

THINGS YOU NEED TO TEACH YOUR CHILDREN

All of us have two possible alternatives with regard to our eternal destiny.

- a. Lk 16:22-23 ~ “So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.”

Because it will be heaven or hell when this life is over, there are some things you need to teach your children.

Christian parents who are what they ought to be will be diligent about teaching these things to their children

- a. It is clear from what Paul says in 1Th 2:10-12 that he expects godly parents to exhort, comfort, and charge their children:
 - ▶ “You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; 11 as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, . . .”
 - ▶ And Paul speaks directly to fathers about the responsibility to teach their children in Eph 6:4.
 - “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”
- b. God has always required that parents be diligent about teaching their children His law.
 - ▶ Deut 6:6-9 ~ “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

In this sermon, I want to remind you of some things you need to teach your children.

- a. There are literally dozens of things you need to teach your children, but in the lesson tonight I’m just going to give you “a baker’s dozen” to consider.

1. You need to teach your children some things about God.

You need to teach them that there is no reasonable or believable alternative to God.

- a. Heb 3:4 ~ “For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.”
 - ▶ Psa 19:1 ~ “The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.”
- b. The universe exists -- how did it come to be?! Plant and animal life exists -- but where did it come from?! Human life exists -- what accounts for it?!
- c. With regard to the origin of all things . . . there are 3, and only 3, logical possibilities;
 - ▶ SOMEONE . . . CREATED (“In the beginning God created . . . -- Gen 1:1)
 - ▶ SOMETHING . . . EXPLODED (In the beginning Matter exploded . . .)
 - ▶ NOTHING . . . MATERIALIZED (“In the beginning Nothing produced . . .)
- d. If you think it’s hard to *prove* or *explain* the existence of God to your children, just try to *prove* or *explain* either of the two alternatives to your children . . . or to anyone else, for that matter!!!
 - ▶ If you have ever felt foolish in trying to defend the existence of an eternal Being, how do you think you would feel if you tried to defend the idea that something came from nothing, and nonlife sprang to life spontaneously by blind chance.
 - ▶ Or the idea that matter is eternal, and lifeless, dead matter sprang to life

spontaneously by chance?!

You need to teach your children that God is different from us -- and because that's true (1) we cannot instinctively know what God wants, and (2) we will not always agree with what God does or what God requires of us.

- a. Psa 50:21 ~ "These things you have done, and I kept silent; You thought that I was altogether like you; But I will rebuke you, And set them in order before your eyes."

You need to teach your children that God loves us . . . and He loves us with a love that is beyond our ability to love.

- a. He loves us with a *sacrificial* love
 - ▶ Jn 3:16 ~ "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
 - ▶ Rom 5:6-8 ~ "For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
- b. He loves us with a *sympathic* love
 - ▶ Psa 103:10-13 ~ "He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; 12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. 13 As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him."
- c. He loves us with a *satisfying* love
 - ▶ Out of His love for us He satisfies all our needs . . . our physical needs and our spiritual needs.
 - Psa 103:3-5 ~ "Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: 3 Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, 4 Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, 5 Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."
 - Psa 107:8,9 ~ "Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, And for His wonderful works to the children of men! 9 For He satisfies the longing soul, And fills the hungry soul with goodness."

2. You need to teach your children some things about Jesus.

You need to teach your children that He was proven to be God's Son by "many infallible proofs."

- a. The Lord's disciples tell us they were at first skeptical when the women who first went to the tomb came back and reported that He was risen; but they were compelled to believe in Him, and they were willing to go right back to Jerusalem where He was crucified to begin proclaiming His resurrection, because of the "many infallible proofs" that they witnessed.
 - ▶ Ac 1:3 ~ "to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God."
 - His disciples went to the tomb and found it empty, and an angel spoke to them, saying, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here; for He is risen, as He said" (Matt 28:5,6)
 - He appeared to His disciples repeatedly over a period of 40 days, and even ate food in their presence (Ac 10:40,41)
 - Thomas put His finger in the nail prints of His hands and examined the wound in His side (Jn 20:26-29)

