

The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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Evangelist and Editor:
Dempsey Collins

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Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30

What Have They Seen in Thy House?

by Dempsey Collins

II Kings 20:15 – The home should be one of the most sacred spots in the world, where a world of love is shut in and a world of sin and conflict is shut out. But I’m sure we all realize there are homes in name only. Homes where the father, sometimes the mother, is a stranger; where parents value their material interests more than the obligations of parenthood; where shouting, negativism, discouragement and conflict are common occurrences.

Such things as these will leave their mark. The children in the home will be affected by it. The apostle Paul, in Romans 14:7 said, “For none of us liveth to himself and none of us dieth to himself,” and that is true of the home. It wields an influence that cannot be hid. Therefore, understanding these things, we must see the importance of studying the question, “What have they seen in thy house?”

The Bible teaches a number of things children must see in the home if they are to someday be among His servants:

1. The father is the head of the home (Eph. 5:22-24; 6:1-4).
2. They must be taught respect for parental authority. Not being obedient to parents is listed among heinous sins in Romans 1 and II Timothy 3.
3. Have they seen discipline? Much of the juvenile delinquency rampant today is caused by parental delinquency. Every school teacher recognizes the essentiality of discipline in the classroom. Society sees the necessity of discipline in that it provides laws, as well as trials and punishments, for violators (Rom. 13:1-4). There must be discipline in the church, else there will be respect neither for God nor His laws (I Cor. 5). Similarly there must be discipline in the home.

NOTE: There are two kinds of discipline: instructive and corrective. Instructive discipline is preventive in nature and prevention is always better than cure. Everything possible should be done to prevent the necessity of taking corrective discipline (Deut. 6:4-7; Eph. 6:1-4). But

there are occasions when both kinds must be employed. Solomon taught: “He who withholds his rod hates his son; but he who loves him disciplines him diligently” (Prov. 13:24; note also Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21).

4. Prayer.
5. Bible Study: We surely cannot expect a child to respect God’s word if he does not see us reading from the Bible in the home. But when a child sees a parent study the Bible daily, it will help them to develop respect for God’s word, as they recognize the obvious respect demonstrated by the parents. To so many Christians, Bible study is a rushed Saturday night situation. People scurry to get a lesson finished that should have been worked on all week. This may be true in your own home. Think for a moment about the effect this has upon the mind of a child. What kinds of concepts are being created in little minds about this book called the Bible?
 - a. Something which occupies very little time?
 - b. Something which can be put off until the last moment? What about salvation?
 - c. Bible study is something which can be done hurriedly in order to do other things which must be more important?
 - d. Something that must not be very important?

I suggest these are the kind of concepts that are being formed in little minds when they see little or no Bible study in the home. Thus it is important that we study the Bible daily, not only individually, but in time set aside to study with the whole family. This teaches the child:

- a. A standard of living according to the ways of God.
- b. Respect for God.
- c. Respect for His word.
- d. Routine or habitual Bible study.

Note II Tim. 1:5; 3:14, 15; Phil. 2:20-22, for the results we long for. Let us also make sure that all other literature we have in the home is wholesome and not a bad influence upon the child. It would be inconsistent and a defeat of our purpose to allow the Bible and unwholesome literature in the same home.

to be continued

News and Notes:

Reminder: Bible Study – Every Tuesday @ 10 a.m. (Old Testament) and @ 7 p.m. (Romans)

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16