

a house pet). When the woman asked Jesus to heal her daughter and Jesus said “Let the children be filled first,” He was saying two things. One, He came to convince the Jews that He was the Messiah they had been looking for and that the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand. He tried to prove this by the miracles and teachings He did. Two, there would come a time when the “little dogs,” i.e. the Gentiles, would have the same opportunity as the Jews to call Jesus the Savior and enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

We see, in Acts 10, with the conversion of Cornelius and his household, that the time Jesus spoke of had come to pass. In Acts 15:13-19, James explains to the assembly in Jerusalem that **“Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name. And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written:**

‘After this I will return And will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins ,And I will set it up; So that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, Says the LORD who does all these things.’ Known to God from eternity are all His works. Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God.’

Now is the time that the “little dogs,” those without a Jewish ancestry, people like most of us today, to come to Jesus. We can now call Him our Savior and enter into the Kingdom of Heaven through baptism into His blood like those on the day of Pentecost did so many years ago. Why not, oh “little dogs,” eat of the feast the Lord has prepared for you?

By Curtis Carwile

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Faithful Sayings

Olsen Park Church of Christ

4700 Andrews Avenue Amarillo, Texas 79106
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Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.
10:20 a.m.
6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Elders:

Ken Ford
Charles Kelley
Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Pat Goguen
Neil Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Fred Perez
Rusty Scott

Evangelist:

Kyle Pope

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Teach Your Children at Home

Last Saturday, Benson McAllister dropped by my office to chat. He had come to the building with his aunt Ashlee. As we were talking, he mentioned the Bible study he and his mother do every morning and that they were currently going through Genesis. I asked him what he had learned from his studies and I really was amazed at all he knew. Granted, he learned a lot of those things from the fine Bible classes we have here at Olsen Park, but I know he learned a lot more of that from the studies within the home.

Deuteronomy 6:4 reads: **“Hear, O Israel:**

The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall TEACH them diligently to YOUR CHILDREN, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates” (emphasis mine).

In this text Moses tells the children of Israel to love the Lord with everything they have. Moses also instructs them to pass that same love on to their children by diligently teaching them when they walk with them and when they sit down with them.

Teaching your children is very important to God. So, why is teaching your children about God and to love God so important? I believe Proverbs 22:6 explains why this is so. It reads: **“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”** The reason why it is so important to God that parents train their children is so they will not leave God when they get older.

What can be the result of parents teaching and training their children to love the Lord enough not to depart from serving Him? I believe a good example of what can happen is found in the young man Timothy. The Apostle Paul respected Timothy a lot, despite the fact that he was a young man. We see that Paul loved him very much, even to the point that he called him his **“beloved son in the faith”** (1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2). In the Bible, we can see the great faith Timothy had in the great

works that he did. In 2 Timothy 1:5, we can see how he came to be that way. Paul wrote: **“When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, WHICH WAS FIRST IN YOUR GRANDMOTHER LOIS AND YOUR MOTHER EUNICE, and I am persuaded is in you also.”** (emphasis mine). Timothy’s great and genuine faith was a result of his mother and grandmother taking a strong interest in his spiritual well-being. I imagine that if it had not been for his mother and grandmother teaching him to love God and training him up to follow after God, that Timothy would not have been as useful to Paul or as effective as he was to the church in Ephesus.

Jesus, when He was questioned about who would be the greatest in the upcoming kingdom, called a little child to Him and said: **“Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter into the kingdom of Heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven”** (Matthew 18:3-4).

Training your children will do two things. One, it will (as we have discussed) teach your children to love

God so they will not turn from Him. Two, it will train us to love God even more. Both will result in making God happy and allow us to enter into the kingdom of Heaven.

So, let us teach our children to love God with their all. Let us train up our

children to follow God all of their lives. Let us all humbly come to God as little children submitting to His will through our obedience to the Gospel in order to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, which is eternal life with Him in Heaven.

By Curtis Carwile

Let The “Little Dogs” Eat!

Mark 7:24-30 reads: **“From there, He arose and went to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And He entered a house and wanted no one to know it, but He could not be hidden. For a woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit heard about Him and she came and fell at His feet. The woman was a Greek, a Syro-Phoenician by birth, and she kept asking Him to cast the demon out of her daughter. But Jesus said to her, ‘Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs.’ And she answered and said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs under the table eat from the children’s crumbs.’ Then He said to her, ‘For this saying, go your way; the demon**

has gone out from your daughter.’ And when she had come to her house, she found the demon gone out and her daughter lying on the bed.”

The text tells us when Jesus went to the region of Phoenicia, north of Judea, He encounters a woman with a demon-possessed daughter. She begs Jesus to heal her daughter. Oddly enough, Jesus refuses at first saying, **“Let the children be filled first.”** The woman responds by saying, **“Even the little dogs eat the children’s crumbs.”** Then, Jesus heals her daughter because of her faith. What is Jesus talking about when He talks about the “children” and the “little dogs?” The “children” mentioned here are the children of Israel, the Jews, while the Gentiles are the “little dogs” (an affectionate term for a