

Reflections

Volume 1 Issue 2

A Weekly Publication Of The Pine Street Church Of Christ

April 6, 2008

Pine Street
CHURCH OF CHRIST
429 Pine Street
New Martinsville, WV
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ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday Bible Study
9:45 AM

Sunday Worship
10:45 AM & 6:30 PM

Wednesday Bible Study
7:30 PM

RADIO PROGRAM

"For The Glory Of God"
8:45-9:00 AM
MAGIC 99.5 FM
Cable Channel 15

WEB SITE

www.pinestreetcoc.com

Reflections is a weekly publication of the Pine Street church of Christ including Bible-based articles for the spiritual edification and education of all readers. Please contact us if you have comments or questions about the content of the paper.

Parenting In Tough Times

By Jeremy D. Joy

From the beginning, parents have been entrusted with the responsibility of raising children, with no prior experience or expertise that would qualify them, except to rely upon the wisdom of previous generations that has been accumulated through trial and error and the best handbook in the world on parenting, the Bible. It is no surprise

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then that the best of parents can feel overwhelmed and outnumbered by the destructive forces in society that are working against the family. However, we can increase our confidence as parents and improve our success rate by heeding the inspired wisdom of the Bible, especially the Book of Proverbs, instead of the secular philosophies that undermine faith in God (Proverbs 1:1-7).

There are three facts about raising children that we must understand if we are to raise stand-up children in an upside-down world:

It is hard. "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of



**I will meditate on Your precepts, and
contemplate Your ways.**

— Psalm 119:18

the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). I have heard older people say that they would not want to raise children today in view of the widespread immorality and insensitivity that characterizes the world. The statement may express their true feelings, but it offers no help for parents facing the challenges of living in the twenty-first century. We need real and practical solutions, not a longing for a Mayberry of yester-year. In reality, it has always been hard raising children. Every generation of parents has had to overcome a unique set of problems and pressures. Imagine raising children in the morally decadent culture of the Greeks or the cruel and harsh world of the Romans. The examples of faithful fathers and mothers in the Bible should inspire hope and confidence in our

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hearts. It is possible to raise well-grounded and God-fearing children, even today. You can do it, but not without much effort.

It is important. "Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). There is no more serious responsibility than bringing up children because it impacts their life choices and potentially their eternal destiny. The primary function of the home is to teach children by word and example to love God with all the heart, soul, and mind (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). We may provide them material things, but if we fail to lay a solid spiritual foundation, then we have become a stumbling-block. We must understand the importance of teaching, not only by word, but by example. In the home, we have the opportunity to model the truth in real-life situations, not just in theory. They learn that the word of God works in practice if we properly apply it. Otherwise, they consider us hypocrites and we have missed a

critical window of opportunity to plant the seed of faith in their hearts. Nothing could be more important!

It is serious. "He who troubles his own house will inherit the wind, And the fool will be servant to the wise of heart" (Proverbs 11:29). Parents are the number one influence in the lives of their children. The proverbs repeatedly warn about fathers who squander the assets and resources of the family or poison relationships within the family because of foolishness. They lose everything in the end including their precious children. We have a crisis of fatherhood in America because too many fathers are absent physically, emotionally, or both. Parents need to stop troubling their families and accept the responsibilities that accompany parenthood.

Will you rise to the challenge of parenting in tough times? "If you faint in the day of adversity, Your strength is small" (Proverbs 24:10). 📖

Pine Street News And Notes

Members of our church family who are sick and in need of our prayers: **Terry Tallman** is being treated for a blood clot in his leg.

Others who are sick and in need of our prayers: **Crystal Shockley's** grandmother is improving.

Our Spring Gospel Meeting will be April 20-25 with **Vernon Teagarden**. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Who would you like to invite to our Spring Gospel Meeting? There are advertisements and letters on the stand in the foyer that you can mail to family and friends.

There will be no Training Class in the month of April. The next one will be Sunday, May 18. The schedule is posted on the bulletin board.

There will be an elders-deacons meeting tomorrow at 7:00 PM.

Ted and Lynn Koski's contact information is: Route 1 Box 54, New Martinsville, WV, 26155, (304) 455-2721. Please update your directory.

The Scripture reading today is: Psalm 119:9-16.

The sermons today are: "The Parable Of The Sower" (AM) and "Growing Pains In The Body Of Christ"(PM).