- His disciples witnessed His ascension. They watched as He was taken up in the clouds until He was out of their sight (Ac 1:9,10)
 - Two angels spoke to them immediately after the ascension and prophesied the Lord's return: "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." (Ac 1:10,11)
 - His disciples witnessed and experienced the miracles on Pentecost: (1) the sound like a rushing mighty wind, (2) the visible tongues like fire resting upon each of the apostles, and (3) speaking in tongues (Ac 2:1-4)
 - Jesus gave His apostles power to do miracles (Ac 5:12)
- b. His disciples believed because they were compelled to believe . . . compelled by the evidence.
 - c. And they went right back to Jerusalem to begin proclaiming Jesus' resurrection from the dead . . . right back to the city where Jesus had been put to death less than two months earlier.
 - ▶ They went to Jerusalem to proclaim His resurrection because He commanded them to begin there: "Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem" (Lk 24:46,47).

You need to teach your children that because He died for us, we must live for Him.

- a. 2 Cor 5:15 ~ "and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again."
- b. Gal 2:20 ~ "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."
- c. Matt 7:21 ~ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

You need to teach your children that to *know* Jesus is to *love* Jesus.

- a. Everything we learn about Him is inspiring and draws us to Him.
 - ▶ He was so self-sacrificing (Php 2:5-8)
 - ▶ He was so good, and righteous, and holy. There was no badness in Him at all. And yet He was sympathetic toward those who were burdened with sin; in fact, He was criticized by the Pharisees because He associated with sinners (1Pet 2:22; Heb 4:15; Lk 7:36-50)
 - ▶ He was so strong, and courageous, and bold. (Matt 15:1-14; Matt 23:1-36)
 - ▶ He was so kind and compassionate (Matt 9:35-38; Jn 8:2-11; Lk 7:36-50)
 - ▶ He was so humble (Jn 13:2-5; Php 2:7,8)
 - ▶ He was so patient and longsuffering (Matt 23:37; Rom 10:21)
 - ▶ He was so sympathetic toward the downtrodden and the oppressed (Matt 11:28,29)
 - ▶ He was so forgiving (Lk 7:40-48; Lk 23:34)
 - ▶ He was so loving (1Jn 4:19; Gal 2:20)

You need to teach your children that Jesus is coming again . . . and this time He's coming to judge the world.

- a. 2Cor 5:10,11 ~ "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; . . ."
- b. Matt 25:31-34, 41 ~ "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but

the goats on the left. 34 “Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: . . . 41 Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: . . .”

- c. 2Th 1:7-9 ~ “and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,”

3. You need to teach your children some things about the Bible.

You need to teach your children that the Bible is the Word of God, not the words of men.

- a. 1Th 2:13 ~ “ For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.”
- b. 2Pet 1:20,21 ~ “knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”
- c. 1Cor 2:9-13 ~ “But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’ 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”

You need to teach your children that God’s revelation of His will in the Scriptures is final and complete.

- a. Jn 16:13 – “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you (the apostles of the first century, bw) into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”
- b. Jude 3 – “Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”
 - ▶ “once” is from *hapax*: “once for all” (Thayer’s Lexicon)

You need to teach your children that everything in the Scriptures is for our good.

- a. Deut 6:24 – “ And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day.”
 - ▶ It will give us the faith we need to sustain us in this life and save us in the end
 - Rom 10:17 ~ “So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
 - ▶ It will leads us to the eternal inheritance promised to the faithful
 - Ac 20:32 ~ “So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.”
 - ▶ It will save our souls
 - Jas 1:21 ~ “Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”

You need to teach your children that there are two major divisions of the Bible: (1) the Old

Testament, and (2) the New Testament.

- a. The Old Testament scriptures were given *before* Christ . . . the New Testament scriptures were given *by* Christ.
- b. We live under the New Testament scriptures.
 - ▶ Gal 3:23-25 ~ “But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. 24 Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us to Christ*, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.
 - ▶ The New Testament is the last will and testament of Jesus Christ, God’s Son.
 - It’s the last thing God is going to say to us in this life.
 - + Heb 1:1-2 ~ “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; . . .”
 - We are going to be judged by it in the last day.
 - + Jn 12:48 ~ “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him -- the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”

4. You need to teach your children some things about faith.

You need to teach your children that everything we do in worship and service to God must be done by faith.

