

before his bench in trouble who had regular spiritual training.

If you are a parent, you need to be concerned about the spiritual welfare of your children. Take some advice from Moses concerning training our children. "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates" (**Deuteronomy 6:7-9**).

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR



Some General thoughts on recent events:

"The general council of the United Church of Canada refused to heed calls for the resignation of Bill Phipps, the denomination's moderator after he announced that he does not believe in the deity of Christ nor His bodily resurrection. The council's decision was that Phipps's beliefs are "well within the spectrum of the United Church" (**Christianity Today, February 9, 1998, page 93**)." Whew! That doesn't say much for their "spectrum" does it?

Some helpful sentence sermons I have seen along the way:

*** What is intended as a little white lie often ends up as a double feature in Technicolor. ***

*** If you are not closer to heaven today than you were yesterday, check your road map ... you may have taken a wrong turn.***

*** Defying God is about as intelligent as giving a wild elephant a peanut filled with red pepper. ***

*** We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. ***

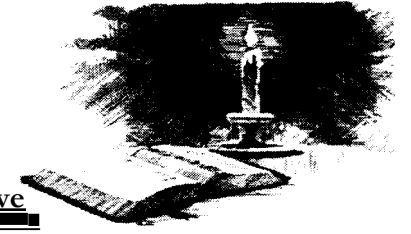
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They Could Not Speak The Language

By John Hendrix

Nehemiah was absolutely outraged when he discovered that the Israelite children in Judah could not speak in the Jew's language (**Nehemiah 13:24**). This was no mere problem of "losing a culture" or losing an ancient and honorable tongue. This problem reached to the very heart of the rising generation's relationship with their God. The scriptures were written in the Jew's language (Hebrew), but they could not speak it.

After all the struggles with the people of the land, after the scandal of Tobiah the Ammonite living in the temple (**Nehemiah 13:4**), after all the public teaching and preaching (**Nehemiah 8**), after all the sours of work that Nehemiah had put into restoring the work and worship of the Jewish people in Canaan **they could not speak their own language!**

The sounds that make up the Tell Conunandmetits could be memorized, but not understood. All the joys and sorrows, the love songs and fiery denunciations of the psalms could be learned by rote, but not by heart. Every child could recite a series of sounds, but who among them could understand all the lessons contained in the law and the prophets" Virtually none.

Fortunately for us, we have many good translations of the scriptures in our own language and can easily read the words of men as ancient as Adam and as great as the Lord Jesus Christ. There may be constant controversy over which translation is the

best, but everyone with true Bible knowledge affirms that the Holy Scriptures are understandable and available to people of all walks of life. Even those who cannot read can obtain tapes and listen to the Word of God.

Yet there is a scandal among far too many in the Lord's church: many issues--basic issues--are not understood by some of our brothers and sisters in Christ. There is confusion about simple things such as modest dress, pure speech and faithful attendance. These subjects deal with day-to-day Christian living and some of us seem to understand very little about them.

When we preach and teach on these things we know we are heard, we feel sure that people are listening, but they just do not seem to understand. It is as if we are speaking a language that they do not know. Because they have not learned the very rudiments of the word, **they do not speak the language.**

Why do we have so much difficulty teaching about modest and unprovocative dress? Because some have not learned certain basics about the purpose of Christian living. Some Christians think that we just want to control their wardrobe or dictate their fashion sense. They have not learned, for example, the basic doctrine of helping each other think and do what is right: And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works. (**Hebrews 10:24**) [wearing] the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. (1

Peter 3:4) but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way. (**Romans 14:13**)

Why is crude speech rampant? Because some do not know or understand the simple teachings of God's word about our speech: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. (**James 3:8**) Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt... (**Colossians a:6**) For by your words shall you be justified, and by your words shall you be condemned. (**Matthew 12:37**)

Why do we have to beg and plead with so many to come to the worship services of the church? Not because **Hebrews 10:25** is hard to understand. It is because they have not learned the purpose and value of the assembly of saints: And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking, the assembling of ourselves [together, as](#) is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. (**Hebrews 10:24-25**) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom: teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (**Colossians 3:16**)

We all need to understand that the gospel is about striving to please God and helping and exhorting everyone else to do so as well (I **Tim 4:16**). How much exhortation can you receive or give if you are not at the worship of the church? If our children are to understand the scriptures we must teach them the language. Many of our children do not know how Christians ought to behave, even though they were baptized and "brought up in the church," because we never taught them plain Bible principles. This is something we can fix. When your child has a memory verse, make sure he understands it to the best of his ability. Do not be satisfied that he can simply repeat it. Make sure he says "passeth knowledge" instead of "passeth nolege" (**Ephesians 3:19**).

