



The *Pulpit Exchange*

It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. (1 Corinthians 1:21)

So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading. (Nehemiah 8:8) Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend. (Proverbs 27:17)

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Issue # 2

Parental Responsibility in Developing Youth With a Vision

Parental Responsibility in Developing Youth With a Vision, is a very necessary subject for us to look at from time to time. It is so much at the heart of everything that we want to do, and that we believe God wants us to do. This is how it has been down through the years of the Church. The hymn, "Shepherd of Tender Youth," is thought to be among the oldest of the hymns in our hymn books. It is ascribed to Clement of Alexandria about the year 220 AD. Evidently, in that time, there was a concern for the youth, and how they would

develop and fit into the work of God, and the growing and broadening Church.

There was a group of workmen once working outside a large church which had large doors. They were working at the doorway. An observer stopped to see what they were doing, and a foreman came over. The observer asked them, "What are they doing?" The foreman said, "We are fixing these doors to this church." He then said, "You know, no church should have doors that children cannot open." This is a very good thought. We

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want the church to be a place where children and youth can come in and can find their way. Thus, a subject like this, I believe, is close to our hearts. It is a burden that we have as parents to fill our place. It is as we understand our responsibility that we can seek the help of God to do what is ours to do in developing youth with a vision.

We sometimes think of vision as something that belongs to older and more mature persons,

rather than youth. This may be not exactly the context, but Acts 2:17 says, (this is a quote from the prophet Joel) “And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.” This may be speaking of something a bit different from our subject. While we often ascribe vision to

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older and more mature persons, thank God for young people who have vision. These are young people who have been able to come to a place of discernment. They can see into the future and understand some things that will help them to make right choices. We are thankful for the work of the Holy Spirit in this process. There is a work that we must do as parents, and then there is a work that we cannot do which only God can do. We want to make the conditions as ideal as possible for the Holy Spirit to work in our homes, our families and in the lives and hearts of our young people, such that they will develop vision.

I want to take a simple approach to this subject. *I would like first of all for us to look at six marks of youth with vision.* Then, we will look at parental responsibility in helping to develop vision in our youth. I will lean on our understanding of the Scriptures, and familiarity with especially Old Testament accounts of individuals of whom we have read the story often. We are blessed again and again of illustrations of actual people. This is how we ought to look at the characters in the Scripture. These were actual people who walked upon the face of the earth. They faced tests like we

face. They had failures and successes. We need to learn from them. The New Testament Scripture says, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." (Romans 15:4) It is as we look at Bible illustrations and teachings and learn from them that we can find our way.

Let us look at a number of marks of youth with a vision. I have chosen to approach the subject this way so that, first of all, we have an idea what we are seeking to develop when we think about developing youth with vision. *One of the evidences of a youth who has vision is where we see one who has an understanding and respect for the law of sowing and reaping, or cause and effect.* Sometimes young people get into trouble and difficulty and we ask the question, "Did he or she, not understand that if you do this, this is what will follow?" Evidently they had not put together the law of cause and effect and of sowing and reaping. While these are two different laws, they are similar.

There are various illustrations in the Scripture of youth who had such vision. One in particular, is the illustration of Joseph and the temptations he faced in

Potipher's house. He came to the point where he said, "How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (Genesis 39:9) We would say he was a young man with vision. He understood that to give into the temptation he was facing, would have repercussions and effects. First of all, and most important in his mind, was that it would affect his relationship with God. We say that was vision on his part. It was conviction and courage and a lot of other things too, but it was vision. He understood and respected the law of sowing and reaping. He understood that God gives direction on the things that we shall do and shall not do. As we respect this, we can find the blessing of God and His strength in our lives.

It is in relation to this that young people need to learn to take the word of those who have had more experience than they have had, and those who have seen trends unfold in church life in years gone by or maybe in their own lives. In the past they may have made some choices that were unwise. Those choices had repercussions that had to be lived with, or changes had to be made and repentance was necessary, in some cases, to remedy the situation. The young person who understands and respects

this process is in a position to learn many things from others without having to learn them the hard way. This is vision.

Another mark of youth with vision is where *young people appreciate the need for, and the safety of, separation from the world*. In this process they arrive at a place where they are not ashamed to be different or separate. When young people arrive at that place, they are demonstrating vision. This would be a great help to them in life.

