
Christian Education Doesn't Cost, It Pays!

Invest in a Child for Eternity



Introduction

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 KJV

[4] Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord :

[5] And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

[6] And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

[7] 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.

[8] And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

[9] And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

There is a story of a young Evangelist that was preaching across the country. He had held many revivals and was quickly becoming a seasoned preacher, but he still had a lot to learn. As he finished up a revival and was preparing to move on to the next church he called up his Pastor to check in and to provide him with some accountability. The Pastor asked him how many were saved at the last church and the young preacher responded, “One and a half... a man and his young son... the son of course being the half”. The elder pastor responded and said, “Son, you have it all wrong. It is the other way around. The son is the one and the father is the half”. The father has spent half of his life already... The boy still has his whole life ahead of him!”

THE LORD PLACES VALUE ON THE LIFE OF A CHILD

There is a reason why God places great value on you, it is because you are made in His image. Much like the moon is a reflection of the sun's light, you are a reflection of God. This is the reason why Satan wants to destroy you in every way possible. If Satan can corrupt a life while it is young, then he has an advantage in that young person's life. This is why you and I need to be able to invest in the life of every young person that we can. If God places great value on the life of a child, and Satan places great value on the life of a child then you and I MUST see the value in the life of every child that we come in contact with for the Kingdom of God.

Understanding Investment

What would you rather have? A million dollars or a penny doubled every day for thirty days? Most people would choose a million dollars because they don't understand the power of compounding interest. A penny doubled every day for thirty days is \$5, 368,709.12. You see, when you begin to understand value then you begin to change your priorities. What you value is what you will pour your energy into and so I ask you, what is it that you value? What are you pouring your energy into? Where is your time going every day? It is all in your priorities.

In the book of Deuteronomy chapter six we are told...

[5] And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

This is a priority.... it is what is prioritized... It is regarded as your utmost importance. You must Love the Lord with everything that is within you....

[6] And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

Then we find out what happens when we do this...it becomes a burning desire of ours to instill this in the lives of our children.

[7] 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.

There is a continued progression that is taking place in verse seven. You are asked to teach, and talk of this every morning, every afternoon and every evening. In other words, all day long. And when you have done that you begin again the next day and you do it every day. You have been commissioned by God Almighty to teach, talk and instill Godly values of Loving The Lord God with all your heart, all your soul and all your might to children!!!!

In fact it is so important that you do this that the word of God says...

[8] And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

Every time your hands work with children, you will be teaching and talking and building them up in the Word of God.

[9] And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

There is so much power in that last statement.... Your home, your house, your gates signify that place of safety and security being surrounded by the Word of God. In other

words, the things that are nearest and dearest to us, our future, our children should be surrounded by the Word Of God.

It is true, investing in Children will cost you something, whether it is time, energy, money, or something else, but investing in anything will require a cost! Why not invest in something that will provide you with the most return?

Just a few weeks ago Cindy and I were listening to old sermons that my Pastor, Rev. K. A. Smith was preaching on YouTube. In one of those sermons Brother Smith made it a point to say that one day all of us as children would grow up and be married and have children of our own and that we shouldn't wait to dedicate our lives to the Lord, but do it now. My wife and I were just kids sitting in that service. I don't even remember that message, but hearing it as an adult reminded me of the fact that my Pastor invested in our lives and it cost brother K.A. Smith something. He spend many days taking me fishing and spending time with us as young people. He would go to our birthday parties and play with us in youth services. In April of 1989, he passed away. I was a Junior here at FGBI and my wife, Cindy was a Freshman. What did it cost Brother Smith? Everything! He gave his living life for me and my wife while we were children. Today, his legacy lives on through Cindy and I. We are affecting the lives of many children today. We are investing in the lives of others today because of the ministry of Rev. K. A Smith. His ministry is still continuing today through us. I want to also mention that in the Summer of 1987, Brother K. A. Smith had the foresight to bring a young man to Corpus Christi Texas to help out with the Youth. This young man was about to enter into his Senior year of Bible School at a place called FGBI. This young man had never heard of Corpus Christi before, but to this day, it is a place he still calls home. Mike had no promises provided to him as far as a job, a place to stay, or anything else. He arrived in Corpus Christi on faith and faith alone and he and I quickly became good friends. Mike spent many days and nights investing in me and many other young people that summer. Before the summer was over, Mike went back to bible school with a car load of several young people of which I was one of them. Eventually Mike felt the call of God back to Corpus Christi and became the pastor of that little church at 3509 Cotton Wood Street. Today, you know Mike and his wife as Pastor Michael and Anita Johnson.

Pastor Ray, I thought you were talking about Christian Education? YES! I AM!

My wife and I can stand up here and we can give you the nuts and bolts of 19 years of Christian Education. We can tell you what Curriculum you should be utilizing, We can teach you how to set up each class and how to teach it. We can teach you how to prepare your

students for College and the ministry, but all of that is worthless if you don't understand what you are investing in! What is it? What is the investment? It is in a life of a child.

Invest in the life of a young person! Do it through providing a Christian Education. When you do that you embed the Word of God in them every day. You teach them to believe God and to take him at His word. You teach them to have faith in God and to see Miracles performed. INVEST IN A CHILD THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND SEE WHAT GOD DOES LONG AFTER YOU ARE GONE.

Cynthia Perez

1. Prepare yourself for the ministry of Christian Education
2. View Christian Education as a Ministry, not a job
 - 35 hours vs. 6 hours
3. Be a Godly Example
4. Don't get weary in well doing

I am closing this part of the session this afternoon with something very near and dear to my heart. I want to tell you about some of our students.

I want to tell you about a student named Cindy. She came to us in 4th grade. We began to work with her. She was an amazing kid. She always had a smile on her face and she was such a joy to be around. She persevered and graduated from our Christian School. She went to college and in November she will be married. She and her husband will be Youth Pastors in Amarillo, Texas.

Jake came to us early in middle school. He was a pro-am golfer. A very talented kid on the golf course. Jake put it all aside and took to the Christian School like a duck to water. He has been with us for student conventions, International conventions, Church services and Youth Camps. I have seen him receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. After graduation it's his desire, to be a student at FGBI.

I want to tell you about a young man that I call D. D has been one of the few that have been with us the longest with my sons, Benjamin, Robert and Rich. I guess you could say D is one of my own, he has been with us since he was 18 months old. He is my kid. I have watched him grow in education and more importantly in The Lord. I have been along side of Him when he has been filled with The Holy Ghost in Youth Camp and I have seen him kneel

and pray for others like Jake to receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. Today, I am very proud of this young man that has made very solid and wise choices. Who's is D? You know him as Duane Ryals, a freshman at FGBI.

I am thankful for my boys as well, Ben, one of our graduates and a graduate of FGBI a year ago in May. Today he is a medical professional, a real life hero on his full time job on an Ambulance. He is also a Middle School Teacher at Grace Temple Christian Academy. His brother Robert, three years younger than him, is also a graduate of our Christian School and also a medic.

Then there is Rich, my youngest, he can't wait to be a student here at FGBI.

You see, Christian Education doesn't cost, it pays.

Sure, Cindy could be working in public education and she could be making tons of money but for what? A nice boat, a better car? A better house? None of that matters in light of eternity.

Proverbs 22:6 KJV

[6] Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.