



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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Why We Do Not Accept the Radio and Television in Our Homes

The Title of the subject that is assigned to me, "Is Why Do We Not Accept the Radio and Television in Our Homes?" Many people ask this question and wonder why we do not, because it is such a common thing. Psalm 19:14 says, "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer."

That is a marvellous verse for us to live and go by.

We live in a day of gadgets and all kinds of equipment, books and magazines and the other things that are informative for teaching purposes. We have the mechanical and the electrical items like the radio and television and recorders and videos. Although my assignment is especially for radio and television, we

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believe that there are some other things that are closely related to it that we want to talk about, at least briefly.

Some history and facts about radio and television. Radio waves were discovered by man. The fact is that we had radio waves from the Creation, so it is not something new. It was only new to man. Around 1895 they discovered them. Man discovered how they could use those radio waves to bring about the

television in the mid 1920's. I was a young boy at that time and the radio had been well established by most people or by many people. Not everyone had radios. It was usually a big sort of clumsy box with a lot of tubes the size of small light bulbs but straighter instead of the little transistors and chips that are used today.

We had a small town near to us that had a radio shop or repair shop. This business was a side-

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line to the man. I remember we stopped in there for something else. It was about 1930 while I was still a boy. This man was telling us about how he had built a television receiver. They had a disk that needed to rotate. It was partly mechanical and electrical and a light shone through it. He had made some kind of an apparatus himself and he had been able to receive a television transmission about 1,000 miles away from New York, where they were experimenting with it. He related how he was able to see a violin and to see that there were fingers that moved. That was quite primitive but it was some of the beginnings of it.

By the time that I was out of CPS (Civilian Public Service) and married in 1946 (we were married in '45) most of the families within the radius of forty miles of Detroit and big cities were able to receive television. A large number of the families, I would say over half of the families at that time had television as well as radio. Now, well over 95% of North American homes have television.

In 1946 we were under a Conference group that allowed the radio. Radio was in use at that time. I was a pastor at a church in Michigan and one of the members gave us a radio.

The radio station that was nearby (about twelve to fifteen miles) was supposed to be a Christian radio station and that was all they had was Christian music and messages and things like that. They thought we ought to have one. Well, I really was not interested in one but I decided that if we were to minister to a group of people that had radios we need to have an idea of what kind of diet they were getting from it. Therefore, we used it for a month or two and during that time I wrote out a little paper that I do on decisions sometimes. I put across the top radio, (this is more than fifty years ago). I put on one side reasons for and then disadvantages and reasons why not. We worked on that little list during the time that we were listening and trying to find out what our members were listening to.

On the one side there was the news reports, and there was some good singing and programs, better than some that are now. There was a time signal that you could find out what time it was and we could train our children how to handle the radio as they grew up. The disadvantages were that it can be an annoyance to neighbours. We are apt to listen too much when we should be reading our Bible. It was a bother on Sunday morning. There was the

temptation to listen to programs not so good, and we were apt to simply leave it on and let whatever comes in. It also bothered family conversation. The advertisements, some of them were bad. There was the listening to other denominational preachers who may weaken our standards and our Bible understanding. Then there were the influences that might lead others to use it, and the feelings and ideas of others.

Needless to say the negative side was quite long by that time, so we returned it to the person who gave it. We gave them a little advice too about how to handle such things and what should be done about it.

Thinking of television now. It has been refreshing at times to, for instance, be travelling and come up to or visit or talk with someone on a plane or a train. It has been surprising to me the number of men who were not Christians necessarily — educated men, or business men, who have said “We do not have television.” It was from a point of view of wasted time and of family values. I thought that was interesting when some Christian men at that time were trying to imbibe themselves with all that seemed to come over radio and television.

What are some of the comparisons of radio and television. The main purpose of both is to entertain. That is one of the bigger items of it. There is also the advertising of products, services and things that are to be sold, and advertisements of certain types of goods. They are also used to provide information and education. There are some good programs that are on radio and television. We will talk a little more about that later.

Furthermore, both are dominated by the world’s program. Both cannot be previewed or pre-listened to. In other words, whatever comes on, the next thing comes on and sometimes it is almost instant. It can be something bad even if you happen to have a good program. Furthermore both are difficult to control and become habit forming. That applies to both radio and television. Sometimes we work some places or have worked in the past when I was doing more work out in the field (I do not mean the corn field) I am talking about with other people. Sometimes, some of the workers would have at least a radio around. They did not use the TV usually. They would have their music and stuff on it and sometimes it becomes very tiring to work in that situation. They

are habit forming and they are hard to control.

Furthermore, both decide their programs to draw the largest possible audience and reception. In other words each program tries to get it so that they can captivate the audience and have the largest audience possible. Therefore, they really do the things that stir up people so that people will want to watch it. That is not good.

Furthermore, there are some worldwide incidents in which more than a billion people have seen the television on occasions. There are several occasions that they estimated an audience more than a billion. That has only been possible because of the satellites which can carry it basically over all the place of the earth at this time. That would be about 1/6th of the world population.

Both are moulding America into one form. Hitler, in the time prior to World War II said about the radio (the television was not really in use then), "Now, I have an instrument by which we can move the minds of the masses." It was important to Hitler for everyone to have a radio. He could communicate with them far better than it had ever been before, and he did it. He moved the masses and we had World War II.

There are some differences between the radio and TV. For instance (I forget exactly how much) we remember 5 or 10% of what we hear. They figured out that about 20% of what we read we remember. However, what we see often goes as high as 80% and that gets to be quite a bit. When you hear something and then you see something, you tie that together and it sticks in the memory much easier. Those figures may be more or less in some people and other ways too.

The things of radio are bad enough, but the sights, the violence, and the nudity are far more dangerous and damaging in television. A radio can be listened to all day long and some can continue to work. Workers may listen to all kinds of music. It is very interesting that when one is exposed to some of that, some of those tunes or things hitting your mind, even if you try to ignore them, you can hardly get them out. They have been especially designed for that purpose.

