

*Let
Freedom
Ring*

GOD'S NEWS ..BEHIND THE NEWS
RAY BRUBAKER - COMMENTATOR
BOX 10475 ST. PETERSBURG, FLA. 33733

Let Freedom Ring

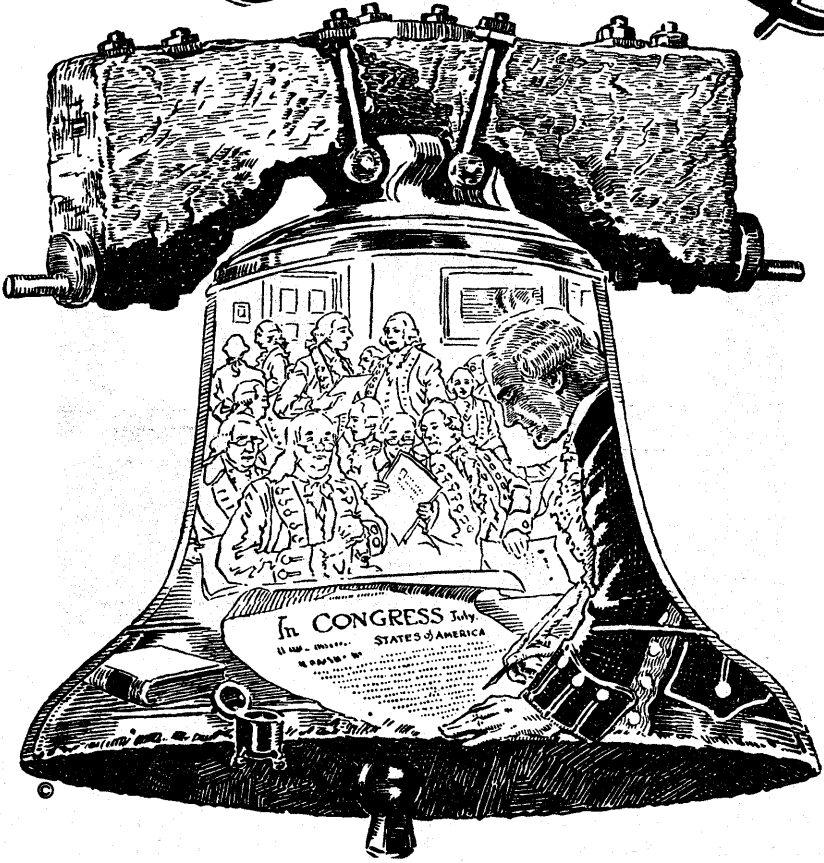


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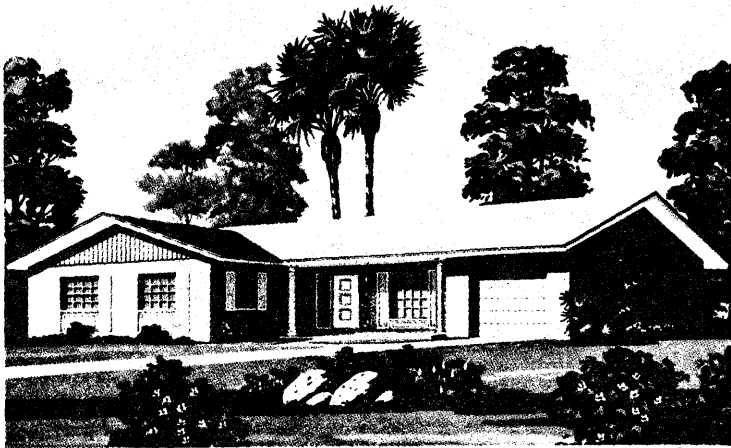
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HOW TO HAVE A HAPPY HOME

The home has become a prime target of attack in America



Norman V. Williams writes: "It is said that forty years ago, fully 50% of the Christian homes in the United States had family altars. According to present estimates, however, only 5 % of the Christian families in our country meet daily for daily prayer and meditation around the Word of God." Williams maintains: "Christian America has lost a vital part of its heritage. It must be recovered, and soon." - From VITAL VALUES OF THE FAMILY ALTAR, Moody Press.

Cornelius Stam testifies: "There is no place in all this world so wholesome and refreshing as a Christian home, a home where Christ is truly loved and honored."

He relates that in his own home where there were eight children, his father and mother were never too busy to take time for eternal values. He writes: "On the basis that 'man shall not live by bread alone but by every word of God' (Luke 4:4), we read some small portion of the Bible before every meal, and had family devotions before retiring at night."

Among his brothers and sisters who were married there were more than a hundred offspring. Yet, divorce and broken homes that have brought sorrow to so many were unknown to this family. Doesn't this tell us something? Aren't there secrets we can learn from those who have successful Christian homes?

Some time ago the WALL STREET JOURNAL declared in an editorial, "What America needs is a revival of piety, the kind mother and father used to have...That is what we need to rid the country of graft and greed."

Hear it, father and mother. We need to see prayer restored to the homes of America and the world. We need a revival of Bible reading to replace the gathering around our TV sets which would soon revolutionize homes throughout the world.

Henry Grady, great southern Christian statesman, made his first trip to Washington and marvelled at the structures of stone and marble that made up the massive buildings of our nation's capital. "So this is the home of the nation," he said, as he viewed the nation's Capitol building.

However, upon his return to Georgia, he had the occasion to spend the night in a humble farmer's home. Before retiring, the father called about him the family, and in flickering candlelight he read the Bible and they knelt in prayer together.

