

An Exercise To Discern Both Good and Evil (Hebrews 5:14)

I Have Never Seen Them Pray

Scenario:

You are having a teenager over to your house for dinner. This teenager's parents are members of the congregation. The reason you are having dinner with this teenager is that the parents needed somewhere for their child to be for an evening. This teenager has not obeyed the Gospel. Whether or not this teenager is interested in the Gospel is not very clear to you. Since you will have some time with this teenager, you are hoping to use your influence on this young person and engage in spiritual discussions if possible. You sit down to eat. You lead a prayer for the meal. After the prayer, you are just discussing general things. That is when you are asked a question.

Statement That Arises From Our Scenario:

The teenager asks you why you had them wait to start eating for a prayer. You then explain that you wanted to express thanksgiving for your food to God. You open your Bible and read I Thessalonians 5:18 to this young person.

A Later Statement Is Made:

After reading I Thessalonians 5:18, there is a period of silence. You then ask this teenager about what you just read to them. The teenager responds: "My parents never pray. I have never seen them pray. When we eat they just dig in. So, I didn't even know we should pray before eating. I am just confused now."

For Discussion: What do you see in those statements?