I) *The danger of radio and television.* 1) The voice of many non-Christian agencies is raised especially against television. There was an article in *US News and World Report*, August 2, 1982, *What is TV Doing to America?* I will quote, "In its forty-three years, television has

been praised as a miracle or damned as a distorter of reality. Now, new evidence is emerging about the medium and how it affects the people who watch it.” Then, the report went on to claim, “It is creating poorer grades in the students, shorter attention span, more violence, more immorality, damaging health, in the effects in children and people, and especially affecting the political situation in the world.”

In an article by the FCC commissioner entitled *TV Wasteland*, some years ago, he ended by saying “It is trash 100 to 1.” Now, that is an FCC commissioner. It is related to allotting the television and the radio classes.

I have a piece of more recent material here that a brother shared with me. It comes from the *US News and World Report* August 2, 1993. It said (and it was one full page), “The victims of TV violence.” “TV has become the closest and most constant companion for most American children. It has become the nation’s mom and pop, story teller, baby sitter, preacher, and teacher. Our children watch an astonishing 5,000 hours by the first grade and 19,000 hours by the end of high school more than they spend in class.”

Let us ponder this matter of being a baby sitter. I worked some years ago, putting in a piece of equipment in a judge’s home. I found out that his children, some of whom were maybe not even school age, were watching the television all the time with all that junk that was going across it. Imagine the judge who probably was needing to judge violence that was a result of television having those children of his whose babysitter was the television set which they glued themselves to. I could not imagine why he could not see the relationship to some of that.

Furthermore, the concern is that then later in life, those conditioned to violence will intuitively continue to regard it as exciting, charismatic and effective. Consider how pervasive it is. By the age of eighteen, according to one estimate, a youngster will have seen 200,000 acts of violence on TV, including 40,000 murders. *TV Guide* is a guide that tells you where you can find all this, so it is not against it. When I say it is not against it, it is a part of the operation. *TV Guide* looked at ten channels on one normal eighteen-hour viewing day and found 1,846 individual acts of violence. Every hour of prime time carries six to eight acts of violence. That

is killing someone, fights, or whatever they have going. Violence has become normal — the pied piper to the lure the vulnerable to a darker world.

Then, it says here, “CBS News — The seven top problems in public schools in 1940 were identified by teachers 1) in talking out of turn, 2) chewing gum, 3) making noises, 4) running in the halls, 5) cutting in line [trying to get in line] 6) dress code infractions, and 7) littering.” Those were the seven things that were problems to schools on that date. “By 1980 [forty years later] the seven top problems had been identified as 1) suicide, 2) assault, 3) robbery, 4) rape, 5) drug abuse, 6) alcohol abuse, and 7) pregnancy.” What a change in forty years. Probably TV had the biggest share of causing that, not all together, but it certainly had a big place.

Now, one more little sentence. “Some 80% of Americans feel that TV violence is harmful to our society and that there is too much of it in our entertainment.” That is what the public says. Nevertheless, the public still gobbles it up. Thus, it is so very subtle, and it causes so much problem.

2) Not only is there violence, and non-Christian agencies against it. *A large part of the*

programs are evil. There are a few educational programs — that is right. Nevertheless, who wants to wade through the garbage to get at them. Earlier in my ministry I thought of the things that might be of value. I put that on my little sheet. Remember, there was the news, the weather, and the time. At that time I had put on some religious programs. I will talk about that a little bit later. There are a few of those. However, I found out the weather will go on the way it does, and do what it will do anyway. I began to find out that the news is really not always the truth. The news likewise slants whatever they want to. In fact, one of the articles I read earlier was saying (not from a religious angle) that violence causes violence. This is true also with newspapers as well as TV and radio. The acts of violence take the headlines somehow or another. They were saying that all of this tends to create that throughout the world. We have the evidence of that now as well, and these were spectacular things.

The greatest media for propaganda is television especially, but both of them. When they put across the air what they want to put, they can mould things. I read part of an article in which it was talking about public opinion,

politicians, voting, and things like that, that television has quite a bit changed how they evaluate the President's election and how it is. Even those who are newscasters and can mould things more the way they want to by the slant they put on things as to who gets elected. This can be chosen by a few people to influence a great amount of people. There is a special contact with the President's themselves.

For example, there was a riot because a black man was beaten in California. It caused riots. People were influenced by television. Whenever it was shown or they talked about it, they would show them beating this man, over and over. They did not show the fact of the struggle that the police had with the man and how much other things had gone on in that. If they had once portrayed the whole truth of the matter, it might have been quite different and maybe many people who may have lost their lives with a lot of property destroyed would have been saved.

3) *Radio and television cannot be previewed like books and tapes.* I mentioned that earlier. In other words you cannot tell what is coming next. Some may say, "If you read the TV Guide . . ." but who does all that? Why then one knows. Nevertheless,

you cannot preview it.

4) *It is almost impossible to control either one.* There are parents who have thought that their children were only listening to good programs. It has been interesting in my ministry to find out how many times that the children were looking at things when the parents were gone, or when they could sneak in something because they got used to it.

5) *They are time consuming and habit forming.* It is easy to rob our time from mediation on the Word with the Lord and times. Some other things can catch this and do that too. I will not enlarge on that.

6) *Furthermore, the radio and television destroys family life.* There are many families in our area in Kentucky that used to sit down for meals but they do not anymore, why? Well, each one fills their plate and goes to the television set and they are glued there. Even when there are several televisions in, each one will want to look at the program that they have in mind and that they want. It is interesting but sad-denning to know when folks say to us, "We do not sit down anymore. We do not eat together anymore."

7) *The religious programs and the messages are the most dangerous things for Christians.* You

say danger? Yes, some radio and television preachers are quite fundamentalist in some ways and with some issues. They may preach soundly about some things but they are weak and wrong in other areas, other areas in which they should hold a stand. Important New Testament teachings like nonresistance, nonconformity, obedience, and submission to God, and conditional eternal security are not taught. One of the things that you need to remember is that when you hear or read something that is 95% truth but 5% that is not quite right or is error, is harder to detect the error than when you have 95% that is error and only 5% that is truth. Do you catch what I am saying? When there is a little bit of untruth down underneath, we do not catch it as quickly because of all the truth that is there. In contrast, when it is all untruth or almost so, then we catch that quickly and we soon realize it, but it is a very subtle thing.