Here was indeed an old-fashioned family. And stirred within, Henry Grady said: "I was mistaken about the home of the nation being at Washington. That pile of marble, as magnificent as it is, is not the home of the nation. The home of the nation is found in the dugout, cottage, cabin, and every home where they teach the children to honor the Word of God and serve the Christ it reveals."

An article in CHRISTIAN VICTORY magazine states: "The home is America's last line of defense." The article further states: "With discipline gone, with religion gone, with pleasure and excitements pulling this way and that way, it is not surprising that the home of yesterday should be worthy of a place in the Smithsonian Institute." (museum)

Concerning "discipline," someone has called attention to failure in the home to maintain it.

In the NATIONAL OBSERVER, an article states: "There's a renewed hue and cry for tough, 'old time' discipline." Attention is called to parents who blame the teachers for being too lenient and for using new-fangled educational techniques that amount to little more than letting kids do what they please. On the other hand, "Teachers accuse parents of setting a bad example at home, of being too permissive, and of routinely taking the child's side in school disciplinary disputes."

A Gallup Poll, published in a teacher's fraternity journal (Phi Delta Kappan), shows that for the sixth consecutive year Americans rate "lack of discipline" as the foremost issue facing public schools.

As a result of this lack of discipline in the home, we are raising a nation of rebels, hoodlums and brats.

A teacher in Columbia, South Carolina, testified: "Ten years

ago we used to say that if we got rid of five or six students our troubles would be over. Now we'd have to get rid of 200." Think of it!

Some blame the drug culture and our drinking craze for the disciplinary problems confronting both the home and the school today. Tragic as it may seem, much of the rebellion in today's society stems from the fact that God is not honored in the home. We need a revival of the reading of the Bible and prayer in our homes; and we need a return to God-honoring practices such as we have known in the past in our schools.

A survey conducted by the NATIONAL OBSERVER found that school authorities often refuse to keep records of serious misbehavior. Yet, it is pointed out: "There's ample testimony as to the kinds of things happening...shootings, beatings, rapes, shakedowns, thefts, and purse-snatchings." Some school systems, it is noted, are harassed by students who repeatedly sound false fire alarms as in Portland, Maine, where there were forty such alarms in five weeks.

In ten-degree-below-zero weather, outside Minneapolis' Thomas Jefferson Senior High School, shivering students who again had been evacuated because of a false fire alarm talked about discipline. Their English "resource center," a library-like facility, "has become a social gathering place," noted one senior. "Kids sit on the floor and sing. Teachers crack down and the kids laugh at them. The teachers give up."

Lack of discipline is seen not only in the lack of respect but also in the staggering amount of vandalism and other mischievous acts. Students fling eggs, set wastebaskets on fire, yell, curse, come to school dazed from drugs or drunk with alcohol.

In an article in READER'S DIGEST, it is reported that one-third of our high school students get drunk at least once a month. Think of it. This is according to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Of course, as a high school senior in Portland, Oregon, relates: "Sure, things happen. But the boozers, loudmouths, jerks--the 'outcasts' make up only about 15%. They louse it up for everyone; nobody sees the good kids."

Well, if it wouldn't be for the "good kids"--those raised in homes where discipline is learned, and respect for law and order is taught, there would be a total collapse in our cultured society. As someone has aptly stated: "The home is America's last line of defense." He goes on to say, "We are poor readers and interpreters of history. Ancient Assyria was large, victorious, haughty, but it was suddenly destroyed. Why? Roman legions conquered the centers of Europe, Asia, and Africa, yet the city on the Tiber fell before the barbarians. Why? ...The family col-

lapsed, and when the family collapsed, the Roman Empire collapsed. We in America should heed these lessons, for we are no stronger than our homes."

Some might suggest that the solution is to remove Christian students from such environments where there is a lack of discipline and put them in private schools. After all, put a good apple amidst a bushel of rotten apples and it, too, will soon be bad.

On the other hand, our Lord taught His disciples, saying: "Ye are the salt of the earth." Again He stated, "Ye are the light of the world...Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Mt. 5:13-16

We need homes today where children are taught to stand up and be different and not be ashamed to testify for Jesus Christ. What an influence you can have in your school, young person, if you stand up for God and righteousness.

How I remember days in high school when the principal would embarrass me in class because of my faith. My parents believed that the Church had precedence over any and all school activities so that on prayer meeting nights I was at church. During revival meetings, I was in church. Many a time I had the principal ask me in a classroom full of fellow students: "Brubaker, why weren't you at the game last night?"

Years later, at a class reunion for our high school, a young man stood up and testified before all of those in attendance that he was a Christian and that the life of a fellow student had influenced him so much that he became a Christian. He then mentioned my name as that student.

So it pays to stand up for Jesus Christ. I remember this young fellow as the most flippant, boisterous, giddy-type person who rode the same school bus, whom I would never expect to become a Christian. Yet, he testified of becoming a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ and told me later of witnessing on the street, conducting street meetings, and all the rest. Indeed, it pays to let your light shine. We are the salt of the earth. If we lose our saltiness--ashamed to stand up in the crowd--we are good for nothing. That's what Jesus declared, saying: "If the salt have lost his savour...it is thenceforth good for nothing..."

CHRISTIAN VICTORY magazine warns: "Today our nation is facing a breakdown in respect for law and order, and it is because the home has failed. Multitudes of young men and women admit that they never knew what discipline was until they got into the various services of our country. No nation can ever make good citizens out of a people that has never learned discipline and respect for the rights of others. Today (says this magazine) the home as an institution is fighting for its life."

Today in the midst of loose morals, with our homes falling apart at the seams, torn by divorce, hurt by petty hatreds, weakened by loose morals, and in a society governed by secularism....we need godly, Christian parents who will bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

As a parent, if you have not yielded your all to Christ, why not do it now? The reason you have made a wreck of your home and a mess of your marriage, and perhaps have raised criminals instead of Christians is that you have not put God first in your life and in your home.

