**To Show: “..Thy Strength Unto This Generation.. Thy Righteousness Also..” (Psalm 71:18-19)**

(comments by *Kirk Cameron from Living Water Ministries*)

**Scripture Reading**: Ps 71:18-19: “Now also **when I am old and greyheaded**, **O God**, forsake me not;

**Until I have shewed Thy strength unto this generation**, **And Thy power to everyone that is to come**.

**Thy righteousness also O God,** is very high,

Who hast done great things **O God,** who is like unto Thee!

1. **TRAIN up a Child: By the Law** is the knowledge of sin:

Rom 3:20 “Therefore by the deeds of the Law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight:

**for by the Law is the Knowledge of Sin.”**

1Jn 3:4 “Whosoever commits sin transgresseth also the Law; for sin is the transgression of the Law.”

Rom 7:7 “..Nay, **I had not known sin, but by the Law**, for I had not known lust, except the Law had said, ‘Thou shalt not covet’.”

**Genuine salvation must be a work of God:**

Example: **Planting a Tree**: Prepare the Soil, Water the Seed, **But it will only grow as God sees fit.**

**Make ready a child’s heart**: Plant the pure Seed of the Word of God, Keep away from harmful influences, Faithfully Water it with Believing Prayer. **Still the result is in God’s hand**.

 Growing up in this world of ungodly values & immoral lifestyles, our kids are already facing difficult challenges, and its our responsibility as parents to give them a solid foundation on which they can build their lives and convictions. Many godly parents have had sons & daughters who did not walk with the Lord. I do know that the principle of preparing the soil for the seed of the gospel can & should start when a child is young.

Prov 22:6 “**Train up a child in the way he should go**: And when he is old, **he will not depart from it**.”

 To personally turn from sin, **one must know what sin is.** The promise of this verse is that if a child learns to turn from sin & trust in Jesus when he is young, then as he grows older, he will not depart from his Savior because God has already set him apart for his own glory. **Only the Holy Spirit can transform children from “me-centered”** to **God-loving,** **God-fearing** **followers of Christ.**

1Tim 2:4 “Who will have all men to be saved, **and to** **come unto the knowledge of the truth**.”

 Teach your children the Ten Commandments (as a tutor). This will awaken their conscience and prepare the soil of their hearts for the life-giving seed of the gospel to bring us & our children to Jesus Christ. A personal understanding of the moral Law of God is foundational for anyone to become a Christian. Gal 3: 24 “Wherefore the Law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be **justified by faith**”

**Each one must Examine Himself by the Ten Commandments: Explain what each one means:**

Do you think you are a good person? Do you think you have kept the Ten Commandments of God’s Law?

Have you ever told a lie? Or many? God knows. What does that make you? a liar.

Rev 21:8 “All liars have their part in the lake that burns with fire.”

Have you ever taken anything that you know did not belong to you? Even small?

Have you always honored & obeyed your father & mother?

**God considers lust to be the same as adultery**: Matt 5:27-28 “But I say unto you, that whosoever looks on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.” 1Jn 3:15 “**Whoever hates his brother is a murderer** & .. no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.” Psalm 51:6 “Behold, Thou desires truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part Thou shall make me to know wisdom.” **God requires truth in our inward parts.**

Isa 29:13 “Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near Me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor Me, but have removed their heart far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the precept of men.”

**Have you always loved God more than the things He has given** you (like possessions, family and friends) or followed your own will over God’s will? Then you break the 1st 2 commandments. Have you used God’s name in vain or had greed for what others have? Matt 12:36 “But I say unto you, That **every idle word** **that men shall speak, they shall give account** thereof in the **Day of Judgment.”**

If God judges you by the Ten Commandments on Judgment Day will you **be innocent or guilty?**

We too are guilty of breaking God’s Law. Do you think you will **go to heaven or hell**? **Now they should understand exactly how they’ve sinned against God and angered Him in the process** and **see their need for God’s forgiveness.**

Rom 1:18 “For the **wrath of God is revealed from heaven** **against all ungodliness & unrighteousness** of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.”

Rom 2:5 “But after your hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto yourself **wrath** against the **day of wrath** and revelation of the **righteous judgment of God**;” Because God is just He cannot overlook sin. A righteous judge must punish sin.

