

Week of February 3, 2008

Monday

Psa. 15:1-2 O LORD, who may abide in Thy tent? Who may dwell on Thy holy hill? He who walks with integrity, and works righteousness, And speaks truth in his heart.

Influence will not be measured merely by ones words or by singular actions. Instead, the character of a man or a woman will determine his/her influence. So with children, one will not influence their lives by singular heroic deeds or moments of inspired speech. They will be influenced by the life lived well before them. Rise up and live for God! Walk in integrity and do works of righteousness. Then you will move the hearts of children to seek after God.

Tuesday

Psa. 34:11 Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD.

Raising children for Jesus, whether as a parent or a church family, does not happen by accident. Teaching children God's ways and God's will is neither intuitive nor easy. Churches and parents must plan, pray, and purpose to teach children about the Lord. The goal must be embraced by all of us and must be a constant goal. Pray for the parents of our congregation. Pray for our children's ministry leaders. Pray for our church and seek God to make us a 'beckoning' church for children. A church where children are brought to Jesus.

Wednesday

1John 2:13-14 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning...I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning.

Fathers (or mothers) who seek to lead their children to Jesus must themselves *know* Jesus. John says, "I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him." Look at your life this day. How well do you *know* Him? The better you know someone, the easier and more comfortable you will find his introduction to others. Know Jesus. Know Him well. Then you will find it is easy to introduce Him to your children, your grandchildren, your friends and neighbors.

Thursday

Prov. 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who is wise wins souls.

An application of Mark 8:36 could state, 'what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his own son or daughter?' So here the proverb reminds us that there is nothing more important than the salvation of a boy or girl, a man or woman. There is no accomplishment of life so important as seeing others saved from hell and registered in heaven. What are your priorities? What are you accomplishing? In your church? In your family? In your community?

Friday

Mark 10:13-14 And they were bringing children to Him so that He might touch them; ... Jesus said to them, "Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

Bringing children to Christ is the role of parents *and churches*. Yes, parents bear primary responsibility for the nurture and growth of their children, but God has also laid the burden and privilege of salvation upon the church family. Are you doing your part? Would God have you volunteer for service in a children's ministry role? Are you praying for God's leadership in Children's ministry? Do so today.