It's not too late to begin now. Fall upon your knees, confess your sin of failing to read the Bible and pray with your children, and restore the family altar as a monument of your faith in the living God.

How often you've heard it said, "The family that prays together, stays together."

Get those flames of love for Christ rekindled in your home and it will unite your family as nothing else can do.

I read of a family in the South that kept the same fire burning in their hearth for over seventy years. They never let the fire go out. Even when they moved they took their burning hearth with them. So, today, we need to keep the flames of love for Christ burning in our homes. We need to hold fast the cherished principles that have made America great in the hope that we can see a restoration of those traditions that have been God-exalting and Christ-honoring.

On the occasion of our Bicentennial observance, what revival could take place if all of us right now would dedicate ourselves afresh and anew to God, and to our love for Jesus Christ, knowing He will direct us in all that we do.

Think of this broadcast going out on a thousand stations-- what revival could break out if each of us repented of our sin and decided with the help of the Lord to begin living the way we should live.

This, too, is the way to be ready for our Lord's return.

If you've never done so, right now invite Christ into your heart and life. Then, each day, read from His Word and seek His help and guidance. God will not fail to bless you and your home, and revival will come to America and the world that will surely prepare us for the soon coming of our Lord.

Indeed, be ye therefore ready also for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh.

CRIME, U.S.A.

Bartow, Florida, was recently the scene of raids by masked marauders who have been caught after committing at least three murders, nine rapes, beatings, tortures and robbery.

A young couple had just closed their chicken pens in their rural country farm when two masked men entered their home through a bedroom window. Their three children were inside.

A third masked man approached the couple and ordered them into the house. The children were tied up with sheets; and as the husband was being whipped by the bandits with a fiber-glas fishing pole, the mother and her children prayed.

"My husband mentioned Jesus and he beat him harder for just a few seconds and then suddenly quit," testified the wife. "They had devilment on their minds," she related, and "just because we were praying and really knew the Lord, that's all that saved us."

Here again is a testimony to the effectiveness of the Name of Jesus uttered by those in danger.

The number of violent attacks upon the home is increasing; and, according to some of our latest figures, the most surprising increase in such crimes is in rural areas--a whopping 24% increase in 1974.

Rural churches aren't immune from crime either. In an isolated country Methodist Church in Ohio, a masked man armed with a knife and a gun interrupted the service. He robbed the forty parishioners present and, upon seizing a hostage, fled in a stolen truck.

Rural schools likewise are faced with an increase in crime. As Paul B. Salmon, head of the American Association of School Administrators, testifies: "The difference between inner-city and suburban schools is merely of degrees, not kind."

Take the school located in a good residential area of Corpus Christi, Texas, where a 17-year-old was gunned down, doomed to a lifetime in a wheel chair.

B. Franklin Brown, a member of the National Commission on the Reform of Secondary Education, happened to be in a school described as one of the "newest, finest, and most innovative public high schools in Oregon and the nation." He happened to step into a school restroom where he saw a group of older students shooting dice. One surly youth quickly rushed up and snarled, "Get out," while the others glared threateningly.

He was spared a beating but other students said he was lucky. Student gangs had taken over the lavatories for gambling and narcotics dens and, as a result, most students at this so-called "model" school had to go to nearby service stations to use the bathroom facilities.

As reported in the NATIONAL OBSERVER, "Many educators are ignoring or covering up a new wave of misconduct and crime in mainly white, middle-class suburban schools--the institutions generally considered safe..." (Mar. 22, 1975)

Crime in our nation's schools is at a crisis level, and Sen. Birch Bayo says he doesn't think the President knows how serious the problem really is.

Joel Darby, writing in the MESSENGER, says: "A generation ago you could still teach in our schools the good, solid Christian principles that made America great. God had pledged Himself to honor them that honor Him. America honored Him, and He kept His promise and made it the greatest nation on earth."

Well, today with God ruled out of our educational system, or at least with prayer and Bible reading outlawed, we have reaped the results that go with the elimination of moral and spiritual truths taught in the Word of God.

While it is true that the Bible has not been completely ruled out of the schools, it is likewise true that the effect of the ruling of our Highest Court has given the appearance that it has.

Thus the responsibility increases for the church and the home as well as for the Christian school to teach our children moral and spiritual values as found in the Scriptures.

In Columbus, Ohio, recently, Governor James Rhodes told 8,000 cheering, praying fundamentalist listeners that he supports Bible-oriented schools in the state. We have been reporting on attempts in Ohio to close down Christian schools because they do not meet state requirements.

Amidst shouts of "Amen," the governor addressed a rally stating his support of legislation establishing separate standards for private schools. "A church school is the last bastion of discipline in our school system," he declared. The governor appeared unexpectedly when a procession of some 150 buses gathered at the state capital. To the crowd that carried Bibles and waved flags, he declared: "This is what we need more of in Ohio - people coming forth publicly and pledging their right to worship God."

According to U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, the private schools of America now educate almost one-tenth of America's fifty million elementary and secondary schools.

However, the church, too, should seize the initiative to convey to our boys and girls their need of Christ, for only then can they know salvation themselves and go out to convert society.

As Dr. Carl F. H. Henry sees it, America's churches have a "golden opportunity" to reach our young people who seem interested in spiritual things now more than ever before.

The Rev. John Harvey, a religious education teacher in a parochial school, points out, however, "We can teach all day long, but everything comes undone if the parent's behavior contradicts it all."

This is true except where children are really born-again and they can lead their parents to Christ. We have seen it happen where boys and girls have been converted and it led to their parents' conversion.