Heb 9:27 “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this **the judgment.”**

1. **TURN from sin:**

Isa 59:2 “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear.” **Once a person understands they are guilty of sin, they are able with the help of the Holy Spirit to turn to Jesus to wash that sin away.**

Acts 17:30-31 “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now **commands all men everywhere** to **repent**: He has appointed **a day** in which He will **judge the world in righteousness** by that man whom He has ordained; whereof He has given assurance unto all men in that He has raised Him from the dead.”

Lk 24:46-47 “[Jesus] said unto them, Thus it is written, and it behoved Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day: [Why?] And that **repentance & remission of sins** should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”

Acts 20:21 “Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, **repentance toward God**..

 Since there is no salvation without God-given repentance, if our children & others don’t eventually see the need for God-given forgiveness, they can’t repent & without repentance they can’t be saved.

 **Each person has a conscience and knows basic right from wrong. Repentance is a determination to turn away from what is wrong. We must convince them of the disease of sin before they will appreciate the cure of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

1. **TRUST in Jesus to save him:**

**Good News! Jesus took your punishment for you on the cross.** Now it make sense.

Rom 5:8 “But God commends His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

“Now we and our children can begin to appreciate the great, matchless & incomprehensible love of God.

We broke God’s Law & Jesus paid the penalty.” We know God loves us because of what He did for us on the cross. He laid down His own life for us so that we could be forgiven and born again ‘a spiritual child of a spiritual God’ by: Acts 20:21 “..**faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ**.”

 John 5:24 “Verily, verily, I say unto you. He that hears My Word and believes on Him that sent Me, has **everlasting life** & shall not come in condemnation (judgment), but is passed from death unto life.”

Eph 2:1 “And you has **He quickened (made ALIVE**), who **were DEAD in trespasses and sins**;”

2Cor 5:17 “Therefore **if any man be Christ**, **he is a NEW creature**: old things are passed away; behold, **all things are become NEW**.”

 Remind the child that if they will surrender their hearts to Jesus, God will also give them a “NEW heart” and help them to “love and obey” like never before.

2Cor 5:21 “**For He (God) has made Him (Jesus) to be sin for us**, who knew no sin; **that we might be** made the **righteousness of God** in Him (Jesus).”

1. **TELL others the Gospel**:

1Cor 15:3-5 “**For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received**, how that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures; and that **He was buried**, and that **He rose again the third day** according to the Scriptures: and He was seen..”

Phil 2:15-16 “That you may be blameless and harmless(innocent), the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom you shine as lights in the world**; Holding forth the word of LIFE**; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain.”

By His great power ‘**God raised Jesus from the dead’** & raises spiritually DEAD, sinful mankind to new **LIFE’ in Jesus**, ‘**in righteousness of God in Him’** with a promise of ‘**Everlasting LIFE’** (Eph 1:18-20).

Isa 58:1 “Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet & show My people their transgression.. The next time someone tells you that religion is a personal thing & you should keep it to yourself: think ‘religion’ is empty hypocrisy & should be kept to itself, but **God has opened the door of** **Everlasting Life** **through the Gospel & that message should be shouted from the housetops**! Lift up your voice like a trumpet and use God’s Law as Jesus did, to show God’s people their transgressions.” *Ray Comfort*

Present testimonies of God’s faithfulness by older saints. Challenge for the true Church to WAKE UP:

Choir Hymn Tune of Onward Christian Soldiers: **Backward Christian Soldiers** (Other older hymns)

**1**. Backward Christian soldiers, fleeing from the fight **Refrain:**

With the cross of Jesus nearly out of sight Backward Christian soldiers, fleeing from the fight

Christ, our faithful master, stands against the foe With the cross of Jesus nearly out of sight.

But forward into battle, we are loath to go.

2. Like a mighty tortoise moves the Church of God 4. Sit here then ye people, join the useless throng,

Brothers, we are treading where we’ve always trod. Blend with ours your voices in a feeble song.

We are much divided, many bodies we, Blessings, ease & comfort, ask from Christ the King,

Having many doctrines, not much charity. With our modern thinking, we don’t do a thing.

 (Anonymous)

3. Crowns and thorns may perish, kingdoms rise & wane,

But the Church of Jesus hidden does remain.

Gates of hell, should never ‘gainst the Church prevail

We have Christ’s own promise, but think that it will fail.

Closing Invitation Prayer of Commitment to God:

**Dear God: Today I turn away from all my sins. I put my trust in Jesus Christ alone as Lord and Savior. Please forgive me. Change my heart. Please grant me your gift of Everlasting Life and give me boldness to speak of You and Your grace. Please help me to live a testimony of love and kindness through You. I thank you. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.**