

## Courage to Care for Children

Solomon by inspiration wrote: “A good *man* leaveth an inheritance to his children’s children: and the wealth of the sinner *is* laid up for the just”(Pro. 13:22). A good man is one whose heart is filled with kindness and love. He loves God and his family and never allows anything to come between him and those he loves. He leaves an example that will bless his children and grandchildren. They are rich not because of posterity, because success in worldly pursuits is very uncertain. The paradigm of righteousness from their father and grandfather can bring spiritual riches for the soul.

There are more lasting impressions on life that are formed in the home than anywhere else. Those who direct and govern the home should feel their deep obligation and privilege. The influence they leave on the mind of a child will in large measure determine that child’s earthly course and eternal destiny.

What type of impressions are children seeing in American homes today? Do they see a loving father and mother daily living for God? Do they see their parents living honestly before all men? Do they see their mother and father setting a good moral example? In many homes today, parents leave their children to the television or nursery school to raise them. Childcare takes the commitment of both parents! Parents must have the courage and accept the responsibility to care for their children.

Abraham Lincoln once said:

A child is a person who is going to carry on what you have started. He is going to sit where you are sitting, and when you are gone, attend those things which you think are important.

Every parent should take inventory of their life to see what type of legacy they are leaving their children. Is God important to you? Is attending Bible study and worship services important to you? If they are, they will be important to your children.

In teaching his children, Solomon said, “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” (Pro. 3:4-6). What does it mean to “Trust in the Lord with all your heart?” One should have God and His Son, Christ Jesus, first in their heart and life. Trust in His Word as the guide through all of life.

To leave a legacy of the Christian life, parents must have the courage to say “**no**” to their children. No, to the passing pleasures of the world. Never let anything come between them and God, because children need spiritual nourishment if they are to live a successful life that will lead them to Heaven. Children need parents who will take the leadership in taking action against the sale of alcohol and drugs, help stop the sale of pornographic material, and stand firm against the filth on television (those in charge of television programs are working hard to corrupt the minds of young people), and the music they hear. Everyone must have the courage to care for young people. We must never tolerate the destruction of our children.

*Paul Vaughn  
Lewispport, KY*

## BELVEDERE BEACON

“Ye are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14)

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535 Clearwater Road, Belvedere, SC 29841-2574

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### “AND DEAR GOD, PLEASE HELP ME TO GROW...”

Those words, often uttered in prayer, make up a proper request. We all should desire to be stronger spiritually (II Pet. 3:18). We should indeed long for growth (I Pet. 2:1ff). Let us examine this prayer request, as well as our attitude and efforts toward spiritual growth.

What would you think of a man who prayed, “God, please help me not to lose my job,” and then that same man slept in and was late to work every day? I have heard both men and women who say they want to be stronger spiritually. I have heard some say they want to know the Bible better. I have heard some folks piously sing, “More, More About Jesus.” And then I have seen the very same souls skip Bible classes on Sunday and Wednesday. Any wonder why there is no growth????

When ones attendance at worship assemblies is “hit and miss,” then that person will exhibit spiritual stagnation. When a tree in the orchard does not grow, we give it extra attention. When a Christian does not grow, we try to give some extra attention as concerned brethren. After all, we have an obligation to build up each other. “So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another” (Rom. 14:19).

Your brethren cannot help you grow if you do not engage in really challenging, serious Bible study. Some brothers and sisters have been in the church for 10 years or more and never yet made 10 pages of study notes. Folks, casual reading of the Bible is not Bible study. We cannot edify you if you are not in the assembly of the saints on a regular basis. If students at public school attended like some of my brethren attend the worship assembly, they would be charged with truancy!

We cannot help you grow if you persist in saying, “This is not a convenient time” or employing similar excuses. Everyone is busy. Everyone has more to do than week to get it done. Still, if heaven is really important to you, you will make time to sit down and study. We have the teachers. We have a strong desire to see you grow. We can come to your house and spend an hour a week in diligent study with you. We are ready. Still, we cannot help you grow if you never make an effort or lift a finger. We will make the time—will you?

*Lynn Parker  
New Braunfels, TX*

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### SUNDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 10.00 am.

Morning Worship 11.00 am.

Evening Worship 6.00 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 7.00 p.m.