Radio and TV preachers, many of them, have gotten into trouble as you may well know, or as you hear others talk about it. I have also learned to know that there are some people who have lost out with the Lord because they picked up false doctrines from preachers. Mostly it was radio

preachers among those who were Mennonite. Most of them, at that time, did not have TV. Some are so attached to the radio preacher, but if they really knew what was behind the scenes and what they really stood for, and what they really did, it might make a difference, but they simply hear them and that is all.

Some years ago, I was riding in a car going to a series of meetings in which I was a minister preaching there. They turned the radio on, and there was a preacher preaching. He simply preached right down the line and was speaking about nonconformity. I finally said, "Well, that sounds like a Mennonite preacher. Who is he?" Then, they named some a nationally known evangelist and I was surprised at that. Later, when I learned to know of the evangelist and what I knew about him, there was jewelry worn and there was no stand on nonresistance and a number of things that way. The preaching was as good as far as it went but it did not go far enough.

8) *Radio and television are a stumbling block to others.* You may be able to control yours and use it rightly, but someone else may not be able to do so.

II) *I have some things here that it is possible to do.* 1) It is possible to do without the radio and

television. Well, if you would say that to some people they would say, "Well, I do not see how I could ever get along without them. Why, the day would be so dreary and I would not know what to do with myself." It is interesting too when some people get rid of the radio and television they begin to find time for other things — profitable things. They can think rightly on issues, and then they really rejoice in that. However, until that they wonder what they can do? Thus, we see. It is possible to do without the radio and television.

In fact, there is an interesting thing about the Palm Sunday tornadoes that went through northern Indiana. They really killed a lot of people and destroyed a lot of property. Some people were so glad that they had a radio at least to tell them that it was coming. In contrast, the Amish, who did not have any radios at all (it was a very interesting coincidence or more likely providence) there was not one of them who lost their lives. If you know the number of Amish that are in northern Indiana, the section where it went through you would understand why that is true.

2) It is better to live without it considering much of the evil it brings into our homes. It is better to live without it.

3) In the third place, it is not only better, but it is the only way to come to a religious and spiritual conclusion that it is wrong and has no place really for us in our lives. I have been so glad during the time we were experimenting with the radio (which I told you about) I found out that you listen to one news report and then you want to hear the next one, "What happened?" And then you want to hear . . . that is the way it was. You want to hear the next one, what is happening in the situation. There are some people who get all upset about what is happening in the world. We hear them talk about it. I tell them sometimes, "I am so glad that I do not need to be all stirred up." They often get very stirred up about certain things that happen in the world. I said, "I am so glad that I do not need that to disturb my thinking and to get me stirred up that I am not comfortable." We need to remember some of these things.

4) In the beginning I said, "I see dangers in more than radio and television." Most of us here probably have church standards that forbid the use of either one, I am assuming. However, there are other things that may come in the way. We need to teach about them regularly. I thought when they gave me this subject, "Why

do we need that? Do not our people all have convictions on that?" Then, I happened to think "Well, maybe they do not. Maybe we are simply accepting it." We do need to have some teaching that will help to keep this true because some may not realize why we feel the way we do about some of them. It is very important that we should help them build convictions on them.

We are thankful for the victory of those who have given up the radio and television. We are thankful for what the Lord has granted to us — a peace not to have it.

5) We should notice the things that are related. One of them is the video tapes or the video recorders. Video tapes are readily available of all kinds. I understand from what people are saying that a lot of it is worse than what television is allowed to put on. Of course, I am sure there are possibly some video tapes that are of value. Sometimes in business operations there are instructions and such things like that which brings about the training, and they may have some value. Yet, if one starts using these things sometimes it may lead into other and to other ways.

Among us, the video type cameras seem like a bad investment as far as stewardship is con-

cerned. They become somewhat showy in their operation and it does require a monitor for viewing, which can easily be used in other ways and may be a temptation to do so.

I would also like to mention computers. Computers also have a screen on them much like television does. It is the same type of thing. Computers are valuable pieces of equipment for the purposes we have need for. If we do not have need for them then they are something that we do not need. For business, word processing, writing and other profitable uses of those natures. The danger comes when they become a piece of entertainment. That is where the danger comes. As long as they are a servant and a workhorse, in a sense that may be all right, but not when they become entertainment. I have had a computer since 1984 or '85 for writing, for sermon preparation, and for providing other necessary information. However, along with it are some games on disk like Tic Tac Toe and the Maze, I said in my mind, "I will not use these. It will be a workhorse and that is all it is." Therefore, mine has only been used for that type of thing.

We did a little research as a congregation and found that clearly the games that can be put

on the computers are not what we really need. They become quite exciting and it becomes addictive.

6) Another fact that relates to the radio would be the CB [Citizen's Band] radios. The plan was for their good use in the US, but it has become mostly a trucker's item and with all the language and things that go on there have been a number of people who have lost out on their spiritual life. They got into other marriages simply because they were taken up with the CB and followed that type of thing. We believe that there is a place of right use by some of our foreign missionaries in foreign lands. They can use them easily and there is not the amount of garbage that comes into it. On the other hand, some have tried to use them for business use at times. However, if they have to be left on and the channels are used there are a lot of people also that will simply use them to try to see who, and how much they can contact.

Another thing to think about is, how do you handle things when you go into a home in visitation or something and their television is on. How do you do when you go to a dentist's office or doctor's office or some other waiting room, and the television

is going? They do this for the entertainment of their people. I found out that one of the best things to do is to find a place where you do not need to look at it, if you can find such a place. I found out also, sometimes if you are the only one there, why they do not care if you turn it off because they are just there for the other people too.

Another thing that I think necessary to consider is in babysitting jobs and places we work. It is very important that we have an understanding about the condition that we will work under, as babysitters or as our children might be doing that for someone else, or otherwise and that we have some kind of understanding that we do not need to be involved in this type of thing. I am afraid sometimes that some of our young people, our young sisters may get into these and not be able to handle it. As parents, we need to see that it is worked out so that we do not need to do such things as that.

Likewise we would like to say one more thing attached to the kind of things that we are talking about. That is one of the dangers we face with cassette tapes [or other recordings]. When cassette tapes came along, we said that this is something that we can monitor. We can pre-listen, and

know what we are getting or who is producing them. Tapes are being made of special meetings. They are of value. Thus, our tape recorders have a use. Nevertheless, we need to remember that they need to also be controlled. With the readiness of purchasing recording of all kinds of music and even some without instruments on them, but what are they?

