

The Biblical Messenger



Volume 43 Number 16

"God's Word for the Family (Children)!"

Tobias Hatchett

For the past few weeks we have been studying, teaching, and preaching on the family and the home. Some may be wondering why, but I think the reasons are clear. In the beginning, God established the family as the first of all human relationships. From that family, God built society. Nothing has changed. The family is still the foundational unit of society. In fact, no church, no community, and no nation is any stronger than the families that make it up. If this is true, then each of us should double down on our efforts to ensure that our families are all that they should be. The Bible teaches that husbands and wives have a God-given obligation to love one another and to submit to one another for the glory of God (**Ephesians 5:22-33**). The Bible also teaches that parents have a God-given obligation to create a home that allows their children to become all they have been designed by the Lord to be (**Ephesians 6:4**). Now, let's look at what God's Word has to say about the role of children in the family.

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Meeting Times

Sunday 9:30a, 10:30a, 5:00p
Wednesday 7:00p

In **Ephesians 6:1**, children are told to "obey" their parents. This word means "to submit to, to comply with, to heed, to follow directions and instructions." It can literally mean to "hear under." This means that children are to listen to the voice of their parents attentively and they are to respond to what they hear with perfect submission. As children learn to obey their parents, they are setting the stage for obedience throughout life. They are learning respect for authority and they are learning to obey the other voices of authority such as school, government, etc., that will become part of their lives later on. Ultimately, they are learning to walk in obedience to the Lord when they walk in obedience to their parents. As long as we live, we will always walk under someone's authority. Notice also in verse 1 the phrase "**in the Lord**." While children are told to obey their parents; that obedience is conditioned by the behavior of the parents. When the commands of a parent contradict the clear teachings of the Bible, then those children, just like anyone else, have an obligation to put the Lord and His Will first. Of course, this truth runs through every area of life. No parent, no spouse, no authority figure in our lives has the right to command us to do something illegal, immoral, or that contradicts the Word of God. We are to always place God and His Will ahead of the will of others (**Acts 5:29**). We have a higher allegiance! Notice again in verse 1 the phrase

continued

April 17, 2024

“God’s Word for the Family (Children)!” continued

Tobias Hatchett

“in the Lord, for this is right.” That statement reveals to the children why they should obey and honor their parents. When children honor and obey their parents, they are doing that which is right in the sight of the Lord. You see, children are not told to obey and honor so that they might please their parents; they are told to do so, because it pleases the Lord! We are to do this, not in an effort to please “the folks”, but in an effort to please our Heavenly Father.

In **Ephesians 6:2**, children are also told to “**honor**” their parents. This word means “to respect, to revere, to hold in high regard.” This speaks about the children’s attitude toward what their parents tell them to do. Foolish children may obey the voice of their parents but secretly despise them in their heart; they may obey outwardly but while they are carrying out their orders, they may be talking about them, cursing them, or talking back under their breath. That is the wrong attitude! Children should have great respect for their parents. They should be careful not to talk back to their parents disrespectfully. They should respect their parents, just as they would the Lord. Again, when children learn to respect their parents in the home, they grow up with a natural respect for other people. Wise children who honor their parents have little trouble honoring the Lord, other authority figures, or other people. However, foolish children who disrespect their parents, will usually have little respect for others. This fact is plain to see as our world has become increasingly filled with rude, insensitive, and self-centered people. We are living in a day when many children are displaying clear disrespect for their parents. Some do it by back talking, grumbling, complaining, disregarding instruction, speaking disrespectfully, acting like a “know it all”, refusing to listen, etc. Others do it through delinquency, crime, drugs, alcohol, sexual activity, abuse of parental and family property, and that’s just to name a few. Even some adult children are guilty of ignoring their aging parents and failing to minister to their needs. Many children fail when it comes to gleaning from the years of wisdom and life experience contained in the minds of the parents. We are told in **Ephesians 6:3**, that children who obey their parents bring God’s promise upon them. When children honor their parents, they are honoring God, and God always blesses those who honor and obey Him (see **Deuteronomy 28:1-2** and **Matthew 7:21**). God’s promise to obedient children is that they will enjoy an improved “quality of life” (that it may be well with you) and an improved “quantity of life (and you may live long on the earth). I believe the Bible is very clear in this verse: The Lord will bless those children who honor their parents!

To any children, teenagers, or young adults who may be reading this article, let me encourage you to obey and honor your parents. They love you and want the absolute best for you. Get in line with them, listen to and follow their instructions. If you have not been as obedient and respectful as you should have been to your parents, make sure that you ask your parents for forgiveness and then ask the Lord for forgiveness also. Just remember, when your first thought is living a life that is pleasing and honoring to the Lord; your obedience to and honor of your parents will be an automatic outflow. When God is your first parent, and you obey and honor Him, you will have no trouble obeying and honoring mom and dad in the home!

News and Notes

*The elders have indicated that
worship & class times will be as
follows:*

SUNDAY AM:
Bible class @ 9:30
Worship @ 10:30

SUNDAY PM:
Bible Study @ 5:00

WEDNESDAY PM:
Bible class @ 7:00

**Bible Study Material
For Evangelism!**
AngeloBibleStudy.com

Our Yearly Theme:
*"Serving Our Generation
By the Will of God"*
Acts 13:36

April Theme:
"Focus Upon Family!"
Psalms 127:1

April Men to Serve is Posted

Our Reading Trees are Growing
Nicely. Remember to put your leaves
in the basket.

**Submit Bible questions in the box in
the foyer for 4th Sunday Q/A's!**

*Feed & Seed Monday.
Evenings @ 7:00*

*Camp Brady forms are here. They are
electronic. Please let me know if you
would like them forwarded to you.*

*Sunday Evening 4/21 is
Singing and Sandwich Supper*

**We will celebrate our spring grads
on May 12 after evening services.
More to come!!**

**Maintaining Good
Works**
Titus 3:14

Mass Media:
KWOJ-LP FM 102.5 (24/7)

Evangelism:
Christian Student Center
(University of Wyoming)
Don Iverson - India Work
Annual Gospel Meeting
Vacation Bible School
Students @ Texas School of
Preaching
MORE Evangelism Tips



Edification:
Weekly Bible Classes
Young Men's Development
Conference
(BCS College Station)
Lads to Leaders

Benevolence:
Food Pantry

Records for 04/14
Class.....67
Worship.....107
Offering.....\$5,541

Records for 4/7
Class.....86
Worship.....114
Offering.....\$5,911

This box left blank to protect our
family's privacy.

Worship

April 21, 2024

Announcements.....Royce Williamson
Opening Prayer.....Glen Braswell
Song Leader.....Chad Schaertl
Lord's Table.....Ryan Smithey

Bobby Ventura (O)	Randy Scott (O)
Jesse Herrera	Leon Martinez
Victoria Arreola	Tobias Hatchett

Nate Scott

Closing Prayer.....Eric Lopez

Lads 2 Leaders presentation

Opening Prayer.....Rick Offill
Songs.....Chad Schaertl
Closing Prayer.....Jerry Williams

Scripture should be read from the
KJV, NKJV, or ASV (1901).

“to make ready a people for the Lord” (Luke 1:17)

<u>Shepherds:</u>	<u>Preachers:</u>	<u>Deacons:</u>
Mike Bonner	Mike Bonner	Victor Arreola
Bryan Braswell	Tobias Hatchett	Dustin Estes
Ryan Smithey		Chad Schaertl
Royce Williamson		Randy Scott

G Wipff-Visitor
B Braswell -Pew

R Williamson's-Visitor
L Martinez-Pew

[illegible]

“Focused Upon the Family”

Prayer: Seth S