

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XXI

July 3, 2011

No. 27

Developing Spiritual Tastes

(Jerry Fite)

Have you noticed lately how your children spend their time? You may see they are paying more attention to a smaller screen these days as they play games or send messages on an “i-something” or some game playing digital device. The average teenager today sends at least 50 text messages a day. You walk into a restaurant and see the young and old with their heads bowed, you might think all are praying for their food. Look closer. They are reading and sending text messages or playing a game.

Parents trying to fill their children’s lives with helpful Bible reading are seeing their offspring attracted to computer screens. Great amounts of time are being invested in games and interaction with others which are exciting and invigorating. How can the reading of the Bible compete with exciting interaction, and mind boggling machines? We have to develop in our children a taste for the spiritual! It is not a matter of competition, but priority as a child learns what is more important in life. It is hard to compete with candy when you are offering sal-

ad. But when the child sees the value of health in life, they will be inclined to develop their taste for healthier foods.

God and His Word give us wisdom for the realities in life. The Bible is not a fantasy game, but a revelation of life in real time. Teenagers should be directed to the book of Proverbs. They can read of the young man’s mistake of going near the adulterous woman and where sexual promiscuity leads (Proverbs 7) while profiting from the wisdom of looking beyond the enticing commercials for alcoholic drink, and see the foolishness and sadness of drunkenness (Proverbs 23). By reading, they can know the end from the beginning.

Equipped with God’s wisdom, the young person can avoid the heartaches which inexperienced youth suffer due to their foolish choices. Your children will develop an appreciation for God’s wisdom as they see the pitfalls unmasked in God’s ancient book played out in modern life. They will come back more and more to the wells of God’s wis-

dom as they see its relevancy in their life.

While a child is fascinated with fantasy, they need to be wowed with the reality and greatness of God. As they look into the heavens and wonder about all the stars, or look at the animals and ask questions as to their origin, what a wonderful time to direct them to God. Read where God spoke the heavens into existence and created both the animals and man (Genesis 1-2; Psalm 139:13-16; 33:8-9). Let God and His word expand their minds to fathom the reality of the soul’s destiny of Heaven or Hell (I Peter 1:4, Matthew 10:28), as it reveals the truth about the world they can see and the thoughts of man which they can acknowledge (Matthew 6:25-33).

Avoiding pitfalls, knowing where we came from, who we are and where we are going are of great value to our young. Emphasizing such benefits will encourage our teenagers to develop a taste for the spiritual and move them to spend more time in the Bible.