

June 18, 2017

Passing on the Faith Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Every Christian wants to go to heaven, and they want their _____ to go to heaven as well. Today, we're looking at the _____ to pass on the faith. Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will _____ My commandments" (John 14:15). We carefully examine the Scriptures to know what the Lord commands. Loving Him means listening to Him and _____ Him every day.

God blessed our home with _____ precious children. Jackie and I never considered our children as burdens, but as _____. We were happy to pass on our faith in Jesus Christ to our children. We prayed that they would _____ and pass on the faith to their children. When children are small, they _____ their parents' faith and commitment. When parents are committed to God, their children are more _____ to be committed. Little children may not understand all the _____ why they should believe, but they know by their parents' behavior whether God matters.

As children reach elementary school, they want to be _____ their parents and identify with their parents' faith. In middle school, they begin questioning things and _____ for reasons to believe. They realize that some don't _____ in Christ or take the Bible seriously. They see Christians who profess faith but fail to _____ it. This causes questions, so parents must _____ their children find answers to their questions.

First Peter 3:15 says, "but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being _____ to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the _____ that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence." Children usually ask their parents first for _____ about their faith. What are you doing to pass on the faith to your children?

Our reading today comes from the book of Deuteronomy 6:4-9. That was the teaching of Moses to the people of Israel and it's good _____ for us.

The book of Deuteronomy contains three lengthy speeches that Moses gave to Israel shortly before his death. These lessons _____ his desire for Israel to remain faithful to God and serve Him with all their heart and soul. Every godly _____ and every godly _____ wants those who follow Him to continue in the faith. **Read what Moses said in Deuteronomy 6:1-3.**

Moses died soon after these speeches, and God chose Joshua to _____ Israel into the Promised Land. God promised Joshua, "Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous; be _____ to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success

wherever you go. This book of the law shall not _____ from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is _____ in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have _____” (Joshua 1:6-8).

The people remained _____ to God during the life of Joshua. Judges 2:7 says, “The people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who survived Joshua, who had seen all the great work of the LORD which He had done for Israel.” For a while things went well; but Judges 2:10-12 says, “there arose another generation after them who did not _____ the LORD, nor yet the work which He had done for Israel. Then the sons of Israel did _____ in the sight of the LORD and they served the Baals, and they forsook the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed themselves down to them; thus they provoked the LORD to _____.”

One generation may be faithful, while another generation falls away and does _____. Through the history of Israel, one can see how the nation went back and forth in their _____ to God. We must devote ourselves to the Lord and to the spiritual _____ of our children, so they will not forsake the Lord and follow the people around them.

God gave parents the _____ responsibility of spiritually training their children and teaching them the will of God. God said of Abraham, “For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the _____ of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him” (Genesis 18:19). The apostle Paul said to Christians, “Fathers, do not provoke your children to _____, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4).

There are several reasons to _____ Christian values and standards in our children. First, we must help our children _____ God and His Word, and that they are the ultimate authority. The Word of God must be impressed upon our hearts if we are to impress them upon our children’s hearts. The Word of God applies to _____ situation in life. No one is better suited to _____ and _____ God’s teaching to every area of life than a parent. Parents cannot _____ their children where they are not going. That’s the _____ why we must teach them the Word of God. Romans 10:17 simply says, “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”

The command in Deuteronomy 6:8 to bind God’s Word “as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontals on your forehead” emphasized the _____ remembrance and attention. They should keep the Law before their eyes constantly, so that wherever they looked and whatever they did, they would _____ God’s teaching. In our complex and confused world, our children need the constant _____ and values of God’s Holy Word. Psalm 119:105 says, “Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.” We must establish

Biblical guidelines, so that our children will _____ right from wrong. We must also _____ them discretion between what is wise and what is foolish.

Second, we must give our children the family _____ that they will need as parents. We rear our children to be Christians and to be _____ for their children. They need to know how to be good _____ and good parents. They will _____ it from Scripture and from our example. Times change, but knowing how to listen, to love, to forgive, and to be a Christian never changes. Your children will likely parent your grandchildren the _____ that you parented them. Solomon said, "Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck" (Proverbs 1:8-9).

Third, we must open the _____ to a personal relationship with God. Solomon said, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not _____ from it" (Proverbs 22:6). Children whose parents are faithful servants of the Lord are more _____ to be faithful servants of the Lord themselves. Children whose parents remain close to God usually remain close to God themselves. The goal of spiritual training is to _____ mature, loving Christians. This is a lifelong _____ and doesn't end just when the child is baptized. Baptism is not the _____ but the beginning of the Christian life. We must teach our children to _____ faithful as long as they live.

Paul saw in the young man Timothy a _____ faith. This didn't happen by accident! Paul wrote, "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt _____ in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well" (2 Timothy 1:5). Timothy was faithful because his mother and his grandmother taught him the Scriptures! Paul urged the young man, "But as for you, continue in what you have _____ and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you have learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you _____ for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and _____ for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:14-17).

Our children need what the Scripture gives. They need teaching so they will know what is _____ and _____. They need _____ to avoid and forsake the dangers of sin. They need correction so they can _____ the burdens and the guilt of sin. They need training in righteousness so they can be equipped for every good _____. God wants not only to save us but also to transform our lives so that we will be a _____ to everyone that we touch.

Solomon said, "My son, do not _____ my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments, for length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart. So that you will find favor and good success in the _____ of God and

man. Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not _____ on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones” (Proverbs 3:1-8).

Last, we must give our children the practical _____ to life. Solomon taught his sons what he learned from his own father, David. The book of Proverbs provides God’s _____ for parents in so many areas of life. Solomon is addressing his sons with needed _____ in life. Good parents get _____ with their children’s education in every area of life. They expect their children to _____ and to learn. If school, and sports, and driving a car are important to life, then one cannot take a _____ approach to the spiritual instruction that will take them into eternity. Your children will _____ God’s way is best, and the value of persistence in the faith, and patience by watching and listening to you.

Solomon said, “My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your _____ attentive to wisdom and inclining your _____ to understanding; if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives _____; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of His saints. Then you will _____ righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul” (Proverbs 2:1-9).

As you read the book of Proverbs, you can hear a father pleading with his son to _____ to wisdom and to _____ the ways of sin. When children fail to _____ to the wisdom of godly parents who know and love the Lord, and know the Bible, they can wind up in a great deal of _____. Remember the prodigal son. But when children learn wisdom and insight, their lives can _____.

Read what Solomon said in Proverbs 4:1-13.

Read Psalm 78:1-8.

There is no greater _____ in our world today than for Christian parents, especially fathers, to bring their children up in the discipline and the instruction of the Lord. Bible schools and youth ministers have great value, but God gave _____ the responsibility of spiritually training their children.

God’s grace and love are abundant, and the _____ of serving the Lord are without end. That means we must get right and remain right with the Lord, if we wish to live with Him throughout _____. To get right with God, place your trust in the Lord Jesus, repent and turn from sin and come to the Lord’s way, confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins—just as Acts 2:38 teaches. Won’t you do that today?