Again, we could think of many illustrations from the Scripture but I thought of Daniel. He and his friends were taken captive with the others of the children of Judah. They found themselves in Babylon, and it was not long before they came under test. The king's meat set before him. It is likely that partaking of that would have violated some of the dietary laws of the Old Testament. The Scripture says, "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank." (Daniel 1:8) This was a young man with vision. He understood that he was a part of the people of God who were separate. He had come to a place where a line needed to be drawn which that he would not pass or

cross over. We see the principle of separation from the world in this passage. We see how this enabled Daniel to take a stand and be separate. He was not ashamed. In that process, he was an encouragement to his brethren, Shadrach (Hananiah), Meshach (Mishael) and Abednego (Azariah), and they stood together.

I thought of the Rechabites in Jeremiah 35. We can read the account of Jonadab the son of Rechab and his children. They were the sons of Rechab. We refer to them as the Rechabites. Their father had instructed and taught them to not drink wine, nor build themselves houses and so forth. There were some regulations which he called for in his family, and instilled in his sons, and in his children, and they stood for that. It was during the time of the captivity that Jonadab and his sons were called in. They were used as an illustration and example of a diligence and a separation that had kept them true to the Lord. They were an illustration which God wanted to use to help others see His intention and plan. These are illustrations of young men who appreciated the need for, and the safety of, separation from the world.

Young people lack experience and have not had opportunity to

see a lot of things developing yet. It is understandable that they may have questions whether all of these lines of separation are necessary. We need to view our church discipline, regulations and these restrictions as a formula for faithfulness and for drawing lines that keep us separate from the world. We must view them as for our good, protection and safety. When we do this, it is an indication that we have arrived at a point of a certain amount of wisdom. We can utilize these things to help us be what God wants us to be. We can be the testimony which God wants, like Jonadab and his sons were.

Another mark of youth with vision, is youth who are clearly identifying with the people of God. We might say, they are assigning to the church, a high, prominent, and central place in their life, and clearly identifying with the people of God. I think of the illustration of Moses. I never cease to be amazed at the brief amount of time that Moses was in his parental home, and the decisions that he made when he came to maturity. Hebrews 11:23 says, "By faith Moses. " Then it talks first of all about the faith of his parents. It continues, "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be

called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward." (verses 24–26)

In the book of Acts, Peter rehearses the history of Israel. References are made to Moses, "And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds." (Acts 7:22) Moses mind was bombarded by a lot of worldly things, but there was still something from his parental home and childhood training. I believe possibly later on, his observations of what were happening to his people also had a bearing. There was something there that brought him back to a loyalty to his people. He made a choice to clearly identify with the people of God. We do not know what would have become of Moses if he had continued down the road he was on. We know that God had a plan for him, and Moses responded to God.

God was able to use Moses in a mightier way than he ever could have been used, had he become the Pharaoh of Egypt. In those young years of his life (I

use young in a relative sense) he clearly identified with the people of God. Sometimes this is a missing link, where young people find it difficult to make that identity, choice and declaration of loyalty, and they do not come through. Thus, it is a mark of vision. Down through the years, this vision of Moses was not the easy way that he was choosing, it was the hard way. There would be suffering and he identified with the people who were slaves. However, they were the people of God and that is where he wanted to be. Thus, he made that choice.

Another mark of youth with a vision is where there is a wholesome respect of delegated authority. Wherever this is learned, and demonstrated it produces a dependability and predictability which indicate a measure of wisdom. I thought about David. We know David's respect for the Lord's anointed, King Saul, before and after he was anointed to be the next king. We see this particularly after he was anointed. That respect shines clearly. There were one or two occasions when David stepped over a line which he had drawn for himself. Remember the time when David went into the cave where Saul was sleeping and he cut off part of Saul's garment? It was not long until

“David’s heart smote him, because he had cut off Saul’s skirt.” (1 Samuel 24:5)

He had touched something that did not belong to him. He had touched the Lord’s anointed. Maybe in what he had cut off of Saul’s garment, it would have made Saul look ridiculous, or immodest. I do not know what all the involvements were but, David’s conscience smote him for what he did. Why? It was because of his respect for delegated authority. God had chosen Saul. There was another occasion where one of David’s men was with him when he sneaked into Saul’s camp at night. He told David as Saul was sleeping on the ground, “Let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not smite him the second time.” (1 Samuel 26:8) David said, “Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the LORD’S anointed.” (verse 9) There was a respect for the authority and the office which God had given to Saul. This indicated a vision on the part of David. I am impressed as I look at these, how many of these points relate to the law of cause and effect and sowing and reaping. A wholesome respect for delegated authority is really what made David the dependable and

the predictable person that he was.