What are young people listening to? What are some of the others listening to in these areas? There is a lot of tape material. Some of it has musical instruments on it, which we do not want. The tapes need to be watched very closely.

There can be too much time spent listening to even good things and even if it is good, we need time for meditation. We need time to let God talk to us. We need time when we can think about other things, but some-

times it becomes that way.

In closing, Ephesians 5:3-5 says, "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; (4) Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. (5) For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God." One question to ask ourselves, "What would we want to be looking at, listening to, or reading when Jesus comes?" This is a fair test. What do we want to be doing when Jesus comes? It relates to more things but it does relate to these matters as well. May the Lord lead us to lives of conviction and lives of knowing where to draw lines and where not. May the Lord bless you.

Balance for the Breadwinner

Balance is so important in our life. As we think of ceiling fans, someone manufactured them such that there would be perfect balance and they would run correctly. As I also thought about balance, my mind went to tire shops. Most of us are familiar with tires which we need to bal-

ance from time to time. If a tire is not balanced, a vehicle does not travel very smoothly. This is the way it can be in the congregation too. If someone is out of balance then the congregation will have some rough travelling.

I found it a real challenge to discern what is a proper balance.

Every one of us probably has a good vision of what a proper balance is. We may think we are reasonably balanced and everyone else that does not quite conform to our way of doing things or thinking is a little bit off balance. I trust we can look at the Word of God and find a proper balance in this area.

I am not sure if I have used the word “breadwinner” very often. I have heard it already. As we think of a balance, we think of a scale many times. We see one side of the equation. What is the other side? As fathers we are called to be breadwinners. I thought I knew what the word meant. I looked it up in the dictionary. It says, “a person who supports, those dependent upon him by his earnings.” I think we know what that means. We are called to support those of our family, whom God has made us responsible. Thus, we look at that side of it. We realize that we are called, and that we are responsible for supporting our dependents. We are responsible for supporting and meet their physical needs. As we think of a breadwinner, we probably think of the physical needs.

What then is on the other side of the balance? Looking at the word balance, it means, “equality in amount, weight value, or

importance between two things, or the parts of the thing.” If I would be put on a scale or if I would be put on the tire balancer, which side of me would be light? I realize there are some who have been slack possibly in providing for their own, but with our background that we have, most of us would say, we are probably a little bit light on providing for the other side other than being a breadwinner.

I think most of us can testify that our families have enough to eat. They do not lack on that part. As we think of the many testimonies which we have heard in the past of people who have come the end of their life, or maybe a sickness or something, as they look back over their life, how many have we heard say “I wish that I had put more time into providing bread for my family?” Rather, we hear the other side of it quite often. “If I only had put more time into providing for the spiritual needs of my family.” Thus, we are talking about, as we think of a tire, putting the weight on the light side to equal it out. Can we say that possibly we need a little more weight on the other side, to get us equal or balanced in this area?

We are aware that the Scriptures teach very clearly what our responsibility is as far

as providing for the needs of our family. I do not think we need to neglect that as far as the physical needs. We have those that are dependent upon us for food, clothing and shelter. However, they also have other needs. Are those needs being met? That is a challenge for us. We think about the spiritual, emotional and social needs, are those being met? As we look over our life, and see those lacks where we have not been able to supply those needs, sometimes we need to reevaluate our emphasis that we have. Again, we probably see a lot less lack in our homes, in the physical needs, than we do in the other needs that we have — the spiritual, emotional and so forth. I believe that is probably what we have in mind, as far as finding a proper balance. We need to recognize that it is important to be a breadwinner but then, not to neglect the others. This is a challenge. I trust that we can look into the Word of God and find some direction in these areas.

Ephesians 4:28 would tell us, “Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.” This would include those whom we are responsible for. It is the respon-

sibility of a breadwinner to supply, by “working with his hands, the thing which is good that he may have to give to him that needeth.” Of course, it would reach out much further than that.

1 Timothy 5:8 tells us about someone who does not provide for his own. It certainly is not good. There is nothing good about someone who does not provide for his own household. “But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.” This is quite a judgment, is it not? This passage does not mention being a breadwinner as such. It does not say what needs are to be provided for. We believe this would include providing for all the needs of his own house. “He hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”

In Matthew 6:25–34 (the Sermon on the Mount) quite a few times in this passage the phrase, “take no thought,” is mentioned. In other words, we are not to be anxious about these things. We can be anxious or concerned about these things to the place where we neglect the more important things of life. Verse 33 brings out a beautiful balance, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his right-

eousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Taking that with the other verses that we had, we have a beautiful balance. We are to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and then also to be diligent in supplying for our natural needs that we have.

Matthew 16:24–26 also helps us to find the proper balance in this area. “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” We want to especially look at verse 26. This is quite a serious question, is it not? “What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world?” For many of us there is only a very small portion of the world that we can gain by our lifetime of labouring. Even the richest men in the world do not come close to owning the whole world. However, if we could, what would we be profited if we would gain the whole world and lose our own soul? First of all, we are responsible for our own soul and also for others. We

are one of those dependents that we are talking about here that we are providing for. Thus, as we think about this, “what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

We are weighing two things. We weigh the natural things — the things of this world — gaining the whole world. We weigh this in comparison to eternal things of our own soul. As we realize this, when we come to the end of our life, these things will be in a proper perspective, and balance, and we will be able to relate to them in a right way. We must seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. Thus, we realize that even though we are called to provide as a breadwinner, putting too much emphasis on this will destroy our soul. “What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” Today as we think and look at those around us and maybe sometimes ourselves as we are beginning, there is the perceived need to cheat, and obtain some earthly gain in exchange for their soul. Many have come to the judgment seat of Christ, and all at once have become aware that they have obtained the things of this world in exchange for their soul. It is sad, is it not? I trust looking at those things, will help us find a proper balance in these areas.

