

# The Oologah Informer

## September 28<sup>th</sup> , 2014

### Into Our Hands Jack Williams

#### Address

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#### Service Times

##### **Sunday**

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.  
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

##### **Wednesday**

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

#### Preacher:

Russ Earl

#### AM Sermon:

All Persons  
(James 2:8-10)

#### PM Sermon:

One God  
Guest Speaker: Chuck Northrop

#### Sunday AM Bible Class:

The book of Joshua – D. Jackson

#### Wednesday Bible Class:

Swearingen

#### In SEARCH of the Lord's Way

Tulsa KWHB TV 47  
Sunday mornings at 7:30am

#### Radio Program

"The Minister's View" on  
KTTRadio.org on Tuesday's at  
9 am with Russ & Vance.

"Swiftly we're turning life's daily pages, swiftly the hours are changing to years; how are we using God's golden moments? Shall we reap glory? Shall we reap tears?" So go the words of the familiar song composed by Ruth Caruth. While the song emphasizes the need of taking the saving gospel to a lost and dying world, I am sure we can all see an application easily made to the precious children entrusted to our care. I recently read that from birth to age 18, children have about 118,260 waking hours. Of these, about 15,000 are spent in school. If faithfully taken to and attending Bible class, they would be in the care of Bible class teachers for about 1,872 hours. The result is that while others have about 15% of our children's time to mold and fashion their life and character, *as parents we have direct control of the remaining 85% or 101,388 hours!* The question then comes, how are we to use these hours to the greatest benefit of these precious children entrusted to our care?

While no one can guarantee that a child will not make a wrong decision, if we follow God's plan for raising our children, we will be giving them the absolute best opportunity and training for life that can be given. One passage to which we can look for God's plan is Ephesians 6:1-4:

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

While this passage teaches many things, let us emphasize just two aspects of the training that God expects us to use in raising children:

**First, give them instruction which is "in the Lord."** As godly and concerned parents, our instruction must be that which is in accordance with the mind and will of the Lord. Our training "text" will not be the pop fads of some psychologist but the tried and true Word of God. He has made it clear that His instruction is completely sufficient for all of our needs (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3). Paul goes on to say we should "bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord," again giving emphasis to the sufficiency of the Lord's will in training children. Wouldn't it be great if parents, when confronted with questions or challenges from their children, would sit with them and seek to give and explain their answer from God's all sufficient Word? If we would use the Word of God in such a manner, we could avoid provoking our children. Instead, we should learn to reason (and teach them to reason) from the inspired Word.

**Secondly, have high expectations of our children.** Instead of giving place to ungodly ideas such as "I just can't do anything with my children" or "that is just a stage their going through," we should teach and expect our children to "obey" the instruction given and to give "honor" to us as parents. *How sad that many children today live down to their parents expectations of disobedience and rebellion rather than striving to live up to the high expectations of godly parents.*

As parents we should have faith in God's plan and expect and encourage our children to follow that divine plan.

It is easy to blame the failure of our children on "peer pressure" and negligent teachers. While we all realize the sad and tragic influence others can have on our children, let's never forget that God has placed them into *our hands* to nourish and admonish. As the song asks, so should we: "How are we using God's golden moments? Shall we reap glory? Shall we reap tears?" The choice is ours.