- a. We must live our lives by faith . . . faith in God and faith in God’s word.
 - ▶ Gal 2:20 ~ “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, . . .”
 - ▶ 2Cor 5:7 ~ “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”
 - ▶ Rom 14:23 ~ “But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.”
 - ▶ Ac 8:35-35 ~ “Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. 36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?” 37 Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.”

You need to teach your children that faith is being sure and certain . . . because of the evidence.

- a. Faith in God is being sure and certain that God is . . . because of the evidence.
- b. Faith in Jesus is being sure and certain the Jesus is God’s Son, raised from the dead . . . because of the evidence.
- c. Faith in the Bible is being sure and certain that the Bible was given by inspiration of God . . . because of the evidence.
- d. And faith is being sure and certain of the rightness of what we’re doing . . . because of the teaching in God’s word.
- e. I realize that people today talk about “blind faith” . . . and “believing” in spite of reason and evidence to the contrary . . . and taking a “leap into absurdity”-- but that is not the “faith” God requires of us and teaches us to have.
 - ▶ Heb 11:1 (NIV) ~ “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”
 - ▶ Rom 14:5 ~ “One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.”
 - ▶ Rom 14:23 ~ “But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; . . .”

You need to teach your children where this kind of faith (Biblical faith, saving faith) comes from.

- a. Rom 10:17 ~ "So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God."
- b. Ac 17:1-4 ~ "Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. 2 Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, 3 explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and *saying*, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ." 4 And some of them were persuaded; . . ."

You need to teach your children that without real, Biblical faith there is no way to be right with God and no hope of heaven.

- a. Heb 11:6 ~ "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

5. You need to teach your children some things about authority.

You need to teach your children that whatever we do in worship and service to God must be done by the authority of Jesus Christ -- that is, it must be authorized by Jesus Christ.

Jesus is to be our example in all things (1Cor 11:1; Php 2:5)

- a. Now, while Jesus lived in this world in human flesh He did nothing on His own authority -- He completely subjugated His will to the will of the Father.
 - ▶ Jn 8:28,29 ~ "Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. 29 And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."
 - NASB: "Jesus therefore said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. 29 And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him."
- b. Now think about it: If the Son of God could do nothing on His own initiative when He was in this world, then certainly you and I have no business doing things on our own initiative.

Jesus is no longer in this world . . . He is no longer in human flesh . . . He is no longer in an humbled state; He is now in His glorified state at the right hand of the Father in heaven . . . and He now has all authority.

- a. Matt 28:18-20 ~ "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; . . ."
- b. Col 3:16-17 ~ "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, . . . 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
- c. 1Pet 2:5 ~ "you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

In teaching your children about authority, you also need to teach your children that authority for what we do in worship and service to God must be found in (1) commands, (2) apostolic examples, and (3) necessary inferences.

- a. Commands
 - ▶ Matt 28:18-20 ~ "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded

- you; . . .”
- b. Apostolic examples
 - ▶ Through examples of misbehavior being punished by God we can learn what not to do.
 - 1 Cor 10:11 ~ “Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.”
 - ▶ Through examples of approved behavior we can learn what we ought to do.
 - 2Th 3:7-9 ~ “For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; 8 nor did we eat anyone’s bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, 9 not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us.”
 - ▶ In Matt 26:29 Jesus talks about “that day” when He would commune with us in the observance of the Lord’s Supper . . . and in Ac 20:7 we learn from the example of the church at Troas that “the first day of the week” was “that day” referred to by the Lord when He instituted the Supper.
 - c. Necessary Inferences
 - ▶ Ac 8:35-36 – “Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. 36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, ‘See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?’”
 - Philip “preached Jesus” to the eunuch, and that led the eunuch to ask, “What hinders me from being baptized?”
 - We necessarily infer from this passage that “preaching Jesus” includes preaching the baptism commanded by Jesus that brings one into Christ.

6. You need to teach your children some things about the church.

You need to teach your children that the church is God’s family.

- a. Eph 2:19 ~ “Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,” (Thayer on “household” -- “belonging to a house or family”)

You need to teach your children that as members of God’s family we have responsibilities to our Father and to one another.

