy two days a week and is able to walk without a walker.

Schedule of Services	Assignments			
		Wednesday, Mar. 22	Sunday, Mar. 26 AM	Sunday, Mar. 26 PM
	Announcements	Paul Praschnik	Russ Earl	Paul Praschnik
	Song Leader	Doyle Jackson	Doyle Jackson	Ross Swearingen
	Prayer	Chuck Northrop	Chris Nelson	Bill Dilks
	Lord's Supper (speaker)		Russ Earl	Doyle Jackson
	Lord's Supper		Ross Swearingen	
	Lesson	Ross Swearingen	Chuck Northrop	Chris Nelson
	Prayer / Door Attendant	Chris Nelson	Paul Praschnik	Chuck Northrop
Sundays				
Bible Classes..	9:30 AM			
Worship	10:30 AM			
Worship	5:00 PM			
Wednesdays				
Bible Classes..	7:00 PM			
Website:	oologahcofc.org			