Explain what that expression means. (If you do not know yourself, find out.) Teach them what *all* the words mean: repentance, grace, faith and love. Only then be satisfied with their recollection of Acts 2:38, **Titus 2:11, Hebrews 11:6 and I Corinthians 13:1.**

And teachers of very young children--why not use a simple translation of the scriptures for your memory verses?

When you take your child to the assembly, make sure you show them the joy you feel at being able to worship God. Never say, "we *have to* go to church," because "we *get to* go to church" should be more accurate. When you study with your brothers and sisters, make sure they understand the stories that they are being told. Make sure they understand that the Pharisees were not wrong for wanting to obey God precisely, but for hypocrisy and self-righteousness (Matthew 23:3,5). Teach them that Saul of Tarsus was lost even while his conscience was clean (Acts 23:1). Explain that Cornelius was not saved until he heard the gospel, even though he was a good, generous and prayerful man (Acts 10:2; 11:14).

When you read from the scriptures "give the sense" (**Nehemiah 8:8**)--explain it--so that all will know what it means and teaches. If we do not neglect the basics we will be able to discuss the more difficult questions of faith, because everyone will be able to speak the language.

WHAT ABOUT THE CHILDREN?

By Grady Scott

Every sane person in the United States has been shocked and saddened by the recent series of shootings in our schools. From Arkansas to Oregon, Tennessee to California, the pictures have been repeated over and over on our television screens. Rescue squads work feverishly to save some adult or child's life who has been senseless] gunned

down by another child. Parents rush to schools to frantically search for their children. Whole communities grieve over young people cut down before they can experience life. It is tragic beyond words.

But I want to take your mind to another scene. There is no tragedy here. I was recently at an awards ceremony for about a hundred young people who attend our local middle school. These young people were not brandishing firearms. They were not rioting. They were being honored for their achievement and citizenship. There to cheer them on were a couple hundred parents, grandparents, relatives and friends. You should have seen the look of joy on the faces of these young people as they each went up to the stage to receive their respective awards for citizenship and high scholastic achievement. I thought to myself, this is the culmination of several years of work and parental involvement. The future is hopeful and positive for these young people."

I also noticed something else while there. As I was looking around in the crowd I began to notice faces that I knew. These are the same ones who would come for Choir and Band recitals, parent teacher conferences, and other school events. I had seen many of these faces before. They had made a difference in the lives of their children because they had taken the time to be there for them.

I understand that kids can sometimes turn out bad in spite of the best efforts of their parents. There's something else that I know. Those children who learn the love of God from their parents will be far less likely to end up going bad than those who do not. The Bible tells us, "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (**Ephesians 6:4**). A number of years ago a juvenile judge made the statement that in all his years on the bench he had never seen a young man or woman

*** IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE BEACON ***

During the past few months the Beacon's mailing list has been corrupted, lost and replaced, due in most part from trying to change formats from an Access Data Base to a standard Excel Data Base. With all these changes and modifications a lot of names have been lost, names that have been asked to be removed have once again been added and several names have been added to the list who have not specifically asked for the bulletin. I want to take this opportunity to express my apologies to those who have received this bulleting in error and those who have not received this bulletin over the past several months.

This is where I need your help.

IF YOU WANT TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE BEACON - PLEASE CUT OUT THIS BOX AND MAIL IT BACK TO US.

0 - Yes, Continue To send the Beacon.

0 - No thank you, PLEASE remove my name from the list.

I will run this for **2 MONTHS ONLY** after that anyone who has not replied will not be in the ^eMonths publication. Please cut on center line!