- a. Eph 4:16 ~ “from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”
- b. Heb 10:24-25 ~ “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”
- c. Gal 6:10 ~ “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

You need to teach your children that the church is not made up of perfect people, but saved people.

- a. Ac 2:47 ~ “praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

7. You need to teach your children that spiritual things are the most important things always.

You need to teach your children that the things that have to do with the next life are the most important things in this life.

- a. 2Cor 4:17-18 ~ “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”
 - ▶ NASB: “For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”
- b. Matt 6:33 ~ “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

8. You need to teach your children to be constant, consistent, and dependable in their devotion and service to God.

Paul commended the church at Philippi, saying “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;” (Php 2:12).

And Paul urged the church at Corinth to “be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Cor 15:58).

And what Paul urged upon others he required of himself.

Ac 24:16 ~ “ I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.”

9. You need to teach your children that lukewarm religion is sickening to the Lord.

Rev 3:15-16 ~ “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. . . . 19 . . . Therefore be zealous and repent.”

10. You need to teach your children that true religion is not just “church building religion.”

You need to teach your children that the religion of Christ must be practiced everywhere and at all times.

You cannot be a saint at church and a sinner everywhere else.

In Tit 2:10 Paul says we are to “adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things.”

11. You need to teach your children how to have a truly good and happy life.

Deut 6:24 ~ “And the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day.”

1 Pet 3:10-2 ~ “For He who would love life and see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit. 11 Let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.”

12. You need to teach your children about eternity.

We are created in the image of God (Gen 1:26) . . . and we instinctively know this life is not

all there is.

- a. **Ecc 3:11 ~ “He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, . . .”**

You need to try to give your children some “feel” for eternity . . . and that’s a real challenge, because nothing in this life is lasting . . . everything comes to an end.

- a. The poets and song writers have tried to help us.
*When we’ve been there ten thousand years bright and shining as the sun
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.*
- b. But our understanding of eternity must ultimately come from the “High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity” (**Isa 57:15**).
 - ▶ Let me call your attention to just one passage that should help us get a sense of eternity:
 - **2Cor 4:18 ~ “while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are **temporary**, but the things which are not seen are **eternal**.”**
 - + In this passage, “eternal” is put in contrast to “temporary”
 - + So, “eternal” means not “temporary” . . . therefore, permanent, unending.

After this life, it’s either heaven or hell . . . permanently, without end.

13. You need to teach your children that they will answer to God for the way they live.

Ecc 11:9 - 12:1 ~ “Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment. 10 Therefore remove sorrow from your heart, And put away evil from your flesh, For childhood and youth are vanity. 11 Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, ‘I have no pleasure in them’”

Conclusion

Finally, parents: You need to realize that you cannot teach your children to be what you are not.

- a. **You must be a Christian . . . and your children must see that you truly are a Christian.**
 - ▶ Your children must see that you love the Lord “with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength” (**Mk 12:30**)
 - ▶ Your children must see that you sincerely love your neighbor (**Mk 12:31**) and your brethren (**Rom 12:10**).
 - ▶ Your children must see that you are living “soberly, righteously, and godly in this present age” (**Tit 2:11**).
 - ▶ Your children must see that you have a “zeal for God” (**Tit 2:14; 1Cor 15:58**).
- b. Let’s look again at the admonition given to the parents of ancient Israel in **Deut 6:7-9**: “**You shall teach them (the commandments, bw) diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.**”
 - ▶ But, in order for all that talking and teaching to be effective with their children there was something else they had to do; and we what that is in **v6**: “**And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.**”
 - ▶ **That’s the way it has to be:**

- Take God's word into your heart ("Let the word of Christ dwel in you richly . . . " – Col 3:16)
- Live God's word in your life ("receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" – Jas 1:21,22)
- Teach God's word to your children . . . and others ("Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another . . . " – Col 3:16)

Of course, if you are not a Christian yourself . . . or, if you are not living a life that is consistent with your profession of being a Christian . . . then you have no business trying to teach these things to your children, or anyone else . . . until you repent and turn to God (Ac 3:19 NRSV – "Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, 20 so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, . . .")