

The PROJECTOR

Dr. Dayton Hobbs, FOUNDED EDITOR

"Projecting the Light of the Word of God on the Issues of the Day"

Sissy Men: Raising Boys into Men

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Concerned about the moral collapse around them, many Christian parents have made a deliberate choice in recent decades to be more "family oriented" - to guard their homes, shepherd their children closely, and push back against the tide of a corrupting culture. Their motives are good, and the concern is legitimate. But necessity dictates that we take a long, hard look at the young men we are producing. In far too many Christian homes, the problem is not beer-drinking, party going, and wild living. The problem is a lack of masculine men.

Over-Mothered Under-Fathered

Back in grade school there was a boy in our class who was a sissy. He acted like a girl. His

mannerisms were girl-like. No boy in the class could relate to him because of his feminine characteristics. The guys could not stand him. However, the girls all loved him because he was just like them.

There are inherent dangers when boys are raised primarily by female caregivers, or when fathers are present in the home but absent from the work of raising sons. Well-intentioned mothers tend to be overly cautious, risk averse, and overly protective. Since women think like women, they will naturally influence their sons to think like women, unless that influence is counter-balanced by a strong father or another godly male figure. Yes, sister, we all want our sons to be gentlemen – but we emphatically want them to be "MEN!"

Meekness, while [a very important](#) virtue, is only one of the desired character qualities for young men. "They that know their God shall do exploits." Anyone who accomplishes ex-

ploits must have initiative, aggressiveness, creativity, boldness, and courage. One of the marks of the judgment of God is when men become like women (Isaiah 19:16). You have to wonder how non-involved, passive fathers and over-bearing mothers have contributed to the wholesale collapse of masculinity we see in our culture today.

Over-Taught Under-Worked

Education is important, but it is [not all-important](#). **Young men must be taught to work, and to work hard.** God said that man should earn their living by the "sweat of the brow." I am simplistic enough to believe that work, therefore, is the prerequisite for "sweat."

Young men need to be challenged. They need to learn endurance, perseverance, and ingenuity in accomplishing their goals. There is something right and something rewarding about

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Editor's Desk



The Joy of the Lord: A Gentle reminder of what really matters in the Christian life.

by Pastor Tod Brainard

Nehemiah 8:10, *"Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength."*

The returning Jews who came with Nehemiah were confronted for the first time in multiple generations with the Word of God translated into their Babylonian tongue. They had long lost their native tongue and so Ezra and the scribes translated the Hebrew into the Babylonian language. What the people heard shook them to the core. As the Word was given to them distinctly and translated with the proper sense, the people heard things about their God and His law that they had never heard (Nehemiah 8:8-9). Their response to hearing the Word of God caused mourning and weeping on their part; contemplating how far that had gone away from Jehovah. Nehemiah encouraged them to stop weeping and prepare themselves to rejoice because the day belonged to the Lord. In verse 12 we read, *"And all the people went their way to eat and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them."*

The returning remnant was faced with many challenges with building the wall. One great spiritual challenge was related to their **core attitude of joy**. They could wallow in self-pity, mourn over how far they had gone away from God's Law, weep

over the conditions of the ruined city left so long unattended, or rejoice that they had been allowed to return not only to the land but to God's Law, and God Himself.

There is something here to be learned by all believers. **In our journey of faith, we often find that joy is not just something we feel; it is a gift from God that nourishes our souls as we grasp the glory and meaning of His Word.** Unnourished souls show signs of self-pity, anger, depression, discouragement, marital unrest, and in some cases loss of good health. When we actively seek a merry heart, not dependent on our circumstances, we open ourselves to experiencing the abundant joy the Lord wants for us. This joy strengthens us and gives us the courage to face challenges.

There are some believers who are active in Christian service, but do not enjoy the Lord Jesus Christ or His saints. Their hearts are filled with discouragement, longing for some joy or significance in life. What they do not realize is that they are advertising to those around them that the joy of the Lord, given by God's grace, **is not their strength**. Rather, they are vying for happiness and joy outside of Christ, though all the while confessing Christ. This irony is not without concern.

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learning to work with your hands. In the divine order, achievement creates a sense of purpose and satisfaction.

