

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

No. 88

June 2019

The Solemnity of Being a Father

Introduction

Many years ago I wanted to be a baker and to do so I spent five years in an apprenticeship. However, when I was getting married, within 2 minutes of time I became a married man. Some time after we married we had a baby girl, suddenly I was a father. This was unnerving for what did I know about babies or child rearing? Nothing! Consider the situation, five years to learn the rudiments of baking and not 10 minutes on learning what it meant to be a father! The only example I had was my father who, although now at 75 years of age, I see how good and wise he was, yet he was still a distorted man marred by sin.

This little creature of six pounds weight was not a toy, it was a real living infant utterly depending on me to provide for her every need. I read the biblical verses on fathers but thought she was too young for such considerations. I was holding in my arms an individual who would never die but would live forever, either in Heaven or Hell.

- a) I now am a grandfather and to my grandchildren I am “ancient”, one who does not understand the world of drugs, vaping, intricate matters of computers, who still remembers having to use a telephone call box down the street or playing soccer in the streets with school caps etc. for goal posts. It is a vastly different world and yet it is a very sad world.
- b) Our grandchildren are growing up in a world that is ever so sinful and dark. The satanic influence over the world which we older ones have observed has affected every aspect of life. The school system is geared to a hedonistic corrupt lifestyle, the satanic deception of atheistic evolution and evolution is depicted in books and television, the most High God is the subject of mockery when His Holy name is used as a by word or in blasphemy. Music, culture and entertainment are all marked by the hand of satan and his emissaries to keep fathers from fulfilling the most important role of their lives, bringing their children up in the “fear and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4).
- c) The following are some of the areas where it may be we have been lazy and need to change our ways. I fear that there will be many fathers in Heaven who had little time for the spiritual aspect of their own lives and that of their children, and will find their children in the caverns of the damned for all eternity.

There is one book in the scriptures which is devoted to a father speaking to his son, that being the book of Proverbs. It is not just any father, but Solomon. He was the wisest man and by the experiences of life, as recorded in Ecclesiastes, he had learnt from life and death, giving himself over to mirth, wisdom and folly. In Proverbs he speaks to his son, mainly in little one line teachings of wisdom. First he tells the son that there are two sorts of people in life, the wise and the simple. The simple being those who will not receive instruction, and the wise are those who having listened to instruction heed it.

- a) The first instruction is to fear God for that is the starting point for all wisdom and understanding, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge” (Prov. 1:7). However, they are not only the words of Solomon but also of

king Lemuel who instructs his son to listen to the instruction his mother taught him (Prov. 31:1-31). Wise is the father who reads these words of wisdom to keep himself and to pass them on to his children.

The Secular Responsibilities

Virtually every father has a deep love for his son or daughter and sees the providing for them not a chore but a pleasure in life. Mum or Dad can come home from being out and the children are all delighted to see them. In that family situation the child knows there is security. Little boys often brag about, “My daddy is bigger than your daddy”, for to the child dad is just about the greatest person who lives.

