

The Better Way

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SPRING CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:00 a.m.
Worship.....10:00 a.m.
Afternoon Worship.....1:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:30 p.m.
(via Zoom Meetings)

ELDERS

David P. Brown
Ken Cohn
John West

DEACONS

Bret Bailey
J. D. Gunter
Eric Paluka

EVANGELIST

David P. Brown

SECRETARY

Sonya West

HOW CAN PARENTS BEST HELP THEIR CHILDREN TO LOVE AND WORSHIP GOD?

David P. Brown

Much time and hard work is required to properly train children. For this reason many parents are failing in their duty to help children love and worship God. For several generations, parents have not trained their children. Selfish and lazy parents who are not willing to put forth the effort and make the sacrifices necessary to train children are the primary reasons for the sad state of affairs children find themselves in today. Parents want their children “out of their hair” at all costs. Play and entertainment have replaced a responsible attitude in the lives of parents. Lazy parents do not want to face the conflicts that arise when proper training procedures of children take place. An incorrect definition of grace and love on the part of parents has also condoned and propagated permissiveness.

Reproductive power is a glorious gift from God (Gen. 1:27-28), but it does not automatically make good parents and ensure good children. To help children love and worship God is one of the greatest challenges parents face. With this in mind and with the limited space to answer the question posed by the title, I will affirm that the greatest help parents can provide for their children in loving and worshipping God is to teach them the proper attitude toward and response to spiritual authority (Col. 3:17).

God is the ultimate in love and authority (1 John 4:8; Psa. 47:2; 83:18; 115:31). Parents must first therefore, be willing to respond to God’s love and commandments in their own lives before they can be the proper help to their children in doing the same. There must first be the proper standard to guide the home (Rom. 13:1; 2 Tim. 3:15; Deu. 6:6-7; Pro. 22:6). Again the parents must live by this standard before they can expect their children to. Twenty times in 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles, when kings are mentioned it is recorded “**and his mother was**” or “**he walked in the ways of his father.**” Parents must, therefore, train, nurture, and admonish their children by the infallible standard—the Scriptures (Pro. 1:8; Eph. 6:4; 1 Tim. 1:5). This is a much neglected principle. Does the child see his parents studying the Bible? Do they know the joy of having their parents talk with them about what the Bible teaches?

Children must be taught to respect authority. This begins with children learning to obey their parents (Eph. 6:1). Nothing is much more unbecoming and sinful than children left to their own way. The child not taught to obey his parents will be a problem in every facet of society. Parents are to see their children comply with correct rules and princi-

ples. Training has not taken place unless children are caused to submit to parental authority (1 Sam. 3:13; Gen. 18:10; Jos. 24:15). Discipline, both preventive and corrective, must be practiced if godly parents are to have the respect they deserve. A part of this discipline is chastisement.

The following verses should be diligently studied and obeyed: 1 Samuel 7:14, Proverbs 13:24,49:48, 22:15, Hebrews 12:6-7. If children are to grow up into responsible, God-fearing adults, it will be when parents have helped by training their children to respond correctly to

properly constituted and scriptural authority (Psa. 47:2; 83:18; 115:3; Dan. 4:34-35; Rom. 9:20-21). Paul commanded, **“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God”** (Rom.13:1).

Parents must note Exodus 20:11, Deuteronomy 27:16, Proverbs 30:17, Matthew 15:4, 20:11, Ephesians 6:2-3. Why should parents expect their children to love and submit to the authority of Christ when they were not trained to love and submit to the authority of their parents?~

A STUDY OF THE HAND

Frank L. Cox

“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device nor knowledge nor wisdom, in Sheol, whither thou goest” (Ecc. 9:10).

The hand is peculiar to man. No other animal has it. A most ingenious tool, the instrument of instruments is the hand, revealing the wisdom and the power of Him who fashioned it. Hands are uplifted in prayer, extended in friendship, folded in sleep, laid on in blessing, raised in solemn oath, joined in wedlock, clinched in anger and defiance. Giving the hand is a pledge of fidelity. Washing the hand is a sign of innocence. Clean hands symbolize a clean life, bloody hands a murderous life, filthy hands a sensual life.

ACHIEVEMENT

The hand is a symbol of achievement. With the hand man has subdued the material world. He has harnessed the wind and the waterfall; he has imprisoned the rays of the sun and bridled the lightning; he has transformed coal and water into light and power. With the hand man has destroyed kingdoms and built empires. Instruments are useless without the hand to direct. Without the hand the automobile could not be driven and all traffic would be halted. Without the hand the giant locomotive would stand on the track or lie helpless in the ditch.

Moses in the land of Midian had a shepherd's rod in his hand which he used in service to God and God's enslaved people. This rod became a scepter of power. With the rod the plagues were brought, the sea was divided, and Israel prevailed in battle. God had Moses to use

the simple instrument with which he was familiar. In like manner God had David to use the sling, Shamgar an ox goad, Samson the jawbone of an ass, Dorcas a needle.

