"Leaving a Legacy"

Psalm 78:1-8

9-25-2019

INTRODUCTION: v. 1-3

***<u>Don't hide</u> God's truth from your children (v. 4)!**

Four reasons why you must transfer God's Word to your children:

I. You will be a <u>WELL-SPRING</u> of <u>BLESSING</u> (v. 4)
(It's a matter of <u>commitment</u>)

II. You will be <u>OBEDIENT</u> to <u>GOD'S COMMAND</u> (v. 5)
(It's a matter of <u>obedience</u>)

III. You will give <u>HOPE</u> to your <u>FUTURE GENERATION</u> (v. 6)
(It's a matter of <u>hope for tomorrow</u>)

IV. You will <u>PASS ON A LIVING FAITH</u> to <u>YOUR OWN CHILDREN</u> (v. 7-8)
(It's a matter of <u>life and death</u>)

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"Children are an heritage of the Lord"

What a gift children are! What a thrill, blessing, responsibility!

Examples of good parental intentions never amounting to much as your stimulated ambition for raising a child up right from birth becomes quickly clouded by other things.

NOTE: Introductory Title to Psalm 78 - "Mas chil of Asaph" = a teaching poem (or parable) by Asaph.

No parent can afford to neglect the lessons to be learned in this chapter.

Asaph's warning comes lest history should repeat itself (NOTE: the failure of Israel's forefathers - v. 11, 17, 18, 19, 22, 36, 37, 41, 42, 56, 57)

V. 1

"Give ear" = Listen! Give me your attention!

"O my people" = This psalm is for God's people. The lesson can only be learned and passed on by believers.

"Incline your ears" - the picture is of a young man bending down to get close to the mouth of a man of wisdom so as to humbly and eagerly receive what is being said.

V. 2

This verse is ultimately fulfilled by Jesus Christ, who spoke with parables (an illustration by comparison) so as to reveal His truth to those who had ears to hear, and to hide (veil) it from those who did not. Mt. 13:35

"Dark sayings" - a veiled saying; to say something that requires thought and interpretation. Truth that is hidden from those who are spiritually blind.

V. 3

For children to hear God's Word and know God's Word is a father's responsibility.

To have such a father is a rare commodity.

V. 4

"We will not hide them" - a corporate committment to not conceal God's Word from their children.

"We will . . ." - it's a matter of the will, a decision. If you never determine to teach your children, you never will. If you are not committed to instilling God's principles into their lives every chance you get, they will never learn about God from you.

***Don't hide God's truth from your children (v. 4)!**

Four reasons why you must transfer God's Word to your children:

I. You will be a WELL-SPRING of BLESSING (v. 4)
(It's a matter of commitment)

"The praises" - God-honoring psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

"His strength" - His attributes of omnipotence, etc.

"His wonderful works" - His actions throughout history.

"The praises . . . His strength . . . His wonderful works" - Note the positive nature of what fathers are to pass on to their children.

Are you a discouragement or encouragement to your family?

Human nature tends toward talking about the negative. We need to tell the praises, strength, and works of God to our family. If we complain, the kids will say, "Why should I serve God, if this is what He gives in return?"

A Christian who loves the Lord will never speak bad about the Lord, His Word, or His work - the local Church.

The greatest things you could ever teach your children is about the words and works of your God.

To teach your children about math, science, history, sports, computers, business, dating, marriage, money matters, etc., without bringing God into the picture is inadequate.

"The best education is education in the best things" (Spurgeon).

Though you may serve God, live ethically and honestly, work hard, tell others about the Lord, etc., yet if your children don't turn out right, your life will end with bitterness and sorrow (EX: Eli; Billy Sunday, whose 2 sons turned out to be drunkards).

II. You will be OBEDIENT to GOD'S COMMAND (v. 5) (It's a matter of obedience)

God continually commanded Israel to repeat His mighty acts to their inquisitive children (SEE: Exod 10:1-2,; 12:23-27; 13:6-8, 14; Deut. 4:8-10).

"Scripture has no room for parental neutrality" (Kidner, p. 281).

This contemporary idea of not imposing your faith upon your children, but rather letting them find their own way to God does not have its origin in God."

