

THE BIBLE IN THE HOME

Int.

1. Aim: To show the proper place that the Bible should have in our homes
2. 2 Tim. 3:14,15 "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."
3. We take for granted the freedom to keep as many copies of the Bible as we wish in our homes — and we would protest loudly if this privilege were threatened.
4. But we need to do more than have copies of the Bible in our homes — our homes need to be places where the Bible is important in the real life of the home.
5. In too many of our families, we have little to do with the Bible except in connection with the Bible classes or worship services of the local congregation.
6. Study of the Bible, and talk about it, need to be a vital part of our daily home life.

Discussion

I. GOD HAS ALWAYS WANTED HIS WORD STUDIED AND TALKED ABOUT IN THE HOME

- A. About Abraham, God said, "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him." (Gen. 18:19).

- B. Parents in Israel were to talk to their children about:
1. The plagues in Egypt. Exo. 10:1,2. Ps. 78 & 105
 2. The Passover. Exo. 12:26,27. - children ask questions - be ready to answer
 3. The law of the firstborn. Exo. 13:14,15.
 4. God's speaking from Sinai. Deut. 4:9,10.
 5. The law of God. Deut. 6:20-25. - Ten Commandments
 6. The memorial stones at Jordan. Josh. 4:4-7.
- C. The things of God were to be talked about not just at special "religious" times, but during the ordinary activities of daily living in the home. This is to teach the children and to help all to remember.
- D. What impression do we leave when we restrict talk about God to set times?
1. Some people make the statement: "We will not talk about religion or politics!"
 2. This should not be said about religion - we must talk about God and his church and what the Bible teaches !
- E. "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." V. 7 (Deut. 6:6-9).

II. HOME IS THE PRIMARY PLACE WHERE WE ARE TO "LEARN" THE BIBLE

- A. Whatever Bible instruction the local congregation may provide as a supplement, for either adults or children, this is no substitute for learning the text and the truths of the Bible in the home.
- B. With regard to children, parents have the responsibility of teaching their children God's word -
1. Prov. 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."
 2. Eph. 6:4. "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. "
 3. Exhort - urge - warn - need to teach them the truth, urge them to live by it !
- C. Fathers are given specific responsibility for the spiritual training of their children.
1. There is no greater problem among us than the widespread abandonment by fathers of their God-given role of spiritual leadership in the home.
 2. Too often anymore, men do not have the time, the desire, or the ability to teach their children the Bible.
 3. "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged." Col. 3:21
- D. But more than being a place where the contents of the Bible are to be learned, the home is the ideal place for the truth of the Bible to be learned in real-life situations and relationships.

1. Home is where we most often pass beyond "knowing" the truths of the Bible to knowing they are true at the practical level.
 2. Home is the most difficult place to be a true Christian!
 3. Home is where we most often learn "the truth of God's truths."
 4. Home is where the truths of God's word are not only taught, but modeled, illustrated, and brought to life.
- E. If the Bible is not the center of our home life, we miss many of the valuable teaching and learning opportunities presented by the situations that arise daily. - Deut. 6:6-9.
- F. Parents are responsible for their children learning the Bible.

III. HOW CAN WE PUT THE BIBLE AT THE CENTER OF OUR HOMES ?

- A. We can make sure that every member of the family has a Bible and is taught to properly care for it.
- B. We can even give the Bible a more prominent physical place in our homes. Should the most important and useful thing in the house be kept in the back of the closet?
- C. We can make actual plans for educating our families in the Scriptures.
 1. What we and our children need to know about the Bible is much too important to be left to chance, assuming that we and they will "pick it up" somewhere and somehow.
 2. We need to have a definite purpose and plan for learning God's word.
 3. Read it and discuss it. Let them ask questions. 2 Tim. 2:15

- D. We can make it a priority to take the Bible out of the special "compartment" we have kept it in our lives and involve it in the routine of our daily family lives.
1. We can read (and study) the Bible every day as individuals.
 2. We can put more into preparation at home for our adult congregational classes.
 3. We can be more involved in what our children are doing in their Bible classes.
 4. Make sure they attend every week
 5. One thing we could do to improve - be on time !!!!
- E. The Word Hand Illustration - The "Word Hand" shows five very important methods of learning from the Bible.
1. HEARING
 - a. Romans 10:17
 - b. Hearing the Word from parents and preachers and teachers provides insight into others' study of the Scriptures as well as stimulating your own appetite for the Word.
 2. READING
 - a. Revelation 1:3 "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand."
 - b. Reading the Bible gives an overall picture of God's Word. Many people find it helpful to use a daily reading program which takes them systematically through the Bible.

3. STUDYING

- a. Acts 17:11 "searched the scriptures daily"
- b. Studying the Scriptures leads to personal discoveries of God's truths.

4. MEMORIZING

- a. Psalm 119:11 "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."
- b. Memorizing God's Word enables use of the Sword of the Spirit to overcome Satan and temptations...to have it readily available for discussion or helping others with a "word in season."

5. MEDITATING

- a. Psalm 1:1-2 "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. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night."
- b. Meditation is the thumb of the Word Hand, for it is used in conjunction with each of the other methods. Only as you meditate on God's Word--thinking of its meaning and application in your life--will you discover its transforming power at work within you.

F. We can have regular family Bible studies or devotionals.

1. We can read our children bedtime Bible stories every night.
2. We can talk about God and His word in our homes!
3. Have a discussion about what they studied in the Bible class
4. Ask them some questions to see what they know and understand

Conclusion

1. In regard to their children, parents typically concern themselves with three things:
 - a. Providing for them. - food, clothing, shelter, medical needs, toys
 - b. Preparing them to be adults. - education, sports - other organizations
 - c. Leaving them a legacy. - good name - vacations
2. How does the Bible fit into those concerns for our children?
 - a. How does the Bible fit into the memories our children will have of home? 2 Tim. 1:5 3:14,15.
 - b. But the Bible should be the center of all our homes — not just those where there are children.
3. May we not “hide” God from our loved ones. “We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God. (Psa. 78:4-8).

4. Deut. 6:6-9 "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates."
5. The Bible is the book to get all of us to heaven - where we can live together forever!
6. "Going to Heaven depends upon what we do with the Bible"
7. May the Bible be continually in our hearts and in our homes.

Sources

1. Gary Henry garyhenry@brasstacks.org www.brasstacks.org
 2. File on Bible Study
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