

## Truths We Must Face

Marvin Weir

Would it not be wonderful if all at the age of accountability could see Satan for the master deceiver that he is? The warning is dearly sounded forth by Paul: "EVEN SATAN FASHIONETH HIMSELF INTO AN ANGEL OF LIGHT, IT IS NO GREAT THING THEREFORE IF HIS MINISTERS ALSO FASHION THEMSELVES AS MINISTERS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, WHOSE END SHALL BE ACCORDING TO THEIR WORKS" (**2 Corinthians 11:14-15**).

The devil is no one friend; he works day and night "SEEKING WHOM HE MIGHT DEVOUR" (**1 Peter 5:8**). Satan encourages everyone to take a "lighthearted" approach toward sin, but the wise man tells us: "RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION; BUT SIN IS A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE" (**Proverbs 14:34**). This is a truth that we must face!

If we are going to make the world a better place in which to live we must take seriously the responsibility of training our young people in the way of the Lord. The wise man again reminds us: "TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO, AND EVEN WHEN HE IS OLD HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT" (**Proverbs 22:6**). This is a general rule that does not prohibit freedom of choice. A child who has been properly trained at least has a good foundation to which he can return. Paul said to young Timothy: "AND THAT FROM A BABE THOU HAST KNOWN THE SACRED WRITINGS WHICH ARE ABLE TO MAKE THEE WISE UNTO SALVATION THROUGH FAITH WHICH IS IN CHRIST JESUS" (**2 Timothy 3:15**). Failure to properly train children when they are young meets with the devil's approval. This is a truth that we must face!

There was a time when the home, the school, and the community demanded that young people comply with a higher stand of morals. The truth is that such a standard of morality has eroded at an alarming rate the past several decades, and many young minds no longer have a conscience that convicts them of wrong-doing! The teaching of the Bible and its sacred principles is the only solution to successfully combat the problem of immorality. The Psalmist states: "THY WORD HAVE I LAID UP IN MY HEART, THAT I MIGHT NOT SIN AGAINST THEE" (**Psalms 119:11**). Young Timothy is instructed: "TAKE HEED TO THYSELF, AND TO THY TEACHING. CONTINUE IN THESE THINGS; FOR IN DOING THIS THOU SHALT SAVE BOTH THYSELF AND THEM THAT HEAR THEE" (**1 Timothy 4:16**). Without God's Word to anchor a young person's life, he is like a ship that has broken away from its mooring. This is a truth that we must face!

The things written in the Old Testament were written for our learning (Romans 15:4). One cannot help but give thought to the period of time when judges were raised by God to deliver God's people who had been brought to their knees because of sinful living. The book of Judges ends with this sad commentary of the people: "IN THOSE DAYS THERE NO KING IN ISRAEL EVERY MAN DID THAT WHICH WAS RIGHT IN HIS OWN EYES" (**Judges 21:25**).

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What about many who profess to be Christians today? The world continues to influence far too many members of the Lord's church instead of those members influencing the world. So many times Christian parents "give in" to the demands and peer pressures of a worldly society and thus teach these compromised standards to their children. One preacher states it like this:

"Styles of dress have changed to include the acceptance of nudity; filthy language is promoted as a mark of maturity; alcoholism is identified as a disease; fornication is labeled as an affair and the people enter and exit marriage relationships at will"

Friends, teaching much take place that clearly marks the above things as being contrary to the will of God and that which will prevent one from entering into the kingdom of heaven. This is a truth we must face!

The Bible is our pattern, and it is this very pattern that is under such vicious attack today from within and without the Lord's church. Parents must see that the Bible is exalted in their homes; the study of this book must be demanded. The concept in the minds of many that Bible classes mid-week and Sunday evening services are optional has led to an ever-growing lack of respect for God's Word. Parents have become so busy with secular matters that they have ceased to see that their children are involved in Bible study. It is no wonder that far more young people now find things other than the Bible far more interesting and challenging. Such is not the fault of the Bible or the church! In most cases, parents have allowed the world to influence their homes much more than the Word of God. This is a truth we must face.

Both adults and young people must learn that priorities will be established in this life. Since this world in which we now live is not our home and will one day "BE DISSOLVED WITH FERVENT HEAT" (**2 Peter 3:10-12**), it makes much better sense if we make spiritual matter top priority. We must believe and convince our children and grandchildren that "OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN" (**Philippians 3:20**). Do not aim "low" as you travel through this life. Make sure that your "sight" is firmly set upon that which is above (**Colossians 3:2**). Do not forget these truths that we must face!