I would like to look at an individual whom I believe had a proper balance. The apostle Paul had a proper balance of these material things versus the eternal things, or the spiritual versus the physical. In the first part of Philippians 3, he mentions all the things that he had done. He had a list of quite a few things that he had accomplished. He had gained quite a status in the religious world. His circumcision, lineage and his family that he was from, and more including his zeal in verse 6. However, in verse 7 he says, "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ." Paul put himself on the balance and realized that these things that were gain to him in the past were all lost now. They did not amount to anything. He says, "those I counted loss for Christ." In other words, Christ outweighed everything else he had. He was able to find a proper balance relating to the issues of life. "Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ." (verse 8) My desire is that we could all attain to that. . . "count[ing] all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge

of Christ Jesus my Lord."

We see also in verses 9 and 10, "And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ." Notice Christ coming forth in every verse here. "The righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him." He was willing to count all these other things but loss, so that he could win Christ. Paul wanted to be found in Him, not having his "own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ," Paul wanted the righteousness which is by faith. "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead." (verses 10, 11) It was because of this that he was willing to count all these things but loss. He desired to win Christ. I realize this is speaking about Paul personally, but I believe the same principles apply as we relate to our families for whom we are responsible.

As we think about the breadwinner, our companions, wives, have a great responsibility. We see many fathers and husbands today who are balanced because of a faithful wife. There are also

many that are the other way because of a wife that is not in her proper place. We think about this as something that is very beautiful — A balanced perspective for the breadwinner. We also realize that anything good that God has established, Satan would love to destroy or hinder. It is his goal to destroy this beautiful balance which God has for His people. If he can accomplish this, get his foot (so to speak) in the door of our lives, he can destroy and scatter our homes.

We would like to look at some subtopics. 1) Being diligent in working with our hands, 2) Time for family worship, and 3) Utilizing family time. The first part we spoke about quite a bit already. God has certainly called us to a life of diligent labour with our hands. We do not want to minimize that. I would like to look at a few verses in Proverbs, which have much to say about applying ourselves to the physical labours which God has called us to. “He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.” (Proverbs 10:4) The proverb writer is telling us that if we are diligent with our hands, God will give us riches. I believe we have recognized that. If we are willing to work (willing to put their shoulder to the wheel, their hand

to the work) I do not think there are many people who will not experience this. I realize some are gifted in it more than others, but there is a blessing that God has for those who are willing to be diligent in their labours.

“The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.” (Proverbs 13:4) God’s blessing is upon diligence in our working. We can also see the example of Daniel. As one of the governors of the land, he was likely a very busy person — maybe somewhat like what some of our schedules are. What blesses me is that as busy as he was, he found time three times a day. Three times a day, he knelt in his room with his window open toward Jerusalem and prayed to God. This is a challenge to me. He was a very diligent and busy man, seeing about the affairs of the kingdom, and he was still willing, and had time to worship God. He was a man who was balanced.

I realize, and do not think he had a family, yet he had to provide for physical needs. We also have the example of Joseph. Joseph was in Potipher’s house and, “he left all that he had in Joseph’s hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was

a goodly person, and well favoured.” (Genesis 39:6) The Scripture does not tell us a whole lot about him, but he was not in Potipher’s house very long, until Potipher noticed that this was an unusual character. He was diligent with his things, a good manager, and took care of things. It does not say how long it took until Potiphar had the confidence in Joseph that he left everything in Joseph’s hand. Thus, we see that the blessing of God is upon those who are diligent and not slothful in their labouring with their hands.

We need to look at a few results of slothfulness or lack of diligence. We have one of those in Proverbs 24:30, 31. The Proverb writer did a lot of traveling and noticed something that got his attention as he was traveling through the land. “I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.” He observed this

slothful one, who was not diligently taking care of his physical needs or diligent with his hands in taking care of things that God had entrusted to him. The vineyard was overgrown. We say it was of little or no value because of the neglect that had been there. The proverb writer saw that poverty had come upon that man.

Also in Ecclesiastes 10:18, “By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house dropeth through.” I have been amazed already, if you see a building that has been neglected or ‘let go to itself,’ that it does not take very long until this very thing could happen. This is the way it is in our natural things, and our possessions that we have. We could also apply this to our spiritual life. A little leak in the roof left neglected, will rot out the rest of it, and finally the whole building will be gone. “Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.” (Proverbs 6:6–8)

Paul said “that if any would not work, neither should he eat.” (2 Thessalonians 3:10) This was a teaching that was given even in the New Testament time. Paul

heard that there were some who were busy bodies, simply ‘loafing around’ and not doing anything. He admonished them very sharply that this is a principle of God’s Word. In other words, if we want to eat, we should work too. There are many blessings as we are diligent with our hands and faithful in that which God has given us. We do not want to minimize that. We have a wonderful heritage in that we have been taught to work and to labour with our hands.

I do not think I hear of very many of our own people of whom we could say experience the lack of physical needs being met. I realize some are more diligent than others. I had to think of one example from years ago. I heard about an individual who emphasized very much seeking first the kingdom of God and his needs would be met. He emphasized this to the point where he neglected his physical needs. He had three or four small children at that time, and his wife was at (we might say) her ‘wits end,’ to almost know what to put on the table. It was that serious. The food was getting down to the very last and she was trying to get the message across to her husband. At one meal she put what little food she had on the children’s places, and on her hus-

band’s place she put the Bible. I am not sure if he got the message or how things went after that, but at least it was one way that she wanted to try to impress upon him that it was important for him to go out to work and provide for the needs of the family. They barely had enough to eat. Though it is very important that we do provide these things, there are other things that are also important.

Time for family worship. Maybe we have never found that a challenge? Most fathers I have talked to have, especially if we get involved in the things of this life. I would like to look at the life of Abraham. We see in Genesis 12 that Abraham was a busy man too. I am not sure how many servants he had. How many did he have when he went over there and rescued Lot? Was it not three hundred and eighteen servants that he took with him? (Genesis 14:14) I see Abraham as a very busy man. One thing that stands out to me that is such a blessing as he travelled from one place to the other. It seemed like, before Abraham did anything else, he built an altar. When he moved to another place that was the most important thing. He built an altar, so he would have a place to worship God. “And the LORD appeared

unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him. And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.” (Genesis 12:7, 8) That blesses me as I think about it.