God wants you to take that which is in your hand—the simple instrument with which you are familiar—and use it to His glory and for the good of your fellows. “What is that in thine hand?” Is it a hoe, or a plow? Is it a needle, or a broom? Is it a typewriter, or a pen? Is it a hammer, or a saw? Whatever it is, use it to God's glory. Give it to the loving service of the cause of Christ. **“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.”**

A WITHERED HAND

“And he [Jesus] entered into the synagogue; and there was a man there who had his hand withered” (Mark 3:1). A withered hand—what a pity! There are people today with withered hands. How uneven are the chances of success for such people!

Go back into the remote past and look at the marvelous transformations which have been wrought by human hands. There is not a massive pyramid telling of an ancient civilization, or a mighty bridge spanning a stream, or a stately ship bearing a cargo that was not a product of man's busy hand. Every invention from the delicate needle to the giant machine is a product of man's hands.

What of all these marvelous things if every man had had a withered hand? What of all the sculptured marble? What if the hand had been withered which held the brush of a Raphael, or the pen of a Shakespeare, or the quill of a Milton? Where today would the kingdom of Christ

be if all the self-sacrificing workers had withered hands? Who would have struck telling blows for the gospel truth if Peter and Paul, James and John had had withered hands?

One of the most pathetic scenes the writer has ever witnessed was a man with a withered hand—a withered hand dangling about his body. Shriveled from his shoulder, it was a humiliation to the man and his companions. It made him supersensitive and irritable. But a thing more tragic is a Christian with a “withered hand”—a hand that has the power but not the will to move. Such a person is a willing cripple. There are hands that can work but will not work. They soothe no fevered brow lift no person that is down, write no words of good cheer, they are not extended in a glad clasp.

But, as pathetic as this may seem, it is not a hopeless condition. Jesus said unto the man with the withered hand, “Stretch forth thy hand.” Those who obey the great Physician become strong in blessed service. The willing hand becomes a useful hand.

CLEAN HANDS

“Who shall ascend into the hill of Jehovah? And who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart” (Psa. 24:3, 4).

Clean hands symbolize a clean life. Clean hands are the countersign by which we pass the guardian angel of the New Jerusalem. In the day of judgment, the Judge shall look upon our hands. Are your hands defiled—defiled with blood, defiled with fornication, defiled with dishonest gain? In the day of final accounts the Lord will ask for your hands. Unclean hands may be washed and made clean. There is cleansing power in the blood of the Lamb. Through humble obedience to Christ’s commands (Acts 2:38), sinful man may become clean—his hands cleansed. How about your hands? Are you ready to present them to the Judge?

CLOSED HANDS

The closed hand is a symbol of selfishness. What can the hand do when closed? It cannot lift the fallen. It cannot feed the hungry. It cannot cast money into the Lord’s treasury. It can do nothing. The clinched fist is a symbol of cruelty, of brutality. What can the clinched fist do? Nothing but to hurt and to bruise. The hand of Jesus was never closed in selfishness, or drawn into the clinched fist of brutality. The hand of our Lord was an open hand, a helping

hand, a hand of charity, a hand of mercy. His hands must have been open when he lifted Peter’s wife’s mother, when he healed the lepers, when He restored sight to blind eyes, when He unstopped deaf ears, when he raised the little daughter from the embrace of death. His hands must have been open when they were breaking the bread by the side of the sea, when they were extended in invitation, when they were laid on children, when they were uplifted in benediction.

The great need of the world in our day is the open hand—the hand of helpfulness, the hand of charity, the hand of mercy. God give us an open hand of benevolence, not the closed hand of selfishness, not the clinched hand of brutality.

PIERCED HANDS

“And when he [the risen Christ] had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet” (Luke 24:40).

The hands of Jesus had been pierced. They were now disfigured hands. They bore prints of nails. Jesus wanted the disciples to see His marked hands; so, **“he showed them his hands.”** These precious hands were all-eloquent; they had a wonderful story to tell.

