



We are a congregation of the Lord's people looking for you. We desire to love our community and neighbors as our Lord has taught us to do. Please allow us to be an encouragement to you as you are an encouragement to us by visiting with us today.

If you have any questions about anything you see or hear today, please stop someone and ask questions. We are seeking to be New Testament Christians, and as such we desire to share what we have been given. We want to be ready to give you an answer for what we do and say (1 Peter 3:15)

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Thank you for being our Guest today!

Were the Pharisees the Last “Blind Leaders of the Blind”?

Ardron Hinton

This expression was applied to the Pharisees in Matthew 15:12-14. They were neither the first nor the last to deserve the designation. Consider the political and social leadership in our own nation today. We have spent staggering amounts to improve education, yet we are told there is a crisis in American education. We have poured billions into eliminating poverty, yet we are constantly bombarded with horror stories concerning the plight of millions of people. We are clearly in deep trouble with crime in the U.S., and yet it has been given all sorts of attention for decades. Could it possible be that those leading us are not solving problems because they are **blind** to what really lies at the root of **all** these troublesome developments?

Money hasn't bought us the security we have sought. Why suppose that spending more will change things? Readily available data show a clear connection between all of these problems and certain developments in our society: (1) the decline of traditional homes, (2) the acceptance of non-biblical moral and ethical standards, (3) a secularization of public education, (4) increased concern in religion with people-pleasing, (5) increasing lack of a sense of responsibility in the public media and (6) growth of centralized bureaucratic power in government. There is no improving the plant (society) without first correcting the roots that feed it. If our leaders are blind to the real trouble, then what?

Food For Thought

Falsehood, like poison, will generally be rejected when administered alone. But when blended with wholesome ingredients, it may be swallowed unperceived.

Our generation is trying to drink its way to prosperity, destroy its way to plenty. . . war its way to peace, hate its way to love, sin its way to God, and drift its way upstream.

Many people go through life doubting their beliefs and believing their doubts. Why not believe our beliefs and doubt our doubts?

Family Matters

Derek Broome

There are so many decisions to make and so many factors to consider when it comes to families. Let us take a moment and see what the Bible teaches us about families.

We must start with two distinct individuals: a man and a woman. They are two people, two souls and two life stories. They have sin; they struggle, and they need a Saviour, like all of mankind (Romans 3:23). Will they obey God's Word (Acts 2:38)? Will they be faithful to Him always (Revelation 2:10)?

Now we see a married couple. That which were two have now become one (Genesis 2:24). Husbands should love their wives as Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25). Wives should submit to their husbands as to the Lord (Ephesians 5:22). The husband should be the head of the family as Christ is the Head of the church (Ephesians 5:23). Will they be faithful to each other (Hebrews 13:4)? Will they get a divorce (Matthew 19:9)? Will they love and submit?

A couple decides to have children. The family is to be provided for and given proper care (I Timothy 5:8). The father is to still be the head of the family and to teach his children the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4). Both parents should actively raise and train their children in the right ways (Proverbs 22:6). Discipline should be used in the home because the children are loved, and it is important for their training (Proverbs 13:4). Will the parents provide the care, training and discipline that are needed in the Lord?

Then, we have the children. Children are to honor and to obey their parents (Ephesians 6:1-2). They are to take the training they have received and be an example to other believers (I Timothy 4:12). Children, just like their parents and every other individual, will fall prey to sin (Romans 3:23). It is ultimately going to be their decisions, which they make as individuals, whether they are going to follow the Word of the Lord. What will they choose?

The Word of God is pretty clear when it talks about families. God has always had a plan for families. The Bible shows us that families are important for so many reasons: faith, love, training, instruction, care, etc. It teaches us that it is up to each individual to choose to follow God and to fulfil his or her role in the family. The reality is that there is only one perfect family, and that is the family of God. As we live and work in our families at home and in the church, choices will come our way. Even when those around us choose the ways of the world, let us always choose the ways of God. May we always live as children of God.

NOT FOR SALE! Ken Tyler

A well-dressed couple came into a toy shop with their two children. "We want some toys that will keep the children entertained," the mother said. "My husband and I both work, and the children are alone a great deal." The salesgirl showed them a variety of games and play equipment, but to each there was some objection. "It seems to me," the mother finally said impatiently, "that if you knew what we are really looking for, you could find it among all of these toys." The salesgirl sighed, "I'm sorry madam, but I believe what you are really looking for—what your children want—is a mother and father, and we don't sell those here."

This amusing little story describes the crisis in our society. Fathers and mothers are not available to raise their children. The worldliness of our society through computers and television is entertaining our children, and the results are devastating. Parents are so busy making money they have forgotten about making character. Something must be done. Our focus and emphasis must change. The Bible still says, "*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it*" (Proverbs 22:6). "*And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord*" (Ephesians 6:4).

I challenge every father and mother to make the spiritual training of your children your top priority. The years will reveal that you made a wise choice.



FUNNY

What did Jonah's [family](#) say when he told them about what happened before reaching Nineveh?

"Hmm, sounds fishy."

Why didn't anyone want to fight Goliath?

It seemed like a *giant* ordeal.

This Week's Q&A

Q: By what means did Cyrus conquer Babylon?

A: In Jeremiah 51:11-58, verses 14, 20, 36 and 39 specifically describe how Cyrus conquered Babylon. During the siege of Babylon by Cyrus, verses 14 and 16 as well as secular history describe his tactics. Based on history (see the Cylinder of Cyrus, and Scripture), Cyrus had his men to dig a trench to divert the waters of the Euphrates (which ran through the center of Babylon) into a marshy area. This diversion, as the above verses describe, makes the entire area desolate. Some commentators say he and his army were able to walk underneath the gates of the city on a dry riverbed. Others say the water was thigh high. Verse 20 states Cyrus was used as God's battle-axe. See also Daniel chapters 5 and 6.

Satan will fight vigorously to maintain his kingdom.

Forgive

*Forgive someone. Today forgive.
Turn from bitter to positive.
End frustration, anger, pain;
Wash the anguish from your brain.*

*No need to reconcile or tell,
Just feel better and get well.
A brand new, peaceful life to live,
That's your gift, when you forgive.
--Joanna Fuchs*

The ladder of life is full of splinters; but you don't realize it until you begin to slide down.

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Mail me to
someone
who might
read me!