- a) Fathers are the ones who are responsible to make it happen. We are the caretakers, the head, and this is the most important relationship we have apart from that to the Lord. As the head of the home it is his responsibility to provide nourishing food, warm clothing, and a shelter over their children’s head. This we recognise, but there are three other aspects of a father's responsibility.
- b) The child must be able to trust father and the foundation for this is dependent on the answer to a question:
 - i) Which is more important, “Quality time or quantity of time spent together?” It is my understanding that the quantity of time spent together, first at the family altar, will build character and quality for all concerned. In my early days it was normal for a family to have a family altar when either mum or dad would read the scriptures, teach a biblical lesson, perhaps lasting 10 minutes including the time of prayer. My dad taught us stories of the bible biographically with A for Abel, B for Belshazzar, C for Cornelius, D for David and so on. I recall being taught Matthew 27 as a wee child of under 12 years of age. At night I would hear my father pray for all of the children. That was a wonderful environment to be brought up in for it was the fulfilling of the words of the Holy Spirit through Paul, “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4); “Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged” (Col. 3:21).
 - ii) What does this in practical terms mean? There is a danger of leaving the teaching of our children to Sunday School, etc. This is a major flaw for in the school system the children are very often with godless teachers instructing them by man made pictures, the satanic deception of evolution, moral corruption as being sympathetic to those who are different and a multiplicity of sexes. In contrast to those hours they have Sunday School for perhaps 40 minutes. The main instruction for children, especially spiritually, is the home. God told his people, “And it shall be when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What is this? that thou shalt say unto him, By strength of hand the LORD brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage” (Ex. 13:14); “And when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What mean the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD our God hath commanded you?” (Deut. 6:20). Notice the child asked the parent and was instructed by the parent in spiritual matters. It was not left to someone else.
 - iii) This is a very serious matter for when a child stops speaking to the parents, there is something seriously wrong. It may be the child is doing that which the parents would be opposed to, or when they try to speak to the father they are told to “Shut up”, or “Later”. How could a child trust a father or mother who has little or no time for them or often degrading them. A trusting relationship is based on the assurance that father has always the child’s best interest at heart. If the child no longer is at “home” with the father, then in time he will lose his children.
 - iv) Children must see that mum is loved by dad. A father who has no patience, is demanding and talks hard to the child and treats the mother as a door mat, then that father will never have the trust of his children nor respect for him. I recall when I was a visitor in a home, there was also visiting a father who was a ruthless, miserable being. He had little children whom he told to be quiet, but as any parent knows, children when together have a very short attention span. Well one little child got excited and in front of everyone the father very loudly, threateningly, admonished him (the child was about 6 years of age) and made the child sit in the middle of a wall on the floor while everyone looked on. My heart ached for him. That child will remember the despicableness of that man. He was a father biologically but not in spirit.
 - v) The most important matter a father can do is remember he is a “shadow” of God as Father. The children hear us speaking and praying to God our Father, declaring His grace to us, His mercy and gentleness, and then we teach the children to call us “father”. What sort of a picture of God as Father are we giving? What does God think of that aforementioned fathers attitude? Let us remember that God humbles us but never humiliates us. If He did, where would we be?

The Decision

This also begins with a question, “When I stand before the Lord and He reviews my life as a father, how will He view it?” Shall I be ashamed, highly embarrassed with how I failed to bring up my children? How do I feel about any one of my children being in Hell for all eternity? I ask you please, look at each child as they sleep or play and ask, “Which of my

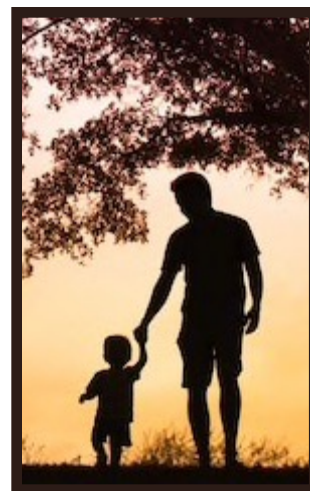
children would I choose to let go to an eternal Hell?" Any parent who loves their children could never make such a decision. As Fathers we must do all we can do in the power of the Spirit of God to lead our children in the ways of God.

There are little eyes upon you and they're watching night and day.
There are little ears that quickly take in every word you say.
There are little hands all eager to do anything you do;
And a little boy who's dreaming of the day he'll be like you.

You're the little fellow's idol; you're the wisest of the wise.
In his little mind about you no suspicions ever rise.
He believes in you devoutly, holds all you say and do;
He will say and do, in your way when he's grown up just like you.

There's a wide-eyed little fellow who believes you're always right;
And his eyes are always opened, and he watches day and night.
You are setting an example every day in all you do;
For the little boy who's waiting to grow up just like you.

... *Unknown*



... *Rowan Jennings*

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