Another mark of youth with vision, is youth who are diligent in their personal devotion and obedience to God. We would have in Samson, what we might call a negative example. There were times when Samson was personally devoted to God and diligent. Yet, there are a number of incidents in Samson’s life which leave us with a question. When Samson became careless about his relationship with the Lord, and about sin and temptation, eventually he came to the point where the spirit of God had departed from him and, “He wist not that the LORD was departed from him.” (Judges 16:20) We could say, “Could not Samson see through that? Could he not understand that he was heading down the wrong road?” I think he was losing his vision because of those failures. The message of the angel in the very beginning was not quite a clear strong message of victory on Samson’s part, but rather the message was, “He shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.” (Judges 13:5)

Might Samson, if he had had the devotion to God and the commitment to obedience that he might have had, completely accomplished their deliverance

from the Philistines? However, he only began to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines. Diligence in personal devotion and obedience to God produces spiritual strength. Timothy is an illustration of this. He was a spiritual son of the apostle Paul, and was commended by Paul for his zeal, devotion and obedience to God.

In the sixth place there is a mark of courage to stand for God at all costs. This is a mark of youth with vision. How many times have those who were lacking in vision, given up when victory was only around the corner? If they had seen a little bit further, clung to the Lord a little more diligently, encouraged themselves in the Lord and stood, the victory would have been their's. It is the courage to stand for God at all costs. Again, we could look at a number of illustrations from the Scripture. David is one. So are Joseph, Moses and Daniel. The three Hebrew young men, were called before the king because, in the midst of all those men of renown and men of position who bowed down to Nebuchadnezzar's image when the music began playing, they stood and would not bow. When they were called before Nebuchadnezzar they had their minds made up. They said,

“We are not careful to answer thee in this matter.” (Daniel 3:16) this does not mean they were careless, or that they were not really thinking about what was happening. It means that they had their decision was made, and it really did not matter what the king said or how many more opportunities he gave them, they would not bow. It was a courage that they had. Nebuchadnezzar said, “Who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?” (Daniel 3:15) He found out, did he not? As the story is told, the courage of these young men and their vision and commitment caused Nebuchadnezzar, a renowned world ruler, to make a decree that no one should speak against the God of the three young men, “because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.” (Daniel 3:29) Their courage was an evidence of vision.

We want to turn our thoughts toward *parental responsibility in developing youth with vision.* Do we have young people today who have these marks which we were looking at? I think we do. Some might be more outstanding in one area than in another. I am thankful that we have young men and women, young people, who have vision like this. It may be true that many of our young people

have not been tested to the greatest degree, like the illustrations which we have given. Yet, we know that our young people face tests that seem to be even greater than what some of the tests were when we were young. We want to think how we as parents can take responsibility in helping to encourage and develop the right mind set, vision and purpose in our youth. “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour 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.” (Ephesians 6:1–4) *We see clearly that the responsibility of developing youth with vision is laid upon fathers and upon parents.*

It is an ongoing challenge for fathers to keep the teachings of the Scripture, the commandments of the Lord, foremost in our own minds and hearts, and to be talking about these things to our sons and daughters as they are growing up in our homes and around us. We need to be talking about the things of the Lord. We need to be talking about the Commandments of the Lord. We need to be explaining to our chil-

dren that the things that we stand for as a church, and the lines which we draw, the regulation and restriction in our homes and church, are directly related to the teachings of the Scriptures. We have a Biblical base for the things that we do. As we keep emphasizing this, it is a great aid to our children in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord.

Try to imagine a little bit, what Moses’ father and mother must have done in this connection. The only thing that I can conclude is that they talked to this little baby about God — the God of Israel. They talked about the people of Israel — God’s people. I do not think that we can understand quite how impressionable these little minds are of our children. We must instill in children’s lives and minds the stories of the Bible. They need to know about these heroes from the Scripture. We need to read the Bible stories, talk about what God does for His people, and what He has done down through the years. This is a part of bringing them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord and helping them to think right about God.