It was our Lord Himself who said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein." (Mark 10:13-16)

Did you hear it?



A child is so quick to learn and so easy to instruct in the ways of God. On the other hand, impressions of what a child sees and hears also have a great influence on that young life.

The violence on television, no doubt, has something to do with the increase of violence we are seeing in our day. Dr. Michael B. Rothenburg calls the violence depicted on the TV screen a "national scandal."

Dr. Rothenburg, who is a physician in Seattle, Washington, notes that by the time the average American child graduates from high school, he has seen on television "some 18,000 murders and countless highly-detailed incidents of robbery, arson, bombing, forgery, smuggling, beating and torture."

Think of it.

"One violent act is depicted every minute in television cartoons for children," and "there is, on the average, six times more violence during one hour of children's television than there was in one hour of adult programming."

May God help us!

Is it any wonder that our Lord described the days of His coming as likened unto the days of Noah? It was on account of violence that God decided He had no choice but to destroy the world. And He sent a flood that swallowed up the world that was given over to all kinds of sin and violence.

A Justice Department crime survey shows that 37 million Americans were victims of crime in 1973 with an astounding number who were victims of criminal attacks not even reporting acts of violence.

What must a Holy God think as He looks down upon our violence which increases annually at an alarming rate? For instance, serious crime is now increasing upward to 18 to 20 per cent each year.

We read that when God looked upon the earth and saw the wickedness of man that it was great, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually, it repented the Lord that He had made man, and it grieved Him at His heart. (Gen. 6:5-6)

My friend, don't think for one moment that God does not know about your crime if you are guilty. God is grieved over the stealing, and the killing, and the cheating and lying that goes on today. In fact, there came a point and time in the history of the world that God sent His Son to be our Saviour so that man need not go on in his sin but can be set free - delivered - from the lusts and passions which dominate his life, and have new life - abundant life - through Jesus Christ.

A high official, speaking at a meeting of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, declared: "At the present time there is no effective deterrent to crime at all." He noted, "In the past there was a social stigma attached to crime, but we don't see much of that attitude now." (Glenn D. King, Exec. Dir.)

We would reply...receiving Christ as Saviour and Lord is the greatest effective deterrent to crime, because a person is thus changed by the transforming power of God so that He doesn't want to commit crime. As we read in II Cor. 5:17, "If a man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away and behold all things are become new."

So come to Christ today. Believe on Him without delay. As the Scripture says: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." That is, realizing you are a lost sinner, you can be saved by trusting Him as Saviour and Lord.

Then live for Him daily in a life of victory over sin made possible by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

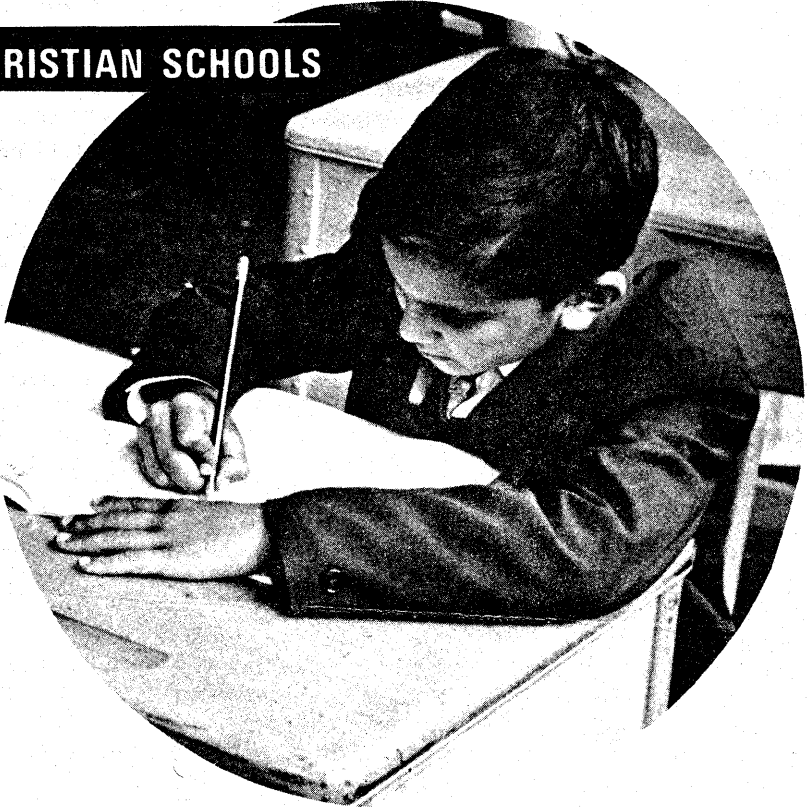
Realizing crime is increasing and wickedness abounding, we face a fate greater than that of Noah's day. As the earth was once destroyed by water, the same earth is destined to be destroyed by fire. And the only hope - the only salvation for mankind is to be found in knowing Christ and in being ready for His coming.

For He hath said: "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

How Good Is Our Education?

A national news magazine, U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, calls attention to the growing number of youngsters now enrolled in private schools where there is an appreciation for traditional values and where religion is stressed along with the

CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS



customary reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic.

Private schools now educate almost one-tenth of America's 50.5 million elementary and secondary students. (Aug. 18, 1975 issue) One of the private schools facing a lawsuit for its operation without state sanction is a church-related facility in Greenville, Ohio.

Indictments were served against eight parents who removed their children from the public schools and sent them to a Christian school. The attendance officer in his report charged these parents for not sending their children to a school accredited by the state.

The Rev. Levi Whisner, principal of the school, says he has not applied for school accreditation because he feels it would be "impossible" to meet the requirements handed down by the state.

