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Outline for Sermon on Chrisitan Education

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Outline for Sermon on Christian Education *

JUDG. 13, 8

"Is the young man safe?" That was the anxious inquiry of a worried father. Is the young man or woman safe? Are the children safe? This should be the anxious question of the Church. "Whether or not they are safe, what will become of them later in life, depends to a very great extent on what we do for them during their childhood days, upon the training we give them." Much emphasis is laid in our country on education. One out of every four persons is said to be enrolled in quest of some form of education. Our congregations go to great expense to maintain parish-schools. What can we do to make this and other efforts put forth by our Church in behalf of our children more successful? We can pray God for wisdom and direction in the Christian training of our children, and we can act upon the advice He gives us in His infallible Word, as we learn from Manoah and his wife, the parents of the mighty Samson.

Our Prayer for Wisdom in Educating Our Children*1. The need of it**2. The result of it***1**

Israel had again done evil in the sight of God, and the Lord had delivered the people into the hands of the Philistines for forty years. When they showed signs of repentance, God sent them a deliverer in the person of Samson. His parents, Manoah and his wife, were of the tribe of Dan. They had no children, but the Angel of the Lord, the second person of the Holy Trinity, appeared to the woman and promised her a son, who should be a Nazarite, dedicated unto the service of the Lord, consecrated unto Him from youth. Reflecting upon the responsibility of parents of such a child, Manoah asks: v. 8.

This must be the prayer of every parent; for the children belong not to the state, but to their parents. It must be the prayer of the Church and the members of the Church; for the Church must take a hand in the Christian education of the children. It must be the prayer of all those who have to do with the training, especially the Christian training in the parish-school, the Sunday-school, etc.

There is need for praying for wisdom in educating our children. For these children are sinful by birth, children of wrath, who would perish without proper guidance. We know that many

* Compare *The Church and the Christian Education of the Children*, by Arthur Brunn.

modern educators differ with us on this point. And yet, Scripture says: "They are all gone aside." Children, too, must be born again by the Spirit of God, must be led to see their sins and their Savior and to walk the ways of God's commandments. All this is very difficult. Hence we pray for wisdom, especially since the parents and the teachers of little ones are also sinful, knowing only in part. Nor is such prayer vain; God answers it by giving us the necessary directions and by blessing our efforts in behalf of our children.

2

It was not a prayer spoken in vain in Manoah's case, v. 9. Of course, it was implied and presupposed that that child was to be properly instructed in the Word and will of God. Even so we receive full information from the Lord with regard to the Christian training of our little ones, Prov. 22, 6. We Christians know that the way he should go is the way that leads to salvation, John 14, 6; cp. Acts 16, 31. Such faith, however, is created and sustained by the means of grace, Matt. 28, 19, 20; 2 Tim. 3, 14—17. Children are to be baptized and thoroughly to be taught and educated in the Word of Life. Only in this way can they become and remain children of God.

The Bible does not leave us in ignorance with regard to the best way of accomplishing the aims of Christian education. It insists on the Christian *home*, where Jesus dwells, where father and mother fear the Lord, where the children are early brought to their Savior, taught to pray, honor the Word, respect parents, and are admonished on the basis of the Word. Given such a home, the problem of Christian education is more than half solved. But how often are homes far from ideal! All the greater is the responsibility of the Church. She meets that responsibility in the *church services*. Yes, church services are also for children. But the Church cannot meet her responsibility in a better way than by means of the Christian school. In our Sunday-schools good work is done; but the Sunday-school alone does not suffice. And so we have our own parochial schools. That does not prevent us from conducting Sunday-schools for such as cannot come to the day-school and to supplement some of the parochial school's work. Nor does it prevent us from conducting catechumen classes, Saturday-schools, week-day religious instruction, and summer-schools.

All these efforts in behalf of our children will work out to the temporal and eternal welfare of the little ones and to the best interests of the Church. Of Samson we read: v. 24. The Lord blessed such work of child-training. He answers our prayers also by giving us success in our efforts to train children for a life of

Christian faith and love. Yes, it is a fearful thing to neglect the Christian training of our children. Unbelieving parents are guilty of it; also members of the Church are frequently indifferent. Some even have a school in their congregation, but do not find it worth while to send their children or do not cooperate with the school. What follows? Often these children are but meagerly instructed, fall from grace, are lost. Our prayer is that God may keep us from such folly of neglecting our children's Christian education. But where parents realize their duty, rich blessing rests upon them, their homes, their children, the Church, and even the State. They may fall away for a season; some may even be eternally lost. The rule, however, is: "When he is old, he will not depart from it," Prov. 22, 6. Give examples of such as persevered in faith thanks to their early training.

Our Synod has grown to be a large body, due, under God, to its system of Christian training, especially to its schools. They call for large expenditures, great sacrifices. Does all this pay? Ask men and women grown old in our midst; also the young people who remained faithful; and the saints already made perfect are praising God for the blessings of a Christian school. And so today we join in the prayer of Manoaah, v. 8, for wisdom in educating our children. Pray for all whose task is to train children. God bless our system of education!

PAUL KOENIG

Outlines on the Eisenach Epistle Selections

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

2 THESS. 3, 6-14

The Gospel of Christ, if personally applied for justification and sanctification, adjusts all difficulties of life. It changes us to adapt ourselves to circumstances wrought by God, or it alters a situation in our favor. The Gospel of Christ can restore economic and industrial peace where tyranny and suppression on the part of either employer or employee rage and where political and economic science fails.

Paul's Treatment of the Labor Problem

1. *The Occasion.*

A) Yielding to the natural disposition of the flesh and perhaps also to religious fanaticism, some in Thessalonica, called brethren, shirked work, v. 11, preferring idleness, v. 11, and its resultant gossip and gadding about, v. 11, depending on public or private support, v. 8, all of which is termed disorderly conduct, vv. 6-11. This self-chosen idleness constituted a moral, economic, and spir-