God says, “And, ye fathers.” We must take this place. I would like to emphasize that among all the ways which God has identi-

fied Himself to us, one of the foremost is that He chosen to identify Himself as a Father. This is very significant. God has chosen to identify Himself as a Father. The significance of this, or at least part of it, is that we fathers have the first and best opportunity to introduce our children to God. It is placed in our hands to help our children understand who God is. Since God identifies Himself as a Father, and we are fathers, the way we relate to our children has a lot to do with their developing concept of the Heavenly Father. Any father who thinks about this seriously for a little bit will be overwhelmed with the responsibility that this brings upon us. How many children are there in our so-called Christian American society today who have absentee fathers? The father is not around. Some of them do not know who the father is. Think about the concept that they are developing about God the Father in Heaven.

Whose fault is it when those children grow up uncontrollable and are into all kinds of difficulty? Somewhere, there was a father who failed to communicate some important things to the child. Thus the Scripture, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of

the Lord." This is parental responsibility. I thought about what we read in Ezra 8:21. A remnant had returned to Jerusalem. They recognized that it was only the mercies of the Lord. They were so concerned in this return and in their work that they would have the blessing of God upon themselves and upon their children. "Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance." We need to seek of God a right way for us and for our little ones. This should be a heart throb of fathers and mothers.

We want to avoid the Hezekiah mentality. We can read about that in Isaiah 38:6–8 and also in 2 Chronicles 32:31. Hezekiah, who was noble and honourable in many ways, made some mistakes at the end of his life. When he was called into question that these mistakes would take a toll on the next generation, he said in essence "At least I will have peace in my day." [see Isaiah 39:8] If I would ask, "Would we be satisfied that there would be peace in your day?" I do not think any of us would answer, "Yes.". We want a piece of God's people to continue on for genera-

tions to come. The Hezekiah mentality will disqualify us to fulfill our responsibility.

We must understand, with regard to parents responsibility in developing youth with vision, that we cannot wait to start until they are teenagers. Our young people will be what they are in the process of becoming right now, whether they are two, ten or sixteen years old. When our children become sixteen and seventeen and along there, we will know what we have been teaching them. It will come to light. Some of us may be in the midst of church life and family life, and in a general way we are moving along with the church and have a certain amount of conviction, but it is possible when our children associate with other young people we might discover some things that disappoint us. We want to avoid those kinds of disappointments if at all possible.

We understand that all of us as parents need some help. None of us are doing a perfect job. This is why we need to address this subject. I want to emphasize again, that we cannot wait to start until they are teenagers. The things that we are allowing in our homes as these boys and girls are growing up, are establishing patterns. They will tell sooner or later whether we are producing

youth with vision.

One father, whose children are in this process told me that his sixth grade son comes home from school and talks about what some of the other boys say who have brothers that are sixteen or seventeen years old. He talks about the sports equipment that they have. Why would seventeen year olds need sports equipment in our context? He also talks about the kind of car that they want. They are talking about music, and activities. It is obvious that some wrong things are coming to light. It is also obvious that it did not just happen, or start now. These are children from families that in a general way were moving with the church. There is a stigma that goes along with being decidedly conservative. Sometimes we try to be in harmony with the church but not be too conservative. This will show itself. When our children become sixteen and seventeen years old it will show. There will be some evidences of it before that also.

We need to understand as someone has said it, "there is a time in the life of every problem, when it is big enough to be identified and small enough to do something about it." If we do not do something about the problems which we discover and discern,

when we can, the time comes when we cannot do what we would hope to do. This is why I say we cannot wait to start until they are teenagers. Young families with little children sitting on their laps need to think through issues. Where do you believe God wants your children to be fifteen years down the road? How can you fill your place in helping them to be where God wants them to be? We cannot wait until they get there and start working on it.

I remember one brother whom I had a lot of appreciation for, in a lot of ways, and in years gone by. He was a brother who could speak out very boldly and clearly for conservative things until his boys started growing up. Then, little by little, he became quieter and quieter, and eventually followed his boys out of our church. What had happened? He did not start doing soon enough what he was talking about, and there were disappointments.

Children learn what they live with. This is also something we need to understand, to develop youth with vision. They learn a lot of things about honesty and respect for authority. They learn this from the kind of business dealings the fathers have, and from the way fathers pay attention to traffic laws and regula-

tions. They learn this from the things that fathers have to say about episodes in their life that were not quite the way they ought to be. They may be parents who hide their inconsistencies from their brethren. They would not want the preachers to know about the snowmobiling that they did, or the four-wheeler back there in the corn barn or whatever it is. How foolish!