A Dayton, Ohio newspaper comments that in Ohio there are roughly 600 standards set for schools ranging from the trivial - drinking fountains must have "a slanted stream" - to the more costly: "A school must maintain a remedial reading laboratory appropriately equipped." And it must retain the services "of a certified person responsible for a multi-media program."

Naturally, a small school of 60 students would be unable to fulfil all of the requirements for accreditation, and thus Christian schools could be forced out of business if the demands of the law were to be met.

James J. Kilpatrick, writing in the DAYTON DAILY NEWS, admits: "Some of the standards make sense. As applied to a small, religiously-oriented school, most of them are nonsense. Worse than nonsense." He adds: "The case of these parents provides dismaying evidence of how far we have retreated in the past 200 years from the principles and convictions that gave our country birth."

Kilpatrick maintains: "The state of Ohio's only valid, defensible interest in these children are (1) that they be sufficiently educated so that they will be no burden upon society, and (2) that they are protected from serious hazards to their safety. Beyond these points," he notes, "the state has no interest. It has only an obligation - to protect the right of a free people to live freely, damaging no one, exercising their religion as they choose, rearing their children according to their own godly precepts."

Well, the Courts will have to decide the issue.

The Rev. Levi Whisner, principal of the Tabernacle Christian School, is one of our regular listeners. And it has been my past privilege to speak in his church.

When this case involving his school was tried by the Common Pleas Court, the Judge declared the parents guilty of not having their children in a state-supported school. The Rev. Whisner wrote concerning the news headlines that followed which read:

“PARENTS FOUND GUILTY.”

He commented: ‘We are - guilty of giving our children a wonderful academic and Christian education - guilty of giving them a few verses of Scripture each day - guilty of keeping them in a wholesome Christian environment - guilty of using Christian curriculum - we are guilty of helping to build character for time and eternity.’”

The school was faced with a serious problem. The Rev. Whisner wrote, saying: “We have, I presume, about three choices: (1) Pay our fines and close the school. (2) Go to jail and turn our children over to the State. (3) Appeal to a higher court and by His grace continue to keep this church door open.”

Well, the latter choice has been made, and funds have been pouring in for these parents to take a stand for a cause in which they believe.

The Court of Appeals, before whom they took their case, also found the school guilty and now their appeal is before the State Supreme Court.

Rus Walton, a reporter for the PIQUA DAILY CALL, comments on this case:

“Caesar is at it again! He’s out busting heads and cracking down on liberty. He just will not put up with those who refuse to walk in lockstep with his programs.

“This time he’s taking out after a small band of fundamentalist Christians in Greenville, Ohio. Fifteen parents who had the temerity to support and send their kids to a Christian school in that small town. He went after them full-tilt; indicted them, hauled them into court, found them guilty, and fined them for their exercise of freedom. Hail, you lousy Caesar! Chalk up another score for the lions.

“And, what of the Christians? What were their crimes? Wanting their children to be taught sound moral values based on Biblical truths. Placing their children in an academic environment polluted with ‘standards of modesty, sobriety, humility, prayerfulness and separation from the world.’

“Horrors! What’s this world coming to?

“Check this; pupils at Tabernacle Christian School in Greenville were also being taught the basics -- the reading and writing and ‘rithmetic, and the science and social studies, history and other things mandated by Ohio’s system. The school building meets fire and safety and sanitation standards. The students excelled in the national student achievement tests.

“So, what’s the beef? The beef is this:

“The Caesars of Ohio’s school establishment contend the school does not teach their brand of philosophy; that it does not conform to the policies adopted by the state board of education; that it does not march in lockstep with the prescribed values and

standards and checkmarks set forth by Caesar.

"Whatever happened to the First Amendment? The free practice of religious teachings and worship? What good does it do to train up a child in the way he should go and then have the state twist him and turn him in their established rote and rule? When did we change, in this land? When did we cease to be free? When did we cross the line from the U.S. of America to the U. of S.S.R.?"

"The Christians of Greenville have appealed their convictions.

"Here's one citizen who prays they win their case."

I was called upon to participate in a survey conducted by the University of Florida in which the question was asked why we enrolled our children in a private school rather than to use the public schools. The questions were most slanted and gave the impression that primarily for racial reasons rather than religious reasons such schools are being operated.

However, in a letter I returned with the survey I listed at least three reasons why I support private schools particularly if they are Christian schools. My reasons were as follows:

In the first place, since prayer and Bible reading were removed from the school, it immediately destroys the faith and confidence normal parents place in an institution that is designed to train their children. I firmly believe that open acknowledgment of God is fundamental to all educational concepts. Without it we are not any better than those countries that espouse godless ideologies.

Daniel Webster once declared in the halls of Congress: "The Bible is our only safe guide. So long as we take it as our instructor for conduct and character, we will go on prospering in the future as in the past." Webster warned: "The moment we relegate it from our lives, a catastrophe will come to us such as we have not known before."

In the second place, our public schools are using textbooks and library material that are evolutionary in concept and which use vulgar and obscene language. This, I believe, is one of the main reasons why private schools are springing up throughout the land. Yet this does not appear anywhere on your questionnaire.

Finally, in Christian or "private" schools there can be control and regulation of codes relating to dress and other moral considerations which are not found in the public schools. Teachers and students alike may be found dressing as they please, smoking, and using language that would never be tolerated in a Christian school.

I concluded my letter by saying: "I consider these three reasons important enough to list separately from the questions

appearing on your survey. I am writing this letter to call them to your attention. In the final report I hope you will consider these concerns important enough to be included in the reasons why many students are being enrolled in private schools, and particularly in Christian schools."