We notice in the next chapter when he travelled to Egypt that he did not build an altar. When he moved back again into the land that God had promised him, he built an altar again. This is a challenge to us. It also blesses me to think that this made an impression on his children and his grandchildren. I thought about our responsibility and calling, and trying to pass on the things of true value to our children. As we think of building the family altar, what will our children think about this? Is it important enough that they will want to do it too? We notice in Genesis 26:25, speaking about Isaac, “And he builded an altar there, and called upon the name of the LORD.” That was such a blessing to me. Abraham’s son, “he builded an altar . . . and called upon the name of the LORD.” The example from

Abraham’s life taught Isaac that this is very important. His worship was such that it came second to nothing.

In Genesis 33:20, (speaking about Jacob — the third generation). “He erected there an altar, and called it Elelohe-Israel.” Jacob builded an altar. Is this not beautiful as we think about our worship to God and the emphasis that we put on it? If Abraham had been a man who was concerned about his herds first of all, making sure they had plenty of pasture and all the details that go with it, I wonder if Isaac and Jacob would have built an altar too, when they moved to the next place. I question whether they would have. Thus, as we think about passing on our heritage, I think we are able to pass on the heritage of being diligent in working with our hands. We make our impression upon the world as we go through it here. However, are we able to meet the other challenges in building an altar unto God?

Also in Genesis 35:1, “God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother.” God instructed him to build an altar. We notice Jacob in verse 7, “He built

there an altar, and called the place Elbethel: because there God appeared unto him, when he fled from the face of his brother.” He obeyed and built an altar. As we think about that, and as we think about balance, how important is the family altar in our home? Is it important enough to us that our children can say that they can hardly even remember or at least very few times that it was neglected? If someone would ask our children what time we have for devotions, what time we come to the family altar, is it such an important part of our schedule that they can tell us exactly what time we have?

It is important that we have a special, certain time. What if someone comes and knocks on the door at that time? It is a challenge is it not, especially, if someone does not even believe in God. It is a time to invite them in and join us for family worship, “Join us in our family altar,” and gather around the altar, worshipping God. This would speak probably more than any words which we could say. I know there have been those who have experienced that, and it made such an impression upon them. In fact there have been those who have come to the faith through that very thing as they have seen a function of a Christian home.

Where does family worship come as far as our priority list? It speaks sometimes of making our priority list. Which is most important? As we look at all the responsibilities, and the different things that we have to do, Where does family worship come? I find that a challenge to myself. What does it take to cancel or disrupt it? Where is it on our list? How far down or up? I think for Abraham it was a first on his priority list — right at the top. He was able to pass that on to the next generations.

Utilizing family time. This can branch out into a lot more areas than our family devotions. As far as family worship is concerned, all of our life should be a worship together. I want to look at us as fathers as the spiritual bread winner of the home. I realize we encourage our wives, and also those whom God has entrusted to us (especially after they have become Christians) to have their personal devotions, but I think there should be a place for family time especially in devotions. We think of smaller children. We need to break the Word of God down to where they can benefit from it. This is one of the challenges of a father. We need to balance our calling and responsibility such that we are able to break it down to where the

youngest ones can digest some of it, and also receive some benefit. I find our devotions at home becoming somewhat different as our children get older. We work to supply something that everyone is able to benefit from and that is digestible to all members of the family.

As we think of utilizing family time, it is a great blessing to, either after a meal, at devotions, or sometime during the day, all sing together. I have been amazed as we sing some songs together in the morning how often during the day we hear snatches of that song. It is nice to have it one of the first things in the morning. I realize we have chores in the morning. We go out and chore and then after we come back in and have devotions. I appreciate having it first before our minds get full of a lot of other things. It is important to learn songs from memory, then throughout the day these can be in our minds as we relate to the things of life, and we hear snatches of songs during the day which we have sung in family worship. We also need to pray together. We need to mention very personal needs. We may be facing some spiritual or financial struggles. I do not think we can emphasize enough what kind of effect that will have, or what it

will do for our children, as they see us bringing our needs to God in prayer.

Teaching reverence. The question was asked one time, "Do we accept conduct during our devotion time at home that would be unacceptable in public worship?" I think if we are careful in teaching reverence, respect, holding still, and all that, at home, then we will have very little problem when we come to church services. It may save a lot of embarrassment sometimes. Again, I would like to ask that question, "Do we accept conduct at home that is unacceptable, during our collective worship services?" There is a lot more to family time than merely the family devotions or family altar.

Some helps and hindrances in helping us to find a proper balance as a breadwinner. The first one I would mention is the influence of a faithful wife, or the influence of an unfaithful wife. I do not think most of our wives realize how great our desire, as a Christian husband, is to keep her happy. If a wife's desires require more than their husband is able to earn, he will become unbalanced as he tries to meet the needs that she has. I realize our tendency and our calling is to love our wives and to do everything we can as a Christian hus-

band to try to meet that need. An example of this would be a financial setback where we are not able to buy things which we were able before. On the one hand, we may have a wife will say, "I realize that we have had some financial set back. I am willing to try to make it with what we earn, and what little we have." We can compare this to a wife who complains about having to do with less. That can be in groceries, appliances or whatever. I believe a husband will very easily become unbalanced as he attempts to meet the need of a wife who wants more than their means can afford at that time.

It may be a lot of different things. We may not be able to afford to eat out. Then, be satisfied to eat at home. Eating out is in fact a very poor practice. I do not say that there are not exceptions. However, we need to look at the environment, and the influence which we put our family in. We need to also look at it from a stewardship standpoint. It is poor stewardship. The environment is such that we are better off not to have a lot of exposure. These are also things that are not beneficial for our family.

If we insist on a new house, new furniture, remodeling, clothes and other things, and we cannot afford it, it will put the

husband under stress, he can hardly handle. However, if the wife shows her willingness to live within her husband's income, it will go a long way in keeping him balanced. I would say that probably behind every balanced husband, there is a wife who is contributing quite a bit to that. Reading in the book *The Home Beautiful*, I was impressed as I thought about the influence that a wife has on her husband. Let us think about this in our responsibility to keep a husband balanced.

"There is no wife that can overestimate the influence that she wields on her husband, or the measure in which his character, his career, and his very destiny, are laid in her hands for shaping. The sway which she holds over him, is the sway of love. But it is mighty and resistless. If she retains her power, if she holds her place as queen in his life, she can do with him as she will. Even unconsciously to herself without any thought of her responsibility, she will exert over him an influence that will go far toward making or marring all his future."

