



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

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Be as Little Children

Jeremy Northrop

Not long ago, I was staying in a house in which there were many children. Though I was attracted to those children and the way they looked and acted, I found that they had many qualities in them that were becoming of a Christian. I was reminded of what Jesus said in Matthew 18:3, *“Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”*

First, children are extremely honest, sometimes to the point that they embarrass their parents. I am reminded of a time growing up when we were visiting some friends and they served us dinner. I boldly said “Yuck! I hate that stuff!” I don’t remember what we had for dinner but I do remember how upset my parents were. One will find that many children are just that bold and are not embarrassed because of it. Yet as adults, we tend not to be so honest when it comes to one’s salvation. Many times we will not tell one of their lost state so that we do not embarrass ourselves. Yet they remain to be lost and we have not done our jobs. But we will be much more embarrassed on judgement day when our God will say *“...depart from me, ye that work iniquity”* (Matthew 7:23). We must be more honest and *be as little children*.

Then, children are impressionable. They have an instinctive desire to learn as we can all see a young child asking a mentor to teach them. Sometimes, adults think they already know enough and never have a desire to learn more. Some will encourage their kids to attend Bible class but then will not go themselves. We must strive to learn more and study our Bibles every day. One must *“study to show thyself approved”* and be noble as the Bereans were noble (2 Timothy 2:15; Acts 17:11). We need to learn so that we can do *“good works for necessary uses”* (Titus 3:14). In essence, we must *be as little children*.

Next, little children are very helpful. At least they want to help all the time. Sometimes they are not allowed to help for the fact that they will slow a person down instead of really helping them. I remember one time wanting to get up and throw something in the trash and my two year old nephew screamed loudly because he wanted to help and throw the trash away for me. Children are helpful. Yet as they grow, they seem to become more and more selfish. People constantly seem to want more things and forget about those who have little. Yet the things we want cannot get us to heaven (Matthew 6:19,20). Jesus encouraged us to help others in Matthew 25. Many times it seems like we only help ourselves. Most of all we must help people with the gospel (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15). The best help we can give to people is to share the wonderful news of Jesus Christ. We must help others and *be as little children*.

Finally, probably the most outstanding quality a child has is innocence. A child stands perfect in the sight of God at all times. They are not blemished with sin. Can we say the same for ourselves? Do we strive to do that which is right in the sight of God? With the blood of Christ to wash us, we are able to do this. But do we have the attitude and desire to do this at all times? Are we trying to *be as little children*?

Sometimes, we grow a little too much out of childhood. We give up all the qualities of a child, even the good ones. Yet, Christ told us to *“become as little children.”* Little children seem to always look up to adults for guidance. Perhaps once in a while we must look up to them.

A Successful Christian Life

Virgil L. Hale

All of us want to be a success in life. We want to be a success in our home, on the job, and even in our play. More than anything else, we must have a desire to be a success in living the Christian life.

In order to live a successful life as a Christian, we must first be willing to put forth the effort to study and meditate upon God’s Word. Peter wrote, “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby” (1 Peter 2:2). Again he wrote, “But grow in the grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). There is no way we can grow and mature spiritually if we fail to feast on the Word of God. Writing to the brethren at Colosse Paul said, “That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God” (Colossians 1:10). The only way to gain knowledge is by studying (2 Timothy 2:15). This is the way we increase our faith (John 20:30-31; Romans 10:17). If we fail to study and to grow, we will be like the Hebrews of whom it was said, “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God...” (Hebrews 5:12). Let us be like the Bereans who “...searched the scriptures daily...” (Acts 17:11).

Second, we must be a people who pray often. Faithful men of the Bible were men of prayer. For example, Daniel prayed three times a day (Daniel 6:10). The decree that was made did not deter him

from doing so, even though it meant he would be cast into a den of lions. When our Lord was on earth, He prayed and He prayed often. There were occasions where He would send the multitude away, and being alone, He would pray (Matthew 14:23). On one occasion He spent the entire night in prayer (Luke 6:12). Jesus said, “that men ought always to pray, and not to faint” (Luke 18:1). Prayer is the only way the child of God can talk with God. We need to be aware of the fact that God is concerned about us, “and his ears are open” unto our prayers (1 Peter 3:12).

Third, living a Christian life requires work. Paul wrote, “...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12). “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10). Jesus spoke of “labourers” being “hired” to work in the Lord’s vineyard (Matthew 20). Paul reminds us that our “labour is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58). When we have departed this life our “works” will follow us (Revelation 14:13).

Living a successful Christian life requires that we be able to distinguish between what is right and what is wrong. Isaiah, one of the great prophets of God wrote, “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight” (Isaiah 5:20-21)! We must use the right standard to judge between right and wrong. As Jeremiah wrote, “O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (Jeremiah 10:23). Far too many today want to use their own standards rather than those set forth by the Lord in His Word. We cannot follow custom, because it is not the standard. If we follow the majority, we will be lost (Matthew 7:13). We cannot follow our conscience, because it can mislead us (Acts 23:1; 24:16).

Let us make up our minds that we are going to be successful in living the Christian life, and strive with all of our being to do just that. The things mentioned in this study will help us live in such a way that the Lord will one day say, “Well done.”

DO YOU JUST SOLICIT ALMS FROM GOD?

The story is told of an Arab beggar who sat at the gate of a rich man’s house daily, begging. He received help regularly and depended entirely on the mercy of the rich man for his life. One day the rich man wished to send a message in a hurry and had no one to take it, but then he thought of the beggar and asked him to deliver the message for him. The beggar drew himself up in reply to say, “I solicit alms; I do not run errands.”

All our lives we have been soliciting alms from God, but we are not always willing to carry his message of salvation or do any service for him. Freely have we received, let us freely give. Give our time, energy, and money to the work of preaching the Gospel to the lost.

— borrowed

Observations and Concerns

April 5, 2023

Welcome Visitors! If you have questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

“Exalt ye the LORD our God, and worship at his footstool; *for he is holy*” (Psalm 99:5).

Expression of Gratitude: We are thankful for all who bring food for our monthly potlucks.

T-Roy Hass will be our guest speaker Sunday morning. He is from the Bible Institute of Missouri.

Please plan to join us for our **monthly potluck** meal after morning services on Sunday, April 9.

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

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ **Dicie Jackson** is scheduled to have a spot removed from her thymus gland tomorrow, April 6th. She will be in the hospital following surgery.
- ▶ **Dan and Marcella Dennis** are recovering from illness. It was good to see them both with us last Sunday.
- ▶ **Jim Allison** is recovering from a recent fall and hospitalization after a stint procedure in his heart.
- ▶ **Nelda Hudson** suffered another heart episode a few weeks ago and spent the night in the hospital.

Remember to get your news to Chelley Nelson no later than Tuesday.

Schedule of Services	Assignments			
		Wednesday, Apr.5	Sunday, Apr. 9 AM	Sunday, Apr. 9 PM
	Announcements	Chris Nelson	Paul Praschnik	Russ Earl
	Song Leader	Doyle Jackson	Bill Dilks	Ross Swearingen
	Prayer	Chuck Northrop	Chuck Northrop	Doyle Jackson
	Lord's Supper (speaker)		Doyle Jackson	Paul Praschnik
	Lord's Supper		Chris Nelson	
	Lesson	Russ Earl	T-Roy Hass	Chuck Northrop
	Prayer / Door Attendant	Ross Swearingen	Paul Praschnik	Chris Nelson
Sundays				
Bible Classes.	9:30 AM			
Worship	10:30 AM			
Worship	5:00 PM			
Wednesdays				
Bible Classes.	7:00 PM			
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