Many families today live in circumstances where sons rarely see their fathers labor, much less labor alongside them. Fathers whose work happens behind a screen or in an office far from home face a real dilemma in this regard. Although difficult, creative parents will find ways to train their sons to work. **Physical labor is just as important as academics in the training of young men.**

Over-Indulged Under-Disciplined

Child-centered parenting is a failure. I seriously doubt running from one activity to another is the pathway of maturity. Most people, including children, follow the path of least resistance. Children need guidance and direction, and it is our job to lead them. **Parents must take an active role in the lives of their children, not simply manage their schedules.**

Someone said that the main thing missing in child-training is the trainer. Somebody will be in charge. **It is our responsibility as parents to establish our authority and carry out our mission rather than satisfy childish indulgences.**

I do not believe that all competition is of the devil. It is almost as if some Christians are training their children to be non-achievers. This "attempt nothing," "do nothing," "say nothing," and above all "don't excel" approach is contrary to the dominion mandate that God gave to Adam. Surely there is a balance between achievement and the way to relate to others. Practice, preparation, and discipline in perfecting skills should be viewed as allies, rather than adversaries.

Parenting is hard. Worldly churches and an immoral culture make it even harder. Caution must be taken regarding pendulum swings and imbalances; let's we produce successive generations of "girly men."

Practical Suggestions:

- Fathers, work with your sons as much as possible.
- Set them up for success by giving them tasks and allowing them to figure it out.
- Start a home business and allow your sons to take it over.
- Let your sons apprentice with godly tradesmen.
- Use projects like building a shed, house, or other structure as a training tool.

Wives, allow your husbands to lead, and by all means, don't murmur.

A Word to Every Home:

Whatever your circumstances – large family or small, homeschooled or not, city or country – the mandate is the same. God is looking for fathers who will father, mothers who will support that fathering, and homes that will produce men of courage, not sissies. **The next generation of preachers, deacons, husbands, and fathers is being formed today, at your kitchen table and in your backyard.** Do not waste the opportunity. Ω

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Proverb Practicals

by Ludwig Opager

Proverbs 10:5, **He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame.**

Whenever I read this proverb, I recall a saying by Dr. Bob Jones Sr. which reads **"Don't sacrifice the permanent on the altar of the immediate"** Both this proverb and this saying are cautioning us to be careful of the use of our time. God lives in eternity, but we live in time.

While we live in time, we are cautioned to have priorities as to the use of that time. In determining those priorities, we are to consider what is permanent and what is immediate. As Christians we are to give priority to the permanent over the immediate. We are to have allegiance to that which lasts, over that which is fleeting.

I once attended a seminar which concerned time management. The instructor divided life into four quadrants. The first quadrant involved crises, pressing problems, deadline driven projects. The second quadrant involved prevention activities, relationship building, recognizing new opportunities, planning, recreation. The third quadrant involved interruptions, telephone calls, some mail, some reports, some meetings, and proximate pressing matters. The fourth quadrant involved trivia, busy work, some mail, some calls, and time wasters.

The instructor called quadrants 1 and 2 important quadrants, and 3 and 4 not important quadrants. And of quadrants 1 and 2 quadrant 2 was the most important. The quadrant most neglected according to the instructor was the quadrant involving those things of relative permanence. The activities of this quadrant were generally being pushed aside in favor of those things that were more immediate. Our proverb and Dr. Bob Jones' saying urge us not to let this happen.

Satan, as is his usual course, majors on the immediate, quadrants 3 and 4, but God always majors on the permanent. Think carefully about your life. How much of it is involved on the "immediate" and how much of it is involved on the "permanent?" Think carefully about decision making and you will conclude that there is always competition between the immediate and the permanent.

A child has a dollar. That dollar burns a hole in his or her pocket demanding to be spent. Dad reminds the child of the desire to save money for a new bicycle. So, competition begins between an ice cream cone or savings toward a new bike. This is the norm in decision making for there is always an

immediate and there is always a permanent.

Parents are faced with this competition every day when it comes to child rearing. **There seems to be in our day a favoring of the immediate over the permanent.** The child naturally demands and the parent can either yield to the immediate demands of the child or think of the child's welfare in the future. Give in to the child, satisfy the immediate but in so doing the permanent is sacrificed.