Those are some very weighty words as we think about that. We could add to that by saying, "It will go far toward balancing or unbalancing him." As we think about a balanced breadwinner, I

trust that wives are willing to do their part in helping their husbands to become a balanced breadwinner. There are quite a few things which a wife can do. We need to be satisfied to live within the income. We have heard of wives who can ‘carry it out the back door faster than you can bring it in the front door.’ We know what happens in those situations. It puts the whole family under stress. Husbands need the co-operation of their wives. If you say it is his responsibility for family worship, be ready at the right time for devotions or be helping to get the children ready for family worship. This will go a long way. Wives need to support their husbands in their calling. You will wield an influence over him that he cannot resist. It is mighty and resistless. May we be challenged by this.

There are some things that can hinder proper balance, one of which is having an excessive debt load. I think we probably hear enough about that. We realize that this could very quickly make an individual unbalanced. Think of the credit card trap (if you want to call it that) where we are burdened with debt to the point of neglecting or losing spiritual life — his own, and also that of the family. In Matthew we read the parable of the sower as

he went forth. It mentions about the, “care[s] of this world . . . choke[d] the word.” (Matthew 13:22; Mark 4:19) This can happen if we have excessive debt. Many of us can testify to the fact that those things can happen with excessive cares of this world, or debt. We can also be too involved in this world. It can choke the Word, and it becomes unfruitful.

Covetousness or, we could say, peer pressure can hinder proper balance. We can very easily come to a place like in Ezekiel, if we are not careful. When we covet after those things that others have or when we look around, and see some things that other people have, we can get into a trap where we become very unbalanced. I have often thought about the example in Ezekiel 33:31 concerning these people that at that time. “They come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.” I trust that is not our testimony. It can be if we are not careful. Notice the last part, “their heart goeth after their covetousness.” The Scripture says, “they love to sit down and hear. They sit before me as my

people.” Verse 32 says, “And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not.” This is because, “their heart goeth after covetousness.” They have the right actions, but because of covetousness, they want to go after their own things and desires.

I am certain that every one of us could make a special list of other hindrances. It probably would be different with each one of us. We know those things that will hinder our proper balance. We could have hobbies or personal interests. These things can hinder proper balance or can make us improper in providing a proper balance for our homes and families. I realize many enjoy fishing and hunting. These things can make us unbalanced if we are not careful. Vehicles can do that. Our love for reading, daily newspapers, sports, reading for entertainment, and many other things can get us unbalanced. We need to weigh these things in light of eternity. Is it that important? As we think about our busy schedules, do we actually have time for these things.

Family worship is more than simply a family time or family

devotions. It is the family altar. As we think about our busy schedule, we are busy working to provide the spiritual, natural, and physical needs for our family. I thought about how beautiful it is, if we can incorporate the two. In Deuteronomy 6, we read about speaking about the things of God, “When thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” (Deuteronomy 6:7) There is a whole list of things mentioned here. I would like to challenge each one of us to incorporate these too. While we are providing for the needs, let us also incorporate the spiritual. We can speak about the things of God while we are working. This is the blessing of a family being able to work together. I realize not everyone is able to do this. This can be providing a balanced diet for our family. It can be a very good way to do this working together as a family. I trust that we are not so concerned about the highest wages or always wanting to get the most we can in the financial opportunities out there. We need to see that we can gain in being together as a family, such that we are willing to sacrifice some of these things so that we can become balanced.

There are many family projects which we can work on. These are a wonderful time to

incorporate the two together. All our work should be to glorify God and to encourage meeting the spiritual needs of our family. There are many things that we can relate to in everyday life. One especially, which stands out to me is gardening. This is such an opportunity for families to work together. We all can see that there are so many lessons we can learn as we try to get the weeds under control, watch the plants grow, and bear fruit. There is the satisfaction and blessing of harvesting and enjoying them together. I do not think we can compare that to dollars and cents. There are many other things which we can relate to in the same way. How can we incorporate the two, such that while we are busy making our living, we can also teach and train in the things of God?

We can make family time more than only worship during devotions. There are many things that we can do, which God can give His blessings to. We can sing and visit elderly neighbours. They may have some work that needs to be done. We can go and do that together. We can visit parks or go on trips together. The list is endless. We can spend time together as a family. These are things which our families would remember. As we think of

a vision of balance we need to remind ourselves that there are some things which are eternal, and there are others that are only for time. As we look at that in the proper light, I trust that it will help us to find a proper balance.

There is a poem that I read years ago. It was speaking to a school teacher, but I would like to apply it to us as parents. As we read this, we will be able to find, probably a little better balance in our fatherly responsibilities.

Building a Temple.

A builder builded a temple,
He wrought it with grace and skill,

Pillars and groins and arches,
All fashioned to do his will.

Men said, as they saw its beauty,

‘It shall never know decay.

Great is thy skill O builder,

Thy fame shall endure for aye.’

The teacher [parent] builded a temple,

With loving and infinite care,

Planning each arch with patience,

Laying each stone with prayer.

None praised her unceasing efforts,

None knew of his wondrous plan,

For the temple the teacher [parent] builded,

Was unseen by the eyes of
man.

Gone is the builder's temple,
Crumbled into dust.

Low lieth each stately pillar,
Food for consuming rust.

But the temple, the teacher
[parent] builded,

Will last while the ages roll,

For the beautiful unseen tem-
ple,

Is a child's immortal soul.

As we consider this, the
Temple, as beautiful as it was, is
gone. It is crumbled. However,
the temple that we build in our
children, is something which will
last, not only for time, but for
eternity. As we recognize this, I
trust we will be able to find a lit-
tle better, more balanced view as
a breadwinner, providing for the
physical and also for the spiritual
needs of our families.