1. They told the disciples of His identity. By the prints of the nails in His hands they recognized Him. The Christ of the cross was the Christ of the resurrection. Even doubting Thomas could no longer doubt and he exclaimed, **“My Lord and my God!”** *The marked hands breathe a message of faith.*

2. They told the disciples of His great love. For them He had suffered; for them He had died. “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). Scars usually detract, but not in this case. Christ’s marked hands are beautiful hands. *They breathe a message of love.*

3. They told the disciples of His victory. Jesus had died a shameful death; He had been buried in Joseph’s new tomb. And when He was buried, the disciples lost hope. They felt that their cause was a lost cause. But the marked hands upon which they looked were a sign of His resurrection and triumph over darkness. He had gained a signal victory not only for Himself, but for His people. *Christ’s marked hands breathe a message of hope immortal.*

The hand that was nailed to the cross of woe,
In love reaches down to the world below;
’Tis beckoning now to the souls that roam,

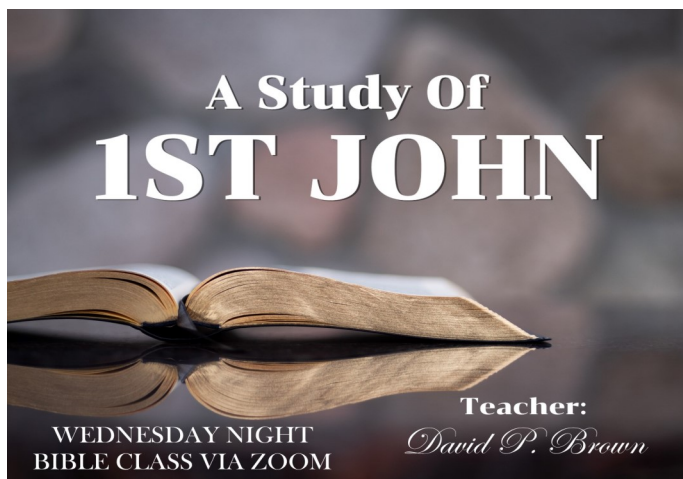
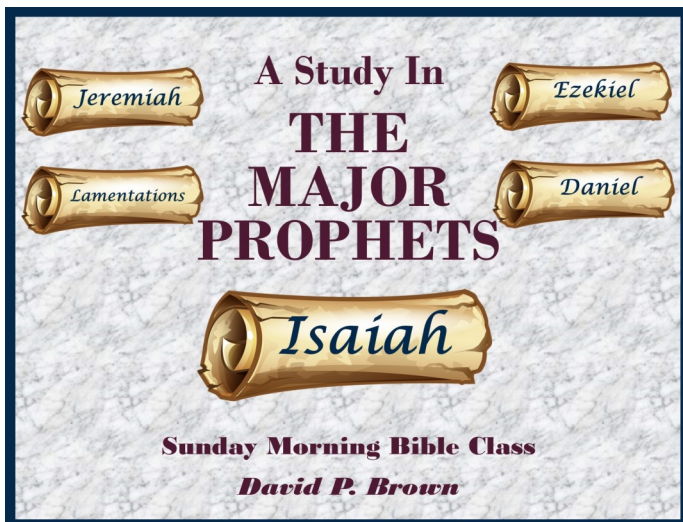
And pointing the way to the heavenly home.
 E'en now I can see through a mist of tears;
 That hand still outstretched o'er a gulf of years,
 With healing and hope for my sin-sick soul;
 One touch of his finger will make me whole.

The hand that wrought wonders in days of old
 Hold treasures more precious than gems of gold;
 The price of redemption from sin and shame,
 The gift of salvation through Jesus' name.

Triumphant through grace I shall some day stand,
 With Jesus at home on that golden strand,
 His face in its beauty at last I see,
 My hand in the hand that was pierced for me.

Unknown

Deceased



- MARK YOUR CALENDARS**
- **Today:** Monthly meal
 - **Tuesday, May 28th:** Ladies' Bible Class
 - **Mon-Wed, July 15th-17th:** VBS at Spring
 - **Saturday, September 28th:** Fall Fellowship

THOSE TO SERVE

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2024

Announcements	J.D. Gunter
Scripture Reading	Bret Bailey Rev. 15:1-8
Song Leader	Gary Blasingame
Prayer	David Brown/John West (AM) Zack Nero/Steven Johnson (PM)
Speaker	Eric Paluka
Lord's Table (AM) (Mark 15:21-26)	
Stephen Cohn	Eric Paluka
Bret Bailey	John West
Lord's Table (PM)	
J.D. Gunter	Ben Gunter
Audio/Video Monitor	Steven Johnson
Camera/Door Monitor	Stephen Cohn
WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2024 (via Zoom Meetings)	
Announcements	Bret Bailey
Speaker	Steven Johnson
Bible Class Teacher	David Brown
FOR MAY	
Prepare Communion	Humphrey
Lock Buildings	Bailey
Prepare Bulletin Board	N. Cohn

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

April McCain, Zack Nero, Debbie Brannon, Lynne Humphrey, Noah Hackworth, Edith Young, Bob Terry, Glenda Hackworth, Cynthia Jackson, Elnora Oxendine, Charles & Ann Nero, Nathaniel Rimmer, Chuck & Nancy Verkist, Freda Smith, Orlanda Chumbley, and Roelf & Janice Ruffner.

TEST YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE

How many times is the word *religion* mentioned in the N.T. ?

Answer to last week's question:
None