The immediate is prompted by sight, the permanent is prompted by faith. The immediate is prompted by what the child sees, the permanent is prompted by what the parent sees.

God tells us to wait. Didn't Satan tell a hungry Jesus to change the stone into bread? I remember one of Satan's advertisements on television in this vein that said: **You only go around once in life so you've got to grab for all the gusto you can.** Satan's message is the preeminence of the immediate. Satisfy your longings now. You don't have to wait.

Abraham waited and because he waited on God he is known as the father of faith. His nephew Lot could not wait for

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he looked for a well-watered plain. He looked with eyes of flesh, but Abraham looked for a city whose builder and maker is God. Abraham was a wise son because his priority was the permanent while Lot was a foolish son because all he cared for was immediate satisfaction.

So, Proverbs 10:5 posits this question. **He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame.**

What is the priority here? To harvest or to sleep. Now both harvesting and sleeping are

good things. We all have to eat to continue living and harvesting is necessary to eating. Sleep is also necessary to continue living. Doesn't sleep consume one third of our life? The issue of course is the timing.

There is a time for sleep and there is a time for harvesting. This proverb states that when it is harvesting time it is not the time for sleep. Harvest can be considered the permanent and sleep can be considered the immediate. Don't sacrifice the harvest in order to sleep.

Harvest time is the time for hard work. Harvest is not the time for the pursuit of pleasure

or other pastimes. You do not have every day in the year to choose when to do the harvest for there is only a short period when the harvest will be successful.

Winter's march is heard in the distance, and the reasonable man prepares to bring in his harvest. Those who prepare for harvest are wise; those who neglect preparation, and slumber and sleep their way through the harvest, cause shame. Ω

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Notice these verses:

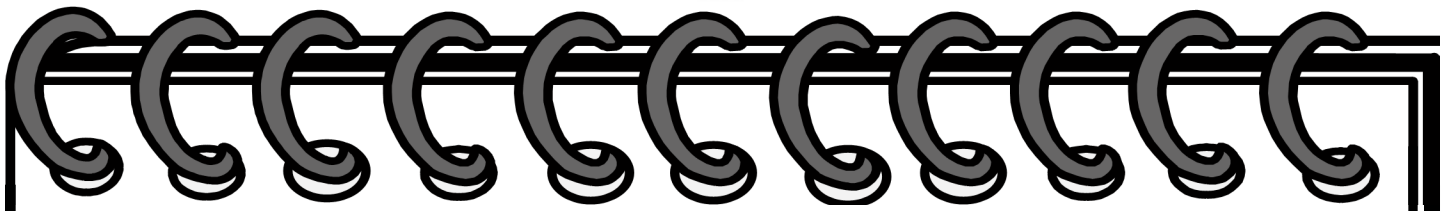
- Proverbs 12:25, "*Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop, but a good word maketh it glad.*"
- Proverbs 15:13, "*A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance; but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.*"
- Proverbs 15:15, "*All the days of the afflicted are evil; but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast.*"
- Proverbs 17:22, "*A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.*"
- Proverbs 15:30, "*The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart: and a good report maketh the bones fat.*"

The "joy of the Lord" represents a deep, spiritual strength not dependent on circumstances, often highlighted by the promise that His presence brings fulness of joy (Prov. 16:11).

The "joy of the Lord" and contentment are intrinsically linked, rooted not in external circumstances but in a deeply nourished relationship with Christ. This joy is a supernatural, stable gladness while contentment is the practice of trusting God regardless of one's situation. Together, they form a foundation of strength that remains constant even during hardship. "That your joy may be full" is a promise from Jesus

Christ Himself (John 15:11, 16:24) referring to a complete, abiding, and divine joy that transcends external circumstances. It is a "full measure" of happiness found through connection to Christ, obedience, and prayer, rather than temporary worldly pleasures. Jesus spoke so that His joy might remain in believers and their joy might be full. **This joy depends entirely on Him, not on location of service, personal successes, or failures.**

Let us keep reminding one another that the joy of the Lord is our strength as we navigate through life together! Ω



Teaching Tips

by Doris Peppard

Good Guys VS Bad Guys Chart

It would benefit your students to set up a chart for the people studied in history and Bible class. Both History and the Bible are full of people who have done good and those who have done evil. The chart will help your boys and girls understand that people (themselves included) make choices to do right or to do wrong. Charting your Good Guys as well as the Bad Guys will help students understand how to think, make good decisions, and why right is right and wrong is wrong.

