

Reaping The Whirlwind, cont.

Listen to God. Do not “*keep company with sexually immoral people*” (1 Cor. 5:9). “*Flee sexual immorality....*” (1 Cor. 6:18). “*Fornicators and adulterers God will judge*” (Heb. 13:4).

How long do we think God will put up with our sinful lifestyles? By living selfishly for today, we have created our own tragedies. “*Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap*” (Gal. 6:7).

-John Adams

THINK!

Stop living on Grumble Corner and move to Thanksgiving Street!

Worship Times :

Sunday Morning Worship
9:30 AM

Sunday Morning Bible Study
approx. 11:15 AM

Wednesday Evening Bible Study
7 PM



www.pghchurchofchrist.org

The Westside church of Christ

1300 Spring Run Rd. Ext.
Coraopolis, PA 15108



The Westside church of Christ Presents:

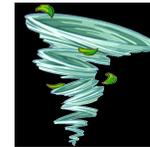
Gateway to TRUTH

“And you shall know the TRUTH and the TRUTH shall make you free” (Jno. 8:32).



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Preaching the Gospel of Christ in the Pittsburgh Metropolitan area



Reaping The Whirlwind

Sin has its consequences. Yet, I fear that few people think so anymore. They live their lives selfishly in pursuit of material gain and fleshly satisfaction with paralyzed consciences. Do we think that our selfish and immoral lifestyle will catch up with us and we'll reap the consequences? Time and again, mankind has chosen to go against the grain of God in violating His laws. One would think after witnessing such grave lessons of discipline demonstrated by God that the people of the Old Testament would have remained faithful. Imagine seeing God destroy Sodom and Gomorrah with fire and brimstone, witnessing the earth being flooded with water, and how God defeated the armies of Midian and Canaan with a handful of Israelites. Yet, they forgot God and His great provisions and deliverance.

Today is no different. We continually neglect to see the wisdom in heeding the commands of God. We often bring upon ourselves our own destruction. Such was the case in **Hosea 8:7**. The prophet Hosea told Israel that “*they sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind.*” The passage denotes a sowing that is in vain and a harvest that is doubly injurious and destructive. Why? Because God says “*they have transgressed My covenant and rebelled against My law*” (vs. 1). Disobedience brought devastating results upon the children of God. God may not deal with us the same way He did in the days of old, but sowing the seeds of sin always yields destructive results.

It used to be that mothers stayed home and nurtured and trained the children to respect authority and mind their manners. But in our modern era, we've come to believe that daycare services are a convenient substitute for nurturing the children toward developing Christian values by not staying home ourselves. **(continued on inside)**

“Teach Your Child To Love Worship”



A very serious problem exists among religious families: sometimes their children who have been brought up "in the church" are anxious to "get out of the house" so they won't "have to go to church" anymore. This is a perplexing problem fraught with serious consequences. Why does a child want to "get away from" the church? What kind of children from what kind of families does so? I don't know all the answers to questions like this, but let me suggest a few thoughts.

I believe that one real source of this attitude is that children are not taught to love the worship of the Lord. From the time they are infants the parents are yelling at them on Sundays to "hurry up and get up 'cause we have to go to church" with the emphasis on "have." Nothing is said about the joy of worship. Nothing is said about the wonderful privilege that is ours. Children are taught that "going to church" is a drudge. No wonder they want to get away from it.

When children are in the assembly, often they are allowed to play with all sorts of toys and games. This causes them to think that the assembly is some place to play games; and then when they are older and too big to play games, they are bored with what is going on. Many children are not taught to sing. They are allowed to play when worship to God in song is being rendered. If they are not taught to sing as tiny tots, then as they grow older they will not sing. Parents, do you teach your children the words to songs at home so they will know them and be able to join in the singing? It is a sad sight to see teenagers just sitting and looking around instead of singing. No wonder they have no interest. They are not taught reverence during prayer. They keep on playing instead of being taught to always bow their heads in reverence. If you took your child to the funeral of a loved one, would you give him games to play? Would you allow him to "do his own thing" or would you teach him reverence and respect for the dead? No, our worship is not a funeral, but it is holy and children need to be taught that it is.

They must be taught to study the Word. Are you studying the class lessons with your children every day? Are you teaching them to enjoy that part of the day and really look forward to it? If this is the environment of a

child, you will seldom see him wander away from the Lord. Those who are taught to study the Bible are the ones who listen to sermons and lessons. They are the ones who will understand much more of the lessons that are being presented. (And, by the way, what happened to the teenagers all sitting at the front? What an inspiration that is to the whole congregation!) These are the ones who grow up to love the Lord and stay with Him.

Friend, what are you teaching your children? To love God and His worship, His word, and His people? What you teach your child, who is a tiny tot now, will determine where he will be when he is old. Seems like Solomon said something like that somewhere.

- Forrest D. Moyer

Read *Psalms 122:1; Deut. 6:6-8; Psalms 96:9*. All good thoughts to accompany the above article.

Reaping The Whirlwind, cont.

It is this neglect by the parents toward their God-given responsibilities that has led to the increase in young offenders who are caught involved in theft, dealing drugs, and even committing murder. In a past televised program, a number of teenage offenders were aired for killing a man in cold blood. The reason for their lack of remorse was that no one cares for me at home. Listen to God. He says older women are to "*admonish the younger women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers....*" (*Tit. 2:4-5*).

It used to be that killing one's child was considered murder. However, in our society abortion is considered by many as a free choice. Many young girls say, "*the time was not right, I wasn't ready for a child.*" They quickly get defensive about their "right" to have children when they want and think nothing of terminating a baby's life. In **Genesis 21:8** and **Exodus 2:3, 10**, both passages use the same word to refer to an unborn child as they do to a child after birth. In God's eyes, the child is a person before he/she is born. Listen to God. "*Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man*" (**Gen. 9:6**). "*You shall not murder.*" (**Rom. 13:9**).

It used to be that young boys and girls were taught to be chaste in their conduct and were to abstain from sexual relations until they married. Now, in the twentieth century, we have junior high girls getting pregnant. Teenagers have unwillingly become parents due to their lack of responsibility.

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