Scripture References

Genesis	10:4	146	Ephesians	
12:7, 8	149	13:4	146	4:28
14:14	148	24:30, 31	147	5:3-5
26:25	149	Ecclesiastes		Philippians
33:20	149	10:18	147	3:6
35:1	149	Ezekiel		3:7
35:7	149	33:31	153	3:8
39:6	147	33:32	154	3:9
Deuteronomy		Matthew		3:10, 11
6:7	154	6:25-34	143	2 Thessalonians
Psalms		13:22	153	3:10
19:14	129	16:24-26	144	1 Timothy
Proverbs		Mark		5:8
6:6-8	147	4:19	153	143

From the Previous Issue:

Developing Sensitivity and Compassion Within the Brotherhood

From a message by Jacob Brubaker

Sunday, February 11, 2001

Woodbury Mennonite Church

*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly,
nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the
scornful. — Psalm 1:1*

Book Reprint *(continued)*

The Seven Laws of Teaching

CHAPTER I

THE LAWS OF TEACHING

1. Teaching has its natural laws as fixed as the laws of the planets or of growing organisms. It is a process in which definite forces are employed to produce definite results, and these results follow as regularly and certainly as the day follows the sun. What the teacher does, he does through natural agencies working out their natural effects. Causation is as certain — if not always so obvious nor so easily understood — in the movements of mind as in those of matter. The laws of mind are as fixed as material laws.

2. To discover the laws of any process, whether of mind or of matter, makes it possible to bring that process under the control of one who knows the laws and can command the conditions. Knowledge of the laws of electric currents has made it possible to send messages through the ocean; and he that masters the laws of teaching may convey to the minds of others the experience of the race. He who would gain harvests must obey nature's laws for the growing of corn, and he who would teach a child suc-

cessfully must follow the laws of teaching. Nowhere, in the world of mind or in the world of matter, can man produce any effects except as he employs the means upon which those effects depend.

3. Teaching, in its simplest sense, is the communication of experience. This experience may consist of facts, truths, doctrines, ideas, or ideals, or it may consist of the processes or skills of an art. It may be taught by the use of words, by signs, by objects, by actions, or by examples; but whatever the substance, the mode, or the aim, of the teaching, the act itself, fundamentally considered, is always substantially the same: it is a communication of experience. It is painting in the mind of another the picture in one's own — the shaping of the thought and understanding to the comprehension of some truth which the teacher knows and wishes to communicate. Further on we shall see that the word "communication" is used here, not in the sense of the transmission of a mental something from one person to another, but rather in the

sense of helping another to reproduce the same experience and thus to make it common to the two.

The Seven Factors

4. To discover the law of any phenomenon, we must subject that phenomenon to a scientific analysis and study its separate parts. If any complete act of teaching be so analyzed, it will be found to contain seven distinct elements or factors: (1) two personal factors — a teacher and a learner; (2) two mental factors — a common language or medium of communication, and a lesson or truth or art to be communicated; and (3) three functional acts or processes — that of the teacher, that of the learner, and a final or finishing process to test and fix the result.

5. These are essential elements in every full and complete act of teaching. Whether the lesson be a single fact told in three minutes, or a lecture occupying as many hours, the seven factors are all present, if the work is effective. None of them can be omitted, and no others need be added. If there is a true science of teaching, it must be found in the laws and relations of these seven factors.

6. To discover their

laws, let us pass the seven factors again in careful review: (1) a teacher; (2) a learner; (3) a common language or medium of communication; (4) a lesson or truth; (5) the teacher's work; (6) the learner's work; (7) the review work, which organizes, applies, perfects, and fastens the work which has been done. Each of these seven factors is distinguished from the rest by some essential characteristic; each is a distinct entity or fact of nature. Since every fact of nature is the product and proof of some law of nature, each element here described has its own great law of function, and these taken together constitute THE SEVEN LAWS OF TEACHING.

7. It may seem trivial so to insist upon all this. Some will say: "Of course there can be no teaching without a teacher and a pupil, without a language and a lesson, and unless the teacher teaches and the learner learns; or, finally, without a proper review, if any assurance is to be gained that the work has been successful. All this is too obvious to need assertion." So also is it obvious that when seeds, soil, heat, light, and moisture come together in proper measure, plants are produced and grow to the harvest; but the obviousness of these common facts does not

prevent their hiding among them some of the most profound and mysterious laws of nature. So, too, a simple act of teaching may hide within it some of the most potent and significant laws of mental life.

The Laws Stated

8. These laws are not obscure and hard to reach. They are so simple and natural that they suggest themselves almost spontaneously to the careful observer. They lie imbedded in the simplest description that can be given of the seven elements named, as in the following:

(1)A *teacher* must be one who KNOWS the lesson or truth or art to be taught.

(2)A *learner* is one who ATTENDS with interest to the lesson.

(3)The *language* used as a MEDIUM between teacher and

learner must be COMMON to both.

(4)The *lesson* to be mastered must be explicable in the terms of truth already known by the learner — the UNKNOWN must be explained by means of the KNOWN.

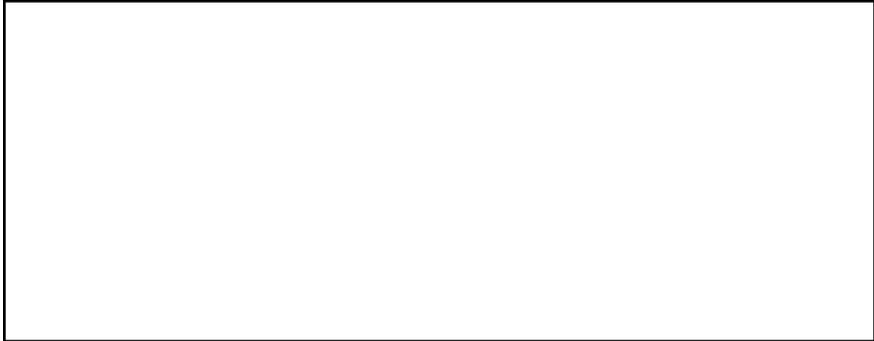
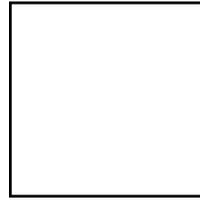
(5)*Teaching* is AROUSING and USING the *pupil's mind* to grasp the desired thought or to master the desired art.

(6)*Learning* is THINKING into one's own UNDERSTANDING a new idea or truth or working into HABIT a new art or skill.

(7)The *test and proof* of teaching done — the finishing and fastening process — must be a REVIEWING, RETHINKING, RE-KNOWING, REPRODUCING, and APPLYING of the material that has been taught, the knowledge and ideals and arts that have been communicated.

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