Your chart could have 3 or more sections depending upon the grade level. Suggested sections and examples for your chart should include:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Verdict</u>	<u>Good/Bad</u>
Benedict Arnold	Spy for America's Enemies	Hung	Bad
George Washington	Led American Forces crossing the Delaware River to attack the Hessians	Praised	Good
Betsy Ross	Designed and sewed first American Flag	Honored	Good
Moses	Led the children of Israel to the promised land	Obedied God	Good
Moses	Struck the rock rather than speak to the rock	Disobeyed God Couldn't enter the Promise land.	Bad

Older students could have a section for Scriptural reasoning why someone's action was good or bad as well as a section for Possible Improvements. Because older students can write much more, this project could be made into a notebook. Students should be taught that all people make choices - some good, some bad and that there are always consequences. Think of the Kings of Israel - God's Word tells us that (King's name) did right in the sight of God or did evil in the sight of God. Students need to understand that all of our actions can also be judged according to what God's Word teaches us, that God forgives sins that are confessed, and that salvation does not mean that we do not sin anymore. Students can learn much more about how to live by studying others - we learn from both good and bad examples. Ω



Children's Bible Club Corner

GOD'S RAINBOW

By the late, Aunt Carolyn Hobbs

We are told in Genesis 1 and 2, that God created man and woman, but they disobeyed Him. Within a few generations, the earth was filled with evil. God had to destroy every living thing by a flood and start over with Noah. God told Noah to build an ark to save his family and two of every kind of animal. That command of God took 120 years to complete.

After finishing the ark, Noah and his family entered the ark, and God closed and sealed the door. No one could get in, and no one could get out. What a beautiful reminder of what it means to be in Jesus Christ, our Lord. The Good Shepherd has His sheep in His fold, and He guards the entrance, so no dangerous animal gets in and no lamb wanders off.

Rain fell from heaven, and the waters under the earth poured forth. The awful storm raged forty days and forty nights! The water rose, up, up, up. The ark floated in perfect safety, but everything outside

was drowned! That seems awful, but it shows how bad sin is to our holy God.

After seven months, the ark went bump, bump, bump, and settled on Mt. Ararat. At last, Noah opened the ark window and sent out a big, black raven and a soft, gentle dove. The raven stayed out, but the dove came back. Noah sent her out again, but she came back.

After another week he sent that dear little dove out a third time. She never returned. Noah was sure the waters were dried up. At last, God told Noah to open the door. "Go out," God said, "And replenish the earth!"

After being cooped up in the ark for over a year, the animals were happy to get out! They scattered in every direction to find food and a new home. Noah's family was glad to be out in the fresh air and

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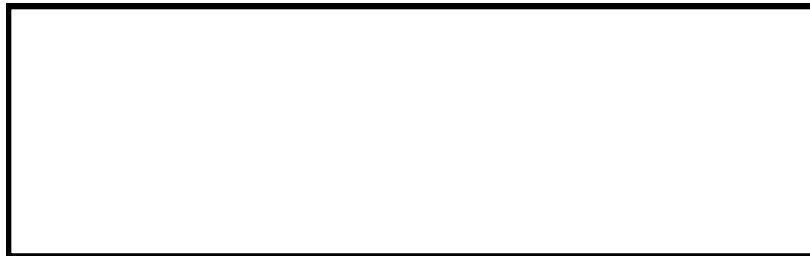


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sunshine, too! They built an altar, offered a sacrifice, and thanked God for sparing them from the flood. Their offering pleased God.

God said, *"This is a token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations. I do set my bow (rainbow) in the cloud....and the waters shall no more become a*

flood to destroy all flesh" (Genesis 9:12-15). He promised that He would never again destroy the earth by a flood and placed a lovely rainbow in the sky as a sign of His promise.

That promise is still good today. Often after a rain, you can see God's rainbow reminding you that He loves you and is true to His Word!

Just as God spared those in the ark, He will save you from sin and eternal death

if you will enter His ark of safety, the Lord Jesus Christ. "Christ died for our sins" (1 Cor. 15:3). Trust Him as your Savior now! Ω

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