"He commanded our fathers"

Teaching children spiritual truth is primarily the father's responsibility."

"The Father to the children shall make known Thy truth." (Is. 28:19)

Abraham was responsible to instruct his children and his household" (Gen. 18:19)

Joshua claimed this responsibility (Josh. 24:15)

God held Eli responsible for failing to instruct and correct his sons (I Sam. 3:13).

In the N.T. the command is to Fathers to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Eph. 6:4; cp. I thes. 2:11)

"they should make them known to their **children**"

SEE Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Teaching is to be:

1) Repetitious - "Diligently" = from which describes the activity of sharpening a metal object by repeated strokes of a sanding block. (ILLUS: How God must teach us over and over)

2) Specific content - "Them" = the "words" of verse 6. The word, law, or commands of God.

3) Informal - weave teaching into your normal everyday routine.
   a. Simultaneous with other activity (when - sitting, walking, lying down)
   b. Different locations - house road, bed (ILLUS: how God teaches us not only at church [formally] but also during work, home, etc.)

4) Continual -
   a. At different times (day & night activities)
   b. All the time (from morning to morning)

While a continual, informal teaching of our children is the real key to their spiritual knowledge and growth, a specific time set apart each day is also vitally important.

A "Family Time"; "Family Devotions"; or "Family Altar" should be short, serious, and interesting.

ILLUS: A child said, "Dad, what is God like?" The reply: "I don't know - go ask your mother."

No dad knows all the answers, but he should know the elementary doctrines of the Christian faith - for we are responsible to God to teach our children!

A family without a father is like a team without a coach; like a plane without a pilot; like a ship without a navigator.

When a home is without a father, God promises to step in as our Heavenly Father.

"He relieveth the fatherless [children] and the widow" (Ps. 146:9; cp. Hos. 14:3)
However, a family with a father who fails in his God-given roles is worse than no father at all!

III. You will give HOPE to your FUTURE GENERATION (v. 6)
(It's a matter of hope for tomorrow)

Christianity is to be a "hand me down" legacy!

One reason why God teaches us anything is so that we would pass it on; give it also to others (II Tim. 2:2).

The principles of God's Word, though they are available for all to exegete out of the Scripture, are to be passed on from generation to generation.

The greatest thing you can transfer to your children when you die is not a "fat life insurance policy," nor a material inheritance, etc., but the transferral of Truth.

Do you see how your life could be multiplied for good?!

One reason why divorce is such a tragedy is because of the effects it has on the children!

(SEE: Mal. 2:14-16).

In marriage, God made the two become one for the purpose of producing a "Godly seed" (v. 15). A Godly progeny, a Godly heritage, a Godly legacy is what God wants!

The real test as to your effectiveness as a parent is not merely measured by how your children turn out, but by how your grandchildren turn out! Your children will more than likely rear their children based upon how they themselves

were reared.

IV. You will PASS ON A LIVING FAITH to YOUR OWN CHILDREN (v. 7-8) (It's a matter of life and death)

V. 7

"That they might . . ." = this the result of teaching God's Word to your children:

Three-fold results:

1) Saving faith (v. 7a) - "that they might set their hope in God"

"Faith cometh by hearing..." (Rom. 10)

2) Continual faith (v. 7b) - "and not forget . . ."

It is possible (if we are faithful parents - Prov. 22:6) to raise a second or third, etc., generation of God-honoring children who remember His works!

NOTE: the sad commentary of the first generation out of Egypt - "They forgot His works" (Ps. 78:11).

"They remembered not His hand" (78:42)

3) Obedient faith (v. 7c-8) - "Keep His commandments"

The goal of teaching is not head knowledge, but daily obedience

V. 8

Though our heritage and ancestors may not have known and feared God, through salvation and obedience to teaching our children, we can change the tide! We can stop the progression of evil, and raise up a new generation!

"Disobedience is not to be excused because it is hereditary. The leprosy was none the less loathsome because it had been long in the family" (Spurgeon).

"How blessed would it be if each age improved upon its predecessor." (Spurgeon)

CONCLUSION: See poem - "To Any Daddy"