

TRUTH & RIGHT

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GET WISDOM

"Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old. Buy truth, and do not sell it, get wisdom and instruction and understanding. The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who sires a wise son will be glad in him. Let your father and your mother be glad, and let her rejoice who gave birth to you," (Prov. 23:22-25). Beth and I frequently remark to each other how grateful we are to be blessed to be members of this faithful and loving congregation of Christians. As parents, we are especially grateful for the example and wisdom and encouragement from so many of you who have raised Godly children. Your helpful tips and insights are greatly appreciated as Beth and I strive to learn every day

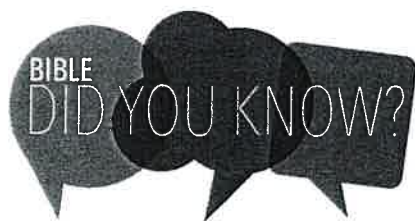
how to effectively develop and raise our own children to love the Lord and obey Him. We are also constantly thankful for so many fellow young parents raising children up in the Lord who our children are developing friendships with. We feel truly blessed that our children have access to the positive influence of so many peers who are able to serve as role models and encouragers to always seek the path the wisdom of the Lord provides. *"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. I have sworn and I will confirm it, that I will keep Your righteous ordinances," (Ps. 119:105-106).* With this abundance of great potential for so many of these little ones to be a constant source of affirmation for each other of the steady teaching we as

parents are providing for them at home, I am thankful for the unifying nature the word of God brings to our relationship in Christ and with each other. *"There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all,"* (Eph. 4:4-6). This one faith unifies us as we mutually seek to follow one book. This fills me with great hope and encouragement as I think of so many parents here teaching and raising their children to know and obey the very same biblical truths and principles Beth and I are seeking to instill in our own children. To know our own kids are growing up alongside so many others who can serve as examples, role models and encouragers for them to gain a greater confidence in the lessons we are seeking to instill in their behavior is a great source of comfort and relief. While we as parents have access to the ultimate divine teaching guide in the bible, I wish to admonish and encourage us all as parents to constantly familiarize ourselves with the

Proverbs and make steady use of them as we instruct and raise our children in the Lord. In constantly teaching and instructing them to learn of the wisdom and counsel contained in this portion of scripture, we as parents can find a satisfying relief in the positive results seen in our children's behavior. *"My son, if your heart is wise, my own heart also will be glad; and my inmost being will rejoice when your lips speak what is right,"* (Prov. 23:15-16). Utilizing the wisdom contained in the book of Proverbs will supply us with an abundance of trustworthy guidance that will not only provide us with the healthy teaching and instruction our children need, but can teach us as parents how to effectively instill the teaching itself. *"Like apples of gold in settings of silver is a word spoken in right circumstances. Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold is a wise reprovewer to a listening ear,"* (Prov. 25:11-12). *"The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, to turn aside from the snares of death. Good understanding produces favor, but the way of the treacherous is hard,"* (Prov.

13:14-15). *“Do not hold back discipline from the child, although you strike him with the rod, he will not die. You shall strike him with the rod and rescue his soul from Sheol,”* (Prov. 23:13-14). *“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, but the mouth of fools spouts folly,”* (Prov. 15:1-2). I propose a kind of “Proverbs Pact” as parents committed to instilling a healthy dose of wise counsel and instruction to our children that will ensure they are fully equipped to be the kind of role models and examples for one another that will truly aid in shaping their character. *“Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another,”* (Prov. 27:17). As parents raising children with the ability to influence and encourage the peers around them, let us be committed to collectively shaping them with the same tools, and equipping them with the potential to sharpen one another in the same direction. *“The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: to know wisdom and instruction, to discern the sayings of understanding, to receive*

instruction in wise behavior, righteousness, justice and equity; to give prudence to the naïve, to the youth knowledge and discretion, a wise man will hear and increase in learning, and a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel, to understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction,” (Prov. 1:1-7). – Daniel Ruegg



When many brethren left and deserted Paul in his imprisonment, Luke, Mark and Timothy were counted on as loyal and faithful supporters. “Make every effort to come to me soon; for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmutia. Only Luke is with me. Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service.”
2 Timothy 4:9-11



DIRECTIONS: Each first Sunday of the month, we will have challenges that you should attempt to complete by the end of the month. If we all, as members, complete these challenges, our church will grow in spirit and in number.

1) Theophilus Challenge

1 Cor. 1:26 *"For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble."* Paul reminds the Corinthians not to make too much of certain teachers and brethren since most of their brethren weren't even of any notable position in life any way. Most of the people who were responding to the gospel were of low positions and not prominent at all. However, this does not mean that noteworthy and important people were not responding to the gospel. They were. Luke is writing to the "most excellent Theophilus," a title commonly given to high ranking Roman officials. Given the work Paul and Luke did in spreading the gospel in Rome, it is very likely the Theophilus that Luke is writing to is a Roman official of some prominence who is wanting to know about the truth of the gospel. Among those commonly overlooked when planting the seed of the gospel are those who hold such important and high ranking positions in life, assuming the gospel is so far beneath them that they would never be interested. Set a goal this month to purposely make an effort to bring up the truth of the gospel to those who we assume would never be interested...the boss at work, the physician, college professor, elected official, CEO, etc.

2) USING YOUR BIBLE IN THE WORLD

Share the following verses with someone who does not attend this congregation at least twice this month:

Luke 19:1-10

"He entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man called by the name of Zaccheus; he was a chief tax collector and he was rich. Zaccheus was trying to see who Jesus was, and was unable because of the crowd, for he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree in order to see Him, for He was about to pass through that way. When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, 'Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house.' And he hurried and came down and received Him gladly. When they saw it, they all began to grumble, saying, 'He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.' Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, 'Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much.' And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.'"