

From the Family Room

Church of Christ at Creekwood Mobile, AL

20 May, 2018

“Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher. “Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.” What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil under the sun? Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole of all mankind. Ecclesiastes 1:2-4; 12:13



As I write this, we have just finished the Mobile Christian School Baccalaureate services for the Class of 2018. A big part of this service is announcing winners of various awards, including scholarship recipients. I have often thought how beneficial it could be to students in grades 6-11 to witness this part of Baccalaureate. Many of them lack desire to excel at the ACT, spend time applying for scholarships, complete service project activities, or participate in extracurricular activities. They do not understand the value of the opportunities available to them. Maybe seeing these rewards their fellow students earned would give them motivation.

So, how can we better motivate our younger children in the classes of 2019-2024 to get serious taking advantage of the opportunities available to them? There are many things to do. The list is long – too long for this one article. Step one might be a good place to start. – DUH!

The first thing we should do is teach our children what wall to lean their ladder on as they climb the ladder to success. We need to **help our child understand the purpose of their life**. Solomon undertook learning this in the book of Ecclesiastes. He experimented with finding satisfaction in many different facets of life. He found them all meaningless and empty. He finally concluded that respecting and obeying God is the only thing that supplies satisfaction. One way to teach our children this lesson of life is to begin at an early age teaching them about the lives of Bible characters who understood living for God was the only way to live. Three of these people are listed below.

- When **Joseph** was young, his mother died while giving birth to his younger brother. Later his brothers hated him so much they intended to kill him, they settled on selling him. He was then taken to a foreign country and sold once again, this time to be a slave. He was falsely accused and imprisoned. Through all of this, Joseph never lost sight of his purpose in life. He knew God was in control. Later in life this knowledge empowered him to avoid taking revenge against his brothers. Joseph allowed God to use him to save his family and the future nation of Israel.
- **The Apostle Paul** was chosen by God to teach the Jews, Gentiles and kings. Even though he was on the fast track to be a leader of the Pharisees and had zealously persecuted Christians, he left all of that behind to follow the purpose God gave him. He dedicated his life to teaching the good news of Jesus Christ everywhere he went.
- **Jesus Christ** is the greatest example of a man who lived His life on purpose. We all know He came to glorify God and provide salvation to all people through His example in life, His teachings, His sacrificial death, and His resurrection. Jesus did not consider equality with God as a thing to hold on to. He emptied Himself, left heaven, and became a man who died on a cross in a horrible, disgusting manner. Near the time of His death, Jesus prayed to God to find another way to fulfill His mission. He ended that prayer with the statement "...yet not My will, but Yours be done." Jesus was faithful to His purpose in life all the way through to the bitter end.

There are many walls we can lean our ladder on in this life. We need to be sure that we teach our children what the correct wall is that when climbed to the top will lead to satisfaction and success. We must teach them to lean their ladder on the wall of God. If they do this, they can reap many rewards, including having their names announced at their Baccalaureate service.

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