

## Sunday Morning Message

March 31, 2019

### *Passing the Torch of Faith to the Next Generation*

Topic – Faith; Parents; baby dedication

Text – 2 Timothy 1:1 – 7; 3:14 - 17

Congregational Reading – 2 Timothy 1:3 - 7

### Introduction

Read texts from 2 Timothy

Timothy was part of a third generation of faith. Lois taught Eunice, and then Eunice gave the faith to young Timothy. Then Timothy took what was given to him and made the most of it. He didn't forsake the faith that was handed down to him.

Read 3 John 1:1 - 4

*"The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth. Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."* (3 John 1:1-4)

John was not writing to his actual son, but rather to a "son in the faith," someone John had ministered to and with; someone John was very close to. The principle in v. 4, however, will certainly apply to our physical children and grandchildren.

It brings me great joy to see my children following in the faith; living for the Lord. I am praying for my grandchildren that they would carry on the tradition, and continue walking with the Lord.

A parent's first priority, after their relationship to the Lord, is their children.

There are many biblical examples of parents who lovingly raised their children, and taught them to grow up to be godly men and women, who "walked in the truth."

Unfortunately, there are also examples of people who forsook the next generation:

*"Then said Isaiah to Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD of hosts: Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD. And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon. Then said Hezekiah to Isaiah, Good is the word of the LORD which thou hast spoken. He said moreover, For there shall be peace and truth in my days."* (Isaiah 39:5-8)

Unfortunately, Hezekiah cared more about himself than he did about his children and grandchildren.

### **Baby dedication verses:**

Elkanah and Hannah dedicate Samuel.

1. Hannah prayed for a child. (1 Samuel 1:11)
2. God answered her prayer. (1 Samuel 1:19 – 20)
3. Hannah kept her promise and gave Samuel back to the Lord. (1 Samuel 1:24 – 28; 2:11)
4. God blessed Hannah and Elkanah with more children. (2 Samuel 2:18 – 21)

Joseph and Mary dedicate Jesus.

*"And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;"* (Luke 2:22)

1. Joseph and Mary dedicated Jesus to the Lord in Jerusalem.
2. Joseph and Mary raised Jesus in Nazareth, and remained there until he was thirty, and then he began his public ministry.

**By dedicated your child, you are:**

- 1. Recognizing the your child belongs to the Lord.**
- 2. Dedicating yourselves and your home to the Lord.**

*"And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."* (Revelation 21:27)

You cannot expect your children to do what you don't do. You have to be the godly example. If you want your children to be honest and hard-working, you will have to model those things in front of them. You will have to be what you want them to be. You will never be perfect, and when you mess up, you need to let your kids see you admit your mistakes, and repent of them.

Illustration

A young pastor in Ohio also worked at a feed processing plant in order to make ends meet. Each night when he went home, his boys would look at him and say, "Boy, Dad, you sure are dusty!"

He would grumble to himself, but then smile and say, "Yes, I sure am dusty." One Saturday morning, as he was washing his car, he looked over and saw his oldest son, 4 years old at that time, begin to pick up small stones from the driveway and rub them onto his pants.

The father asked, "What are you doing?"

"I want to be dusty like you dad," came the reply.

As the pastor was telling the story he said, "At that time, I realized that if a son would look up to his father for being dusty, he would look up to dad for anything. What a responsibility."

- 3. Committing to Raise your children for the Lord.**

*"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4)*

*"The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him. Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice. My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways." (Proverbs 23:24-26)*

Raising your children for the Lord will involve much time, love, and instruction; as well as restraint and correction – loving discipline.

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

Eli failed to restrain his sons, Hophni and Phineas, and God judged his house for it. God said:

*"For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not." (1 Samuel 3:13)*

*"Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul." (Proverbs 29:17)*

**a. Teach them to love God.**

Turn to Deuteronomy 6

*"And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." (Deuteronomy 6:5)*

**b. Teach them to love the Bible.**

*"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates." (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)*

*"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." (Joshua 1:8)*

*"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." (Psalm 1:1-3)*

**c. Teach them to love their family.**

Develop a great relationship with your children.

*"Rules without relationship breeds rebellion."*

The older I get, the more I realize how important family is. Brother Mike (and Brother Greg) once said to me, "You're the richest man I know."

**d. Teach them to love the church.**

*"For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." (Psalm 84:10)*

*"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:22-25)*

**Conclusion**

You will not regret the hard work and investment that you put into your family. Investing time in your family is one of the greatest investments you can make:

**Illustration**

Charles Francis Adams, son of President John Quincy Adams and grandson of President John Adams, kept a diary. One day he entered: "Went fishing with my son today—a day wasted."

His son, Brook Adams, also kept a diary, which is still in existence. On that same day, Brook Adams made this entry: "Went fishing with my father—the most wonderful day of my life!" The father thought he was wasting time while fishing with his son, but his son saw it as an investment of time.

The only way to tell the difference between wasting and investing is to know one's ultimate purpose in life and to judge accordingly. (Source – Ministry 127)

**Baby Dedication**

**Invitation**

**Baptism Verses**

We are commanded to baptize:

*"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:19-20)*

Read Acts 8:26 – 40

The mode of baptism in the Bible is immersion.

The candidate for baptism is a believer.

Baptism pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