

WORDS OF TRUTH

A Weekly Bulletin for the Sunrise Acres church of Christ

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<http://www.wordsoftruth.net>

Edited By: Brian A. Yeager



Sunrise Acres CHURCH OF CHRIST

Meeting at:
8625 Robert Drive
El Paso, TX 79904

915-755-8137 (Building)
915-525-5794 (Preacher's Office)

OUR MEETING TIMES:

Sunday Bible Class: 9:45 AM
Sunday Worship: 10:55 AM
Tuesday Bible Study: 7:00 PM
Thursday Bible Study: 7:00 PM

Are You Visiting With Us?

If you are visiting with us, we want to welcome you to the Lord's church (Matthew 16:18 and Colossians 1:18). Our goal is to simply get to Heaven and to help you do the same. We use the Bible as our standard to govern what we do in our work and worship for the Lord (Colossians 3:17, II Timothy 1:13, II Timothy 3:16-17, and I Peter 4:11).

We welcome your questions and would love the opportunity to study further with you. Luke recorded a fascinating statement we all need to consider: *"Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able"* (Luke 13:23-24). We invite you to join us in being one of the few that are saved!

Can You Believe The Children Of Today?

Brian A. Yeager

"In 2007, 7% of high school students reported that they first had sex before age 13" (www.thenationalcampaign.org). "In 2005, the serious violent crime offending rate was 17 crimes per 1,000 juveniles ages 12-17, totaling 437,000 such crimes involving juveniles... The proportion of youth neither enrolled in school nor working has been on a downward trend, and most of the decline has occurred among females. In 1991, 13 percent of young females were neither in school nor working; by 2006, this proportion had decreased to 8 percent" (www.childstats.gov).

The above statistics are no doubt conservative. When driving past high schools in east El Paso at lunch time you can see how loose the morals of local teenagers are. I graduated high school in 1994 which is not that long ago. Things were bad then, but now children have more available ways of sharing and gaining information (cell phones, the internet, etc.).

Are they just kids being kids? That's what so-called "parents" say to excuse their children today. The Lord is not of that mindset. Notice what inspiration tells us: *"Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right"* (Proverbs 20:11). Of course, blame only exists to be shifted to others, right? If a child is failing in school the parent says it is the teacher at fault. If a child becomes pregnant the parent says it was too much MTV. If a child does something violent the parent says there are not enough after school programs to keep the kids off of the streets. If a child is caught doing drugs the parent says it is the other kids influencing their children. If a child lies about a "sleepover" to go to a party the parent blames the other child's parents for not knowing what their children were up to.

Blame shifting never solves any problems. To have true change there has to be accountability. If our children misbehave, it is our faults as that child's parents whether we like it or not. Notice: *"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame"* (Proverbs 29:15).

The Real Question - Can You Believe The Parents Of Today?

Where is your child at 10:00 in the evening? It is your responsibility to know (Ephesians 6:1-4). Who is your child “hanging out with”? If you believe the inspired word of God about negative influences (I Corinthians 15:33), you’ll know! What is your child doing with his or her spiritual and secular education? It is your responsibility to find out (II Timothy 3:14-15). What are your children watching on television and listening to on their MP3 players? What text messages are they getting (why are they getting them to begin with)? If you care about your child’s soul, you’ll care about the information they see and hear (Proverbs 4:23-27, Proverbs 19:27, Matthew 26:41, and Philippians 4:8). We could go on and on with applications, but I trust you can see the point.

Parents today seem to care very little about what their children are doing and with whom they’re doing it. As parents, we must understand that our children are a gift from the Lord (Psalms 127:3-5). However, MANY parents today, who are the real problem, do not love their children. Notice: “An estimated 906,000 children are victims of abuse & neglect every year. The rate of victimization is 12.3 children per 1,000 children” (<http://www.childhelp.org/resources/learning-center/statistics>). That statistic is alarming. However, we must consider the even more serious abuses of children today which are not “reported”.

The Harshest Forms Of Child Abuse

I know, children being raped, beaten, etc. is horrible. I don’t mean to sound crude, but they can get over those things. The kind of abuse a child does not recover from is when a parent does not bring up a child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). If children were taught about the Lord, consequences for sin, rewards for righteousness, etc., our society would be much better off. Notice how to be real parents and solve our real problem (the lack of parenting): *“And he said unto them, Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law... For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth... He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes... Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying... Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it... Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell”* (Deuteronomy 32:46, Proverbs 3:12; 13:24; 19:18; 22:6; and 23:13-14).

Biblical instruction and discipline are not the only solutions. Good parenting includes having a loving home. I have seen “fathers” who brag about how they use the belt. However, you never see them spend time with their children. They never show affection to their children. There are mothers who are the Hitler’s of motherhood, but they know nothing of loving their children (Titus 2:4). I’ve heard grown men and women tell stories about their fathers which always included discipline, but never do they tell of any other form of a relationship with good ole’ dad. Brethren, we must be firm in the disciplining of our children (Proverbs 22:15). However, we must be able to do more than just swing a heavy hand (Psalms 103:13, Isaiah 66:13, etc.). We need to be the kind of parents that really know our children and can communicate with them. Just as we want our Heavenly Father near to us, let’s be close to our children! If we are afar off, we are abusing them.

Conclusion

Tomorrow’s generation will be the result of today’s parents. Godly mothers will have the praise of their children (Proverbs 31:28). Godly fathers will have the respect of their children (Proverbs 29:17). Children who are not raised right only have the hope that they’ll find the truth on their own. Some of us know personally how hard that is. Let’s equip our children to be godly adults, for we know the majority of parents today are failing!

What must one do to be saved (Acts 2:37)? Hear and believe the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16 & Romans 10:17), repent of their sins (Acts 3:19), confess Christ (Acts 8:37), and be baptized (immersed) for the remission of sins into the church of Christ (Acts 2:38-41; 47, I Corinthians 12:12-13, and Romans 6:1-6; 16:16). One must then remain faithful (Colossians 1:23).