Several things I would like to point out that are applicable: In Romans, chapter 1, we have a picture of those who scorn Almighty God, of whom it is said that when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God,...professing themselves to be wise, they became as fools.

Take organic evolution, for example, as a theory being taught which relegates man to some kind of animal, and as an animal he cannot have a soul. Is this not an example of how men are not willing to accept the Biblical account which clearly states that God made man in His own image and likeness?

In the second place, eliminating God from the classroom may be responsible for much of the crime and delinquency we are experiencing today.

Again Paul writes of those who did not like to retain God in their knowledge. Of these the Apostle states, "God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient." And a long list follows which speaks of the violence of our time which has greatly increased, especially since prayer and Bible reading have been removed from the school classroom.

Finally, in II Tim. 3:7 the Apostle Paul speaks of perilous days to come in the Endtime. Among the things mentioned is this one - "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."

Isn't that typical of much of today's education?

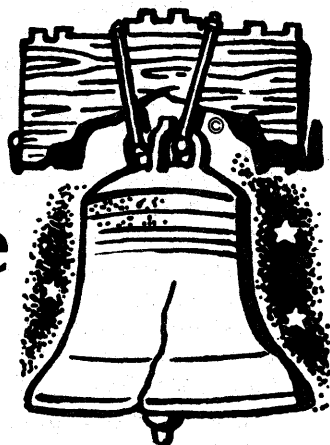
Do you see how important Christian education is - for it involves instruction in the Scriptures along with the other essentials of education.

Particularly in view of the coming of the Lord do we need to hide God's Word in our hearts...to be fortified spiritually against the evil that surrounds us.

And, if you are not a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, we would remind you that He died on the cross for your sins and rose again for your justification. So come to Him, believe on Him without delay. Confess your sins to Him and receive Him as your Saviour and Lord.

And in view of His Soon Coming...remember our admonition: "Be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

Proposed U.S. Child Care Bill



CHILD SERVICES ACT (#M-59)

Making the rounds these days, in mimeographed form, is a proposed federal child care law that would make it the government's responsibility to offer its services to mothers who seek the help of such a day-care center.

Senator Walter Mondale, a co-sponsor of the bill, states: "The Bureau of Child Care which is set forth in this measure, establishes a new federal office which does not exist and permits it to run day-care centers anywhere in the country, in any fashion it wishes, with no involvement of state and local governments."

Now there are some who see this as a forerunner of a Soviet-style communal system that would rob and ultimately destroy parental responsibility for the bringing up of our children. And naturally there is forceful objection to any proposed legislation that would create a multi-billion-dollar federal baby-sitting service.

In a Senate speech Mondale declared: "Every parent knows the importance of the first five years of life." He went on to say: "We know that these beginning years are the formative years -- they are the years in which permanent foundations are laid for a child's feelings of self-worth, his sense of self-respect, his motivation, his initiative, and his ability to learn and achieve."

While this is true, the question is raised - can the government replace the love and discipline required to enable it to effectively engage in child rearing?

The Bible says: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Prov. 22:6)

There are those who fear any legislation that gives the government the right to raise our children.

And concerning the proposed CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT, we hear Phyllis Schlafly taking a strong stand against it, saying it would erode "the parental role and sets the precedent of the child as a ward of the state, rather than as the responsibility of the parent."

We have seen what happened in Nazi Germany and what is now going on in the Soviet Union where parents do not have the right to give their children the proper religious training that they need. Visitors to the Soviet Union testify that the churches that are open are filled with old people. The reason lies mainly in the regulations that discourage any spiritual training of children.

In Germany during World War II it was nothing for children who were trained under Hitler to turn in their parents to the authorities. Here again is evidence of what can happen and what is destined to occur in the future. For our Lord predicted a time coming when "children shall rise up against their parents and cause them to be put to death." (Mt. 10:21)

Surely no one wants to hasten the day when this will happen. We want our children free to believe the Word of God taught them in the home without coercion of the state, or without distortion of the truth of God's Word in contrast to the godless and evolutionary philosophy they may hear outside the jurisdiction of the home.

If there ever was a time we need to be concerned for our children's welfare, it is today. Godless forces would seek to destroy the minds of our little ones, and parents need to be alert to the responsibility to safeguard their children from satanic influences as well as to seize the opportunity to instruct them in the ways of the Lord.

D. L. Moody, the great evangelist, pointed out: "Parents stand in the place of God to their children in a great many ways until the children arrive at years of discretion. If the children are true to their parents, it will be easier for them to be true to God. The tree grows the way the twig is bent," observed Moody.

Then the great evangelist addressed the youth in his audience, "Young man, young woman, how do you treat your parents? Tell me that and I will tell you how you are going to get on in life." Continued Moody: "You may be a professing Christian, but I wouldn't give a snap of my finger for a religion that doesn't begin at home and regulate your conduct toward your parents."

In the proposed legislation that could lead to placing children at the age of three into a supervised environment by the state, there are those who see the breakdown of the home and the family as a result of such action.

We would point out - the proposed CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT may not spell out such plans but many fear this could be the ultimate result.

We contacted our local Congressman, the Hon. Bill Young, who opposes the CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT, who says: "The institution of the family is one of the great strengths of the country and, in my opinion, (the bill) would dilute the cohesiveness of the family. In fact, it could be a vehicle for parents who don't want the responsibility for their children to just turn them over to the state (federal government)."

Incidentally, a similar bill was passed in 1971 and vetoed by the then President Nixon who also felt it would weaken the American family by committing "the vast moral authority of the national government to the side of communal approaches to child rearing over against family oriented approaches."