EVANGELIST: Ken Chumbley - Tel. No. (803) -279-8663

[www.belvederechurchofchrist.org](http://www.belvederechurchofchrist.org) E-mail [church@belvederechurchofchrist.org](mailto:church@belvederechurchofchrist.org)

## LOVE COVERS SINS

In I Peter 4:8, we read, “*And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.*” The word “*charity*” as used in the KJV is the translation of the Greek word AGAPE, love. This passage then is urging brethren to love each other and indeed to be “*fervent*” in that love. Peter also tells us that this love “*shall cover a multitude of sins.*” How does love cover sins? The meaning of the word “*cover*” as used in the passage does not mean “*whitewash*” or “*overlook.*” This passage is not teaching that brethren should ignore the sins that their brothers and sisters commit and to let them pass off without any effort to correct one another when sin is committed.

Rebuking a brother for his sins is not the same as disowning him. The way in which we should seek to correct is for the purpose of restoring the erring brother (Galatians 6:1), not to seek to dismiss him from our company or to merely expose his sin. We need to realize that the steps that are taken to bring about correction might sometimes have to be severe, but even in this we should never forget that we are to confirm our love toward him (II Corinthians 2:8).

There is no one who could love us more than our heavenly Father loves us. However, one sure sign of that love is His chastening of his own (Hebrews 12:6). The apostle Paul had had to write very severely to the brethren in the church at Corinth but he did it out of the anguish of his heart that they might know the abundant love that he had for them ( II Corinthians 2:4). When we read the Old Testament scriptures, we see that many times the punishment which God sent upon the children of Israel for their sins was very severe. On occasion, he spoke of Israel and Judah as being adulterous wives and brought down on them severe punishment, yet he confirmed His love toward them over and over again. One place where this is clearly seen is in Hosea the prophet. (One would do well to read that short book.)

The goodness and severity of God were brought to bear upon man in bringing about mankind’s redemption. Redemption is not simply the forgiveness of sins but it also involves the cleansing from sins. The love of God reforms men’s lives as well as remitting their sins. These two effects go hand in hand; you cannot have one without the other. It is in this manner that the love of God covers sins through and by the blood of His Son, Jesus the Christ.

The mutual help that we can give one to another in overcoming the practice of sin in our lives together with the marvelous and immeasurable grace of God is the means whereby “*charity (love) covers a multitude of sins.*” We are to “*bear one another’s burdens*” in fulfilling the law of Christ.

Brethren, let us truly love one another and with that love truly “*cover*” one another’s sins that we might be blessed by God and be a blessing to each other.

*Ken Chumbley*

## NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett and mother, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, and Rachel Fitzpatrick’s aunt (Eula Baker) who has cancer, Maomi Aaron’ sister who has having health problems, and Tim Smith.

Ken Chumbley is in England this week for the English Lectures. Please keep him in your prayers as he travels.

News and notes will return next week.

### Comfort

It has been a pretty harsh season in regards to sickness in our area. In times of such illness, it is extremely hard to feel comfort. Though we can rejoice in the comfort of a cold glass of 7-UP or a couple of Saltine crackers given to us by a spouse or mother, the ailments that bring our bodies into virtual failure still remain.

It is not in this physical life that one will receive ultimate comfort. We can, however, take delight in the fact that we have been offered true comfort in promise.

#### 1. Comfort Can Only Be Found **in Christ**

- a. In Christ we find comfort that there is life after death (1 Cor. 15:20).
- b. In Christ we enjoy all spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3).
- c. In Christ we have remission of sins (1 Cor.15:17; Acts 2:38).
- d. In Christ we are sanctified (1 Cor. 1:2).
- e. In Christ we are children of God (Gal. 3:26-27).
- f. In Christ we are saved (2 Tim. 2:10).
  - i. Hears the Word (Rom. 10:17).
  - ii. Believes the Word (John 8:24).
  - iii. Repents of sin (Luke 13:3).
  - iv. Confesses that Jesus is the Christ (Rom.10:9-10).
  - v. Is Baptized in order to have his sins washed away (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Rev.1:5).
  - vi. Remains Faithful to God (1 John 1:6-10; Rev. 2:10).

#### 2. We Can Comfort One Another with **the Word of God** (2 The. 4:18).

- a. The Word of God is Truth (John 17:17).
- b. The Word of God can lead men unto salvation (Rom. 1:16-17).
- c. The Word of God can set men free (John 8:31-32).

#### 3. Ultimate Comfort Awaits Those Who Will **Be Faithful** (Heb. 4:9; Rev. 2:7, 10; 3:5, 21; 21:7).

Many in the world seek comfort from wealth (1 Tim. 6:10) and in accomplishing their own desires (Pro. 14:12; Jud. 21:25). Others seek comfort in the traditions and doctrines of men (Mat. 15:9) and teachers who will scratch their ears (2 Tim. 4:3). Let us seek comfort in the Word of God and spread that joyous message to others. Let us be faithful to God so we can look forward to the comfort of Heaven that still awaits.

*Brad Green  
Farragut, TN*