

## *Families, Churches, and Christians*

David Halbrook

Last week, we saw that churches should not do everything governments or individuals should do. Likewise, God gave some work to the home or individual but not to His churches.

One obvious example is punishing children (Heb. 12:9-11). Do you want the leaders of your congregation deciding when or how to punish your children? God gave this duty *to parents*, not churches. Churches should teach God's truth on this topic, but it is the duty of the family to do the work.

God approves of hospitality (providing food, conversation, or clean entertainment for guests, 1 Pet. 4:9) and taught individuals or families to provide it (Acts 2:46; 1 Pet. 4:9). Today, churches, who would not punish children, provide hospitality in the form of food, games, and movies (like *Finding Nemo*), but God gave this work to the family. And when churches call these things "fellowship," they abuse this Bible word. "Fellowship" in the Bible never means games or social meals. For further study, visit our website and read the article, *Who put the Fellowship in Fellowship Halls?*, or call us and request a copy. We want to hear your comments or questions on this subject. If you disagree, tell us why.

Editor's Note: People who can understand that it is wrong for the church to host or carry-out executions or parental punishment (Rom. 13:4; Heb. 12:9), should then be able to understand that God has given the duty of hospitality to families, not churches. Even most of the churches of Christ in Batesville either do not understand or accept this teaching. Do you understand? Will you help others to understand? Use our article this week to spread the knowledge of God's plan for hospitality and true fellowship.

### Simple opportunities to teach the lost and assist each other.

Please check the lists of various assignments and work needing volunteers..

Pray for: Janice White, The Ledgerwoods, Novela Puckett, Samuel Southall, others with ongoing trials, our brethren who are travelling, and new Christians among us.

*We assemble each Sunday at 10AM, 10:45AM, 5PM & Wednesday at 7PM*

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# The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

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[WWW.QVCOC.COM](http://WWW.QVCOC.COM)

## *Young People, Read the Bible!*

Ron Halbrook

Young men and young ladies, I urge you to read the Bible as the guide of your life. American education originated in the desire to equip young people to read the Bible. Please consider a few reasons this is so important for your life.

1. I urge you to read the Bible because it is the only book in all the world given to us by the guidance of God. "All scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Every word God gave in Scripture is true and right. The Bible is the infallible Word of God.

2. I urge you to read the Bible because it is the only book in all the history of the world protected and preserved by the providence of God. Both the Old and New Testaments contain God's promise that He will protect His Word. "For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever" (1 Pet. 1:24-25; Isa. 40:7-8). God preserves His Word so that each generation can have the opportunity to read it. He wants you to read it.

3. I urge you to read the Bible to learn the way of salvation. That is its main theme. We learn in Genesis 3 that our greatest problem is sin. God promised to send a Savior through the seed of Abraham: "In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 12:3). The Old Testament further explains God's promise of a Savior:

*Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all (Isa. 53:4-6).*

In the New Testament, read Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John to learn about the life, teaching, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. “These are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name” (Jn. 20:31).

To better understand the way of salvation, read the Great Commission and the book of Acts. Jesus said, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mk. 16:15-16). The book of Acts records how the gospel was first spread and how men received it. Read Romans through Revelation to learn how we are to live, worship, and serve God in the way of salvation.

4. There are many other reasons to read the Bible. Read Genesis 2:24 and other passages to learn God’s plan for true married love. “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” If you make God’s Word the foundation of your marriage, your home will be one of the greatest blessings of your life. Read Proverbs to learn words of wisdom which apply to every aspect of life. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction” (1:7). “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people” (14:34). “Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise” (20:1). Read Ecclesiastes to learn the true meaning of life. “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil” (12:13-14).

I urge you to read the Bible with confidence that you can understand the one book in the world given by your Creator to guide you through life and to give you eternal life. God designed the Bible so that when we read it, we can understand His Word (Eph. 3:4). Young man, young lady, read the Bible as your guide in life!

<http://www.hebronchurchofchrist.com/?p=2415>

### *Please Investigate The church of Christ* (author unknown)

You can read about it in the New Testament - Romans 16:16

It uses no creed but the Bible and no name but that of Christ - I Peter 4:16; Acts 11:26

It speaks where the Bible speaks and is silent where the Bible is silent - I Peter 4:11; Galatians 1:8-9

It exalts Christ as the only head of the church - Colossians 1:18

Its worship is patterned after New Testament example - John 4:24; Acts 2:42; 20:7; I Corinthians 16:2; Ephesians 5:19

It teaches unity based upon the truth of Christ - John 17:21; I Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:3

It pleads for unity of all believers in Christ - I Corinthians 3:1-5; Ephesians 4:4-6

Its founder is Christ. It is not a denomination started by men, but is the body of Christ - Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22-23

Its aim is to save souls by leading them to Christ through the gospel - I Corinthians 15:1-4

Its future is eternal glory with Christ - I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Colossians 3:4 (Matt. 25:11-13).

Editor’s Note: As you investigate what you read about the church of Christ in the Bible, compare what you have seen and heard among various religious groups today. Do they match what you read? Does the church here match what you read? If it does match, will you work with us in doing our Lord’s work? If it does not match, will you tell us and show us what we’re overlooking? Either way, let us know your thoughts!

*Then one of the lawyers answered and said to Him, “Teacher, by saying these things You reproach us also.”* (Luke 11:45)

Jesus did not set out to insult people when he taught heaven’s truth. Through no fault of his own, many were insulted by the plain truth he spoke. This lawyer (scribe of the Mosaic law) felt the sting of rebuke from Jesus as he pronounced three woes on the hypocrisy of the Pharisees (see Luke 11:37-4). God’s truth cuts in all directions, exposing every sin and error of one’s heart and life. The question is, will we be insulted when we learn God’s truth, or will we be humbled and corrected by it? How you react to the truth of the gospel says a great deal about who you are – and who you want to be.

(Joe Price, *Sword Tips* 5-25-14)