

Schedule of Meeting Times:

WKAC 1080 AM Sunday 7:30 AM

Speaker, Robert Emerson

Study Sunday 10:00 AM

Worship Sunday 11:00 AM

Worship Sunday 5:00 PM

Singing every 2nd Sunday evening

Study Wednesday 7:00 PM

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We would love to
study God's word
with you!

**Servants during February:****Songleader:** Dwight (3), Stanley (10), Larry (17), David (24), Chandler (31)**Reading:** Mike**Announcements:** Stanley**Communion:** Buddy, David, Marty, Larry**Wednesday Lesson:** Larry (6), Stanley (13), Kris (20), Mike (27)**Lawn Mowing (week starting):** On winter vacation...**Singing:** TBD (24)**Area Meetings:** Jackson Drive (3-8); Sommerville Road (10-13); Jackson Drive (Mondays 3/11-5/13)**Hays Mill church of Christ**

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The Bible . Examiner

"Examine everything carefully..." -1 Thessalonians 5:21 NASB

Volume 1

March 10, 2019

Number 50

Five Smooth Stones of Parenting

By Sewell Hall

In Goliath, David faced what seemed an indomitable foe. David's goal was not so much to kill the giant as to protect the children and the honor of God. He took five smooth stones from the brook to achieve his purpose.

In the pervasive humanism of our society, parents face what appears to be an equally unconquerable giant who is determined to destroy their children. They have five stones with which to protect them.

Purpose

"A child left to himself brings shame to his mother," Prov 29:15. Consequently, Wisdom says, "Train up a child in the way he should go..." Prov 22:6. This requires first determining "the way he should

go," then pointing the child in that direction. For Christians one direction supersedes all others: eternal life in heaven via Christlikeness on earth. Scores of agencies with different goals challenge us for control of our children. My father used to say, "I will not let the schools take my children away from me." Today there are many additional threats: TV, Internet, video games, iPods, scouts, sports, neighbors, etc. These must be constantly monitored and controlled. A mother of two fine children, one a teenager, said, "Every day in the lives of our children, their spiritual welfare has been in the forefront of their father's mind." Parents of good children are often told, "You

are just lucky.” No, good children are not the product of luck, but of purpose—relentlessly, sacrificially and proactively pursued.

Training

“Bring them up in the training... of the Lord,” Eph 6:4. Training a plant requires knowing where you want it to go and then patiently bending it, pruning it, and perhaps even tying it. Training an animal involves knowing what you want it to do, using force at first, then patiently guiding, correcting, and finally rewarding and punishing. In both instances, training means establishing authority and maintaining control. Training children begins with example and sometime physical force, then guidance, correction, and eventually reward and punishment when the child understands what is expected. Above all, it means establishing the parents’ authority and letting the child know who is in control. This must begin very early. Once willful rebellion is tolerated, a wrong direction is established and the necessary “bending, pruning, and tying” become all the more difficult. The mother of John and Charles Wesley described good discipline as “shaping the will without breaking the spirit.” This agrees with the Spirit’s counsel: “Do not provoke your children to

wrath, but bring them up...,” Eph 6:4.

Instruction

“Bring them up in the... admonition (instruction, NASB) of the Lord,” Eph 6:4. Unlike plants and animals children can be admonished and instructed. This, also, parents must do. The very intellect that enables children to be instructed also enables them to exercise their free will as they grow older. Parental control constantly diminishes, and unless God’s control is established, their lives will be out of control. God’s control is established by teaching them the scriptures. Long after Timothy was beyond the control of mother and grandmother, their faith dwelt in him, 2 Tim 1:5. How was this accomplished? Paul reminded Timothy; “From childhood you have known the Holy Scripture, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith that is in Christ Jesus,” 2 Tim 3:15. Faith in older children is the result of early instruction in righteousness. Parents should take advantage of the classes offered by the church, but this is not enough—they must teach their children personally. A mother once told me of over-hearing her husband saying to their young infant in the crib, “Let me tell you about Jesus.” Not

surprisingly, that young infant is now a godly young teenager.


Affection

Training and instruction must be administered with love—a love that “suffers long and is kind,” that “does not behave rudely,” and above all, “does not seek its own,” 1 Cor 13:4,5. Children will forgive many mistakes if they can always be sure of their parents’ love. “Love will cover a multitude of sins,” 1 Pet 4:8. Affection without firmness is disastrous, but equally disastrous is firmness without affection.

Prayer

David did not attribute his defeat of Goliath to the stone, to

his sling, or to his skill. “The battle,” he said, “is the Lord’s,” 1 Sam. 17:47. So it is with the training of our children. God is concerned with the outcome and we are servants whom He has entrusted with our little ones. We must pray daily for the wisdom that He has promised to supply, Jas 1:5, and for His providence to overrule our inevitable mistakes. And when our children have become what we hoped for, we have no ground for boasting, only for the humble exclamation, “to God be the glory!”

David succeeded, using only one stone; parents will need all five. 

Questions

If I really trust Him, Shall I ever fret?

If I really do expect Him, Can I e’er forget?

If by faith I really see Him, Shall I doubt His aid?

If I really, really love Him, Can I be afraid?

Remember in Prayer

Marie has had pneumonia, but is feeling some better; **Dwight** has bronchitis; **Pam** has another sinus infection. **Shane’s father** is expecting to be able to have dialysis at home, and is a possible candidate for a heart transplant. Please remember as you pray those that would like to, but

cannot meet with us, including **Lois Adams, Ruth Black, Carolyn Dennis, Tim and Dot Hice, Polly McNatt, and Hazel Teeples**. After having said, “pray without ceasing,” Paul continued, “Brethren, pray for us,” 2 Thess 5:17,25. May we continually pray for one another! 