The fact that this original act passed before in the Congress creates great concern among those who fear it could pass again. So the big question remains - do we want to transfer the responsibility for the care of pre-school children to the federal government or keep the responsibility of the home and family?



Among the last words of Moses to the parents of Israel was that recorded in Deuteronomy 32:46. We read: "And he said unto them, Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law."

Did you hear it?

Isn't it time parents seize the responsibility that is theirs to train their children in the ways of God?

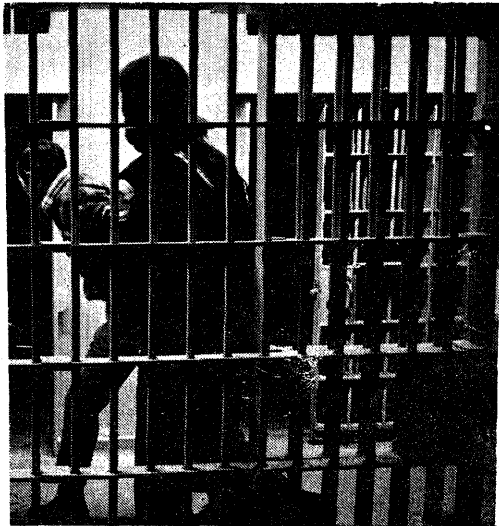
U.S. Army Lt. Col. J. A. Bryant writes with deep emotional feeling about the responsibility parents have in bringing up their children in the fear of the Lord.

He says: "I have seen the glorious results of Christian training...demonstrated in the camps. On the other hand, I have seen hundreds of men disintegrate in body, mind and soul on the very brink of Hell." He observes: "We stand helplessly by and watch with horror and amazement as men and officers sell themselves to Hell and drag their companions with them. I know and you know the cause of their moral failure. **AS PARENTS, MANY ARE GUILTY BEFORE GOD AND MAN.**" He notes: "My pity goes out to all such, and indeed any person needs pity as he faces these evil days without God... The faces of men without spiritual hope, as they tramp on and on and out to eternity, makes me speechless with amazement."

O hear me. What responsibility is ours as parents to read the Bible to our children and then to live an example before them of what a real true Believer happens to be. Remember, they don't hear the Bible read in the public school. They need to hear it at home each morning before they leave for school.

Isaiah writes: "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near; Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." (Isa. 55:6,7)

A young man condemned for murder was confined to a state penitentiary.



One day the warden told him his mother was outside waiting to see him.

The boy replied: "You tell that woman that I have got to die tomorrow morning at sunrise, and she is to blame for it; I don't want to see her."

He went on to lament: "From the time that I was old enough to do wrong, she never taught me to do right and never corrected or punished me for any of my misbehavior...now I must die for her neglect; and I wish you would tell her what I say, and that I don't want to see her at all."

Hear me, my friend. The Bible gives instruction to parents to bring up their children in the fear and nurture and admonition of the Lord. This is the responsibility of fathers and mothers today.

The great Spurgeon once wrote: "I cannot tell you how much I owe to the solemn words of my good mother. It was the custom on Sunday evenings when we were yet children for her to stay at home with us, and then we sat around the table and read verse after verse as she explained the Scriptures to us. After that there came a time of pleading and the question was asked how long it would be before we would think about our state, how long before we should seek the Lord. Then followed a mother's prayer we shall never forget even when our hair is gray."

May God help us today to realize our responsibility to our children. As Pastor R. S. Beal of First Baptist Church of Tucson, Arizona, comments: "When our children in the tender years of life profess to have found the Lord Jesus Christ, let us water the seed of truth in their hearts by much prayer and by a holy example."

We need to lead our children to Christ at an early age. I myself was brought to the Saviour by a truly godly mother who took the opportunity when I had done something wrong to say - "Ray, do you want to do bad things and go to the bad place?" (And she had told me about the bad place where the devil will go one day amidst the fires of hell.) And then she said, "Or do you want to invite Jesus into your heart and be able to live for Him and one day go to Heaven?"

She made it easy for me to accept the Lord. Who wants to burn forever?

Are you saved? Have you been made clean on the inside? The Bible reminds us: "The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin." (I John 1:7)

Why not trust Christ today and then live daily for Him, for remember He is coming soon to take to be with Himself all those who are ready to meet Him.

"Indeed, be ye therefore ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh."

SecurityLET FREEDOM RING Series

The ATLANTA JOURNAL recently carried an article with the headline...“Freedom of Religion Challenged”...in which a zoning ordinance was being violated by the celebrating of mass in a private home.

In 1973, the Reverend Joseph E. Gedra had sought a special permit to use his residence as a church but was turned down. Later, he was fined for celebrating mass in his home in Fairfax, Virginia. In November of 1975, he took his case to court, appealing it on the grounds of freedom of religion and assembly.

The priest’s lawyer pointed out that the zoning ordinance is unconstitutional because it limits the practice of religion and the right of free assembly. He also stated that the “absurdity of the whole thing” was emphasized by a 1969 Supreme Court ruling that an individual can show pornographic movies in his home. “It’s under the protection of the Constitution to show pornography in a private neighborhood, but when it comes to religious services there, it’s another thing,” he lamented.

Another challenge to the zoning rule comes from an association of Regular Baptists in Ketocin who charged that the ordinance infringes on their right to worship together in their homes. The U.S. District Judge granted a temporary restraining order from the zoning rule, but another judge refused to extend the stay.

Is this a violation of religious freedom? Could there come a day when we can’t read the Bible and pray in our own homes?

In Acts 17:9, we read of one named Jason in whose home the Apostle Paul had been teaching. It caused such an uproar that the house was assaulted by those who declared of Paul and his team, “These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also.”

Then we read, “When they had taken security of Jason, and of the others, they let them go.”