What are you doing to your sons? Your sons know it. They know if there are things in our homes and in our lives that we are hiding from our brethren. We are teaching them to be hypocrites and teaching them to lie. This is serious. Ephesians 6:3 says, "bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." It also says, "provoke not your children to wrath." One of the things that obviously will not work is when we allow some things in our home, or in our children's lives that do not meet home regulations, church standards, the general approval of our brethren.

We may allow those things and keep them covered, and then sometime they must be faced. This is a part of what makes young people angry. It stirs up a wrath within them. I know one father who had an opportunity to experience this. He had worked

on a house that a man was building and reached the end of the project. This man said to some of the workmen there, "Here is some clothing that I do not need anymore. Pick through this box and take anything you want." He took some of those things and they found their way into the hands of his boys. Later, he tried to take them away from his boys. His boys became angry. He was provoking them to wrath. He was doing something that later needed to be changed. It does not work. I have noticed a few times recently where a brother's cellular phone 'rings,' and we hear this music playing. How do we expect to teach our growing children to appreciate the direction the church is wanting to move — moving away from all musical instruments if we have 'honky tonk' music playing on our cellular phone? I think we should be able to see through that. Children learn what they live with.

I have looked at the negative side and I believe the positive is also true. *Where there is a forthrightness and an appreciation for the church, and a respect for church leadership, including a respect that comes out around dinner conversations and all the involvements of church life, it has a way of blessing the hearts of*

growing young people. It will instill the right thing and an appreciation that will eventually constitute the frame of reference and the wisdom that we will want them to have.

I would like to look at the parents of some of these Old Testament examples that we looked at to see youth with vision. We can see what the parents were doing that was a part of their responsibility in developing youth with vision. I thought about *Joseph's parents*. We know that Jacob had his weak spots. Likely his sons understood some of those things too. We know there were a number of crisis points in Jacob's life. One of those was when he was returning, and had to face Esau. We remember the account, when he passed over the river Jabbok and wrestled with the angel that night. Jacob was about to face his brother.

Years before he had gone into his father with those skins on his arm and his neck and spoke to his father. His father had asked, "Who art thou, my son?" (Genesis 27:18) Jacob had said, "I am Esau." (verse 19) However, when Jacob wrestled with the angel and would not give up he said, "I will not let thee go, except thou bless me." (Genesis 32:26) Jacob was com-

ing to the end of himself. What did the angel say? He said to Jacob, “What is thy name?” (verse 27) Jacob did not say, “I am Esau.” “He said, [I am] Jacob” I take that as a point of giving up in Jacob’s life.

One of the things that we as fathers need to teach our children is when to give up and when not to give up. There were times before this that Jacob should have given up, but Jacob did give up here and surrendered himself to God. God changed his name and made him a new person. This was a part of what developed the fibre that showed itself in the vision we see later in Joseph’s life. Jacob came to a place of total surrender before God.

Our children can see when we are totally surrendered to God’s will, and have submitted ourselves to Him. A very interesting account to me is in Genesis 49 where Jacob, at the end of his life, spoke to all of his sons and made some prophecies. He says some very beautiful words about Joseph. He said the, “Arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob.” (Genesis 49:24) In spite his weaknesses, Jacob was able to communicate to his sons that spiritual strength comes through the God of Jacob — the God of

Israel. He was able to point them to God and Joseph was outstanding in all of that. The Bible says that Joseph was “separate from his brethren.” (Genesis 49:26) He was unusual in his vision and commitment.

In thinking about *David’s parents* we might say, “The Bible does not really say much about David’s parents does it?” However, what it does say indicates to me that Jesse was satisfied to be an obscure person in the little town of Bethlehem. This mind set is a part of what helped David to become the man that he was. David became a man who could wait on God and His timing, for God to work in his life. David was satisfied to be an obscure shepherd, and he experienced some ridicule because of that. His brother Eliab mocked him when he came down to the battle, “with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness?” (1 Samuel 17:28) David was not undone by that. He was satisfied to let that rest with the Lord. We also see in Jesse’s life that he was a man who had a great respect for the prophet of God, Samuel. When Samuel came to anoint David, it tells us that all the men of Bethlehem, “trembled at his coming,” (1 Samuel 16:4) and wondered why he came. I think

it shows a respect that they had for Samuel the man of God. This respect carried over to David.