We hear a great deal about “security” being taught today. But did you know that the only mention of “security” is here in Acts 17:9? Apparently, a fine was paid, or security in the form of bail money was given by Jason and the disciples as a result of the meeting held in Jason’s house.

While the Scriptures do not mention the word “security” in connection with salvation, they do speak of “assurance” which the believer can enjoy in his salvation. This is a much better designation since it is also “biblical.”

In fact, Paul writing to the Thessalonians says: “For our Gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in MUCH ASSURANCE...” (I Thes. 1:5)

Isn't that how the Gospel should be proclaimed...not only in word, but in power, in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance.

We must admit these are days of insecurity. In the Library of Congress we're told that since 1945 there has been an addition of a five-foot shelf of books dealing with the possible physical destruction of the world. Some of the titles include: NO PLACE TO HIDE, MANUAL FOR SURVIVAL, MUST DESTRUCTION BE OUR DESTINY?, AFTER DOOM, WHAT? and LITTLE WORLD, GOODBY!

My friends, these are days of insecurity.

Reading also of two of the largest banks in the country being in trouble and rated as "problem banks," makes us wonder how secure our money is these days. The total indebtedness of all segments of U.S. Society has increased to 2.5 trillion dollars. These are days of insecurity.

These are also days of false security.

We speak of peace in the world. But there is continued fighting in Angola, with bloodshed in Lebanon, and turmoil in a hundred places that we could name if we had the time.

The Bible speaks of those who say, "Peace, peace" when there is no peace! These are days of insecurity for war could break out any moment in the world that could result in mass annihilation.

Is there no real security? In the midst of unrest and confusion all around us is there no real peace--no assurance?

Quite to the contrary, there is peace--there is hope--and there is much assurance.

Paul in writing to Timothy says: "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

Do you have that kind of assurance?

Again he writes: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" He replies: "For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Rom. 8:35 & 39.

When it comes to the believer's assurance, some would point out that God had a plan and a purpose for the believer before the worlds were even framed.

At one stage of our Lord's return, we read how he will gather all nations and shall separate them as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. To the sheep He is heard saying, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Mt. 25:33-34

Did you hear it?

Before the earth was formed, our Lord knew who would be among the sheep and who would be represented by the goats who stubbornly refuse to subject themselves to His will and authority.

This reminds us of the only reference in the Bible to "eternal salvation," found in Hebrews 5:9. As we said before, there is no reference to the words "eternal security" anywhere in the Bible. But here we read of our Lord, "And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."

Eternal salvation, wrought by Christ, did you notice, is given to "all that obey Him."

We emphasize faith for salvation, and believe we must! But here we are told that Christ became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him. How important, then, is "obedience?"

We emphasize the importance of making a decision for Christ. But as the well-known preacher, Dr. Allen Redpath, stated: "Salvation is not so much decision as it is direction."

The story is told of two frogs sitting on a log in a quiet pond of lily pads. One of the frogs made a decision to jump into the pond. The question is asked, "How many frogs are still on the log?"

You see, making a decision is important but there must be action. There must be the follow-up of a life of obedience to the will of God revealed in His Word.

Does this mean we cannot know we are saved? Can we not have assurance?

Hear me.

In Col. 2:2, we read of having "full assurance" of understanding as God reveals Himself to us in His Word.

In Heb. 6:11, we're told that we can have "full assurance" of hope unto the end. Hallelujah!

And in Heb 10:22, we're invited to draw nigh to God with a true heart in "full assurance" of faith. Indeed, He is the author and finisher of our faith Who having begun a good work in us continues to perform it unto the day of Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, some might ask - Isn't it safe to conclude that we are eternally secure if our names are recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life from before the foundation of the world?

Reference is made to Eph. 1:4 where it tells us we have been "chosen in him before the foundation of the world." But we need to read on. Chosen for what purpose? We read, we have been chosen "that we should be holy and without blame before him in love."

Are you living a holy life? Are you without blame before Him in love? If God has chosen you, He wants you to live for Him.

In the book of the Revelation it is recorded twice of those whose names are not recorded in the Book of Life of the Lamb. This is a reference to those who during the tribulation accept the mark or identification of the Antichrist which means that they forever forfeit eternal life.

Whereas eternal life is a gift to all who receive Christ as their Saviour and Lord, those who choose to follow Antichrist are lost. God, in His foreknowledge, knows who will receive His Son as Saviour and who will reject Him.

While we speak and sometimes sing of the Lord writing our name in the Book of Life, the Scriptures speak of this as something already accomplished. This does not mean for a moment that some against their will might be saved. But it does mean that God knew before the worlds began who would respond to His great salvation and who would reject it.

We would point out, however, that there are those who are told to watch for the coming of our Lord. In Revelation 3, we read: "Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee."

Then our Lord makes reference to those who have not defiled their garments who shall walk with Him in white, for they are worthy. And He promises, "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not BLOT OUT HIS NAME OUT OF THE BOOK OF LIFE...."

Did you hear it? Is it possible for some whose names were once recorded in the Book of Life to be blotted out?

Of this we can be certain, throughout the Word of God salvation is taught as conditional--conditioned upon faith...conditioned upon obedience...and conditioned upon the faithfulness of God.

We can be absolutely sure that if we have made a once-for-all commitment to Jesus Christ and are found walking in obedience at His coming, we can be ready for our Lord's return.

On the other hand, the Scriptures teach that the wrath of God cometh upon the children of disobedience and we are warned, "Be ye not partakers with them." (Eph. 5:6-7)

May we come to Christ, find pardon and forgiveness, and then live in full assurance of faith that He is able to keep us ready for His coming.

Indeed, be ye therefore ready also for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.