Then we have the example of *Daniel's parents*. We might say, "What does the Bible say about Daniel's parents?" What we know about Daniel's parents is probably by observation of the product, more than what we know. We do know that Daniel was raised in Israel in a time when Israel was, shall we say, at its lowest ebb spiritually. Daniel learned from them some convictions and purposed that he would not defile himself. Where else could he have come by that kind of conviction in such a time as he was raised? Today sometimes parents wring their hands and say, "There is so much against us. And things are bad in our country. There is so much sin. There are so many temptations." However, Daniel's parents raised him for God in a time like this.

Noah raised his family for God in a time like this. When the day came to go into the ark, Noah and all his family went in. Noah had done something right in spite of the conditions. "Daniel purposed in his heart." (Daniel 1:8) Daniel took a stand. Sometimes young people have the idea that the restrictions their parents place upon them are all negative. The real fact is, that restrictions pro-

vide security for us in knowing where the lines are. Daniel's parents must have been this kind of parent. It was a part of what gave him 'backbone.'

In thinking a bit more about *the Rechabites*, we see how Jonadab required some things of his sons that were above and beyond what it seems that God had specifically said they should do. I thought about the fact that, in most of our homes there are some regulations that maybe the next home does not have. Sometimes parents fall into the snare of thinking they cannot restrict their children from anything that other children are allowed to do. It is a mistake when we take that approach and say, "My children should be able to do everything that everyone else's children do." Our children then become the lowest common denominator. This is what happens. However, when we take our place as fathers and mothers in the home and draw some lines and say, "That may be fine there, but here is where the line is in our home," and it brings strength. It may mean special restrictions with regard to the tapes in our home or not allowing them. It may mean that we do not allow our children to go ice skating, or to do something else that other children can do.

We teach them to respond to that respectfully and to be happy in it. If our children, growing up in our homes cannot handle being a little bit different, how will they ever handle the pressures when the world begins to sneer at and mock them for the ways that they are different? Those differences really should not make a problem in our church life. They should actually help us to develop fiber in our children. This is not to say that we try to decide what unusual things we can do differently from everyone else, but that we all need to have some conviction of our own that we take a stand for. Our children need to understand that this is the rule in our home.

Timothy's mother and grandmother are an example to us. Paul talked about this, "When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also." (2 Timothy 1:5) There was something that had put Timothy in good stead. Paul also said, "But continue thou in the things which thou hast

learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation."

I will conclude with looking yet at *Moses' parents*. We referred earlier to Moses in Hebrews 11. It says, "By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment." It was not his faith, but it was his parent's faith. Here is a key as to why Moses was able to make the choices he did and demonstrate the vision that he had. It was because of what his parents had. Every child that God sends into our homes is a proper child. It is one that God wants us to raise and salvage for Him. We must not be afraid of the things that are happening around us. We must band and unite together and encourage each other in this great responsibility of protecting and shaping a rising generation. May God help us to be faithful.

Scripture References

Genesis	2 Chronicles	Acts
27:18 37	32:31 34	2:17 26
27:19 37		7:22 30
32:26, 27 38	Ezra	
39:9 28	8:21 34	Romans
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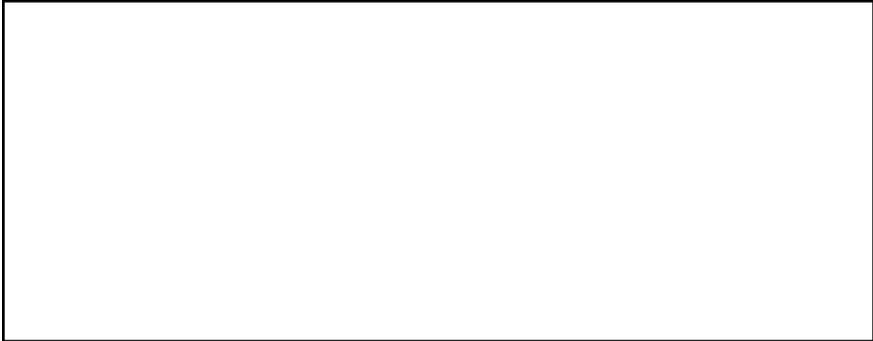
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Bethel Mennonite Church, Quarryville, PA
Sunday, September 19, 2004

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