

>> SINGING: GOOD NEWS TODAY. NO MATTER WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD, THERE IS ALWAYS GOOD NEWS TODAY.

>> WELCOME TO GOOD NEWS TODAY, THE PROGRAM WHERE YOU WILL ALWAYS FIND GOOD NEWS, NO MATTER WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD.

>> I'M MARK TESKE, YOUR HOST FOR GOOD NEWS TODAY. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR JOINING US. WE'VE GOT A GREAT PROGRAM, AND HERE'S WHAT'S COMING UP. WE'LL BEGIN WITH OUR DEVOTIONAL TIME, WHICH CONSISTS OF OUR SCRIPTURE READING, BEAUTIFUL SINGING, AND A BRIEF STUDY OF OUR SCRIPTURE. TODAY WE'LL BE LOOKING AT 1ST SAMUEL 3:10-14, WHERE SAMUEL HEARS A PROPHECY DIRECTLY FROM GOD ABOUT A PARENT THAT DIDN'T RAISE HIS CHILDREN RIGHT? GET OUT YOUR BIBLES, TURN TO 1ST SAMUEL 3. I'LL MEET YOU THERE IN JUST A MOMENT. FOLLOWING OUR DEVOTIONAL TIME, TROY SPRADLIN WILL BE REPAIRING OUR UNDERSTANDING ABOUT GOOGLE REVIEWS. JIM DEARMAN WILL JOIN US WITH SOME SOUND WORDS ABOUT WITH ALL MY STRENGTH. AUSTIN FOWLER SITS DOWN WITH BARRY GILREATH, AND THEY'RE DISCUSSING THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING OUR CHILDREN. IN OUR FINAL SEGMENT, WE HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION FOR ANTHONY DISMUKE AND TROY SPRADLIN: DOES PROVERBS 22:6 GUARANTEE THAT OUR CHILDREN WILL BE FAITHFUL IF WE DO A GOOD JOB OF RAISING THEM? WELL, I HOPE YOU HAVE YOUR BIBLES OPENED UP TO 1ST SAMUEL CHAPTER 3, WHERE WE READ BEGINNING AT VERSE 10, NOW THE LORD CAME AND STOOD AND CALLED AS AT OTHER TIMES, SAMUEL! SAMUEL! AND SAMUEL ANSWERED, SPEAK, FOR YOUR SERVANT HEARS. THEN THE LORD SAID TO SAMUEL, BEHOLD, I WILL DO SOMETHING IN ISRAEL AT WHICH BOTH EARS OF EVERYONE WHO HEARS IT WILL TINGLE. IN THAT DAY I WILL PERFORM AGAINST ELI ALL THAT I HAVE SPOKEN CONCERNING HIS HOUSE, FROM BEGINNING TO END. FOR I HAVE TOLD HIM THAT I WILL JUDGE HIS HOUSE FOREVER FOR THE INIQUITY WHICH HE KNOWS, BECAUSE HIS SONS MADE THEMSELVES VILE, AND HE DID NOT RESTRAIN THEM. THEREFORE I HAVE SWORN TO THE HOUSE OF ELI THAT THE INIQUITY OF ELI'S HOUSE SHALL NOT BE ATONED FOR BY SACRIFICE OR OFFERING FOREVER.

>> (SINGING)

>> OUR PASSAGE TODAY TALKS ABOUT ELI, WHO WAS ONE OF THE LAST JUDGES OF ISRAEL. THIS IS IN THE PERIOD RIGHT BEFORE THE TRANSITION FROM THE JUDGES TO THE KINGS. YOU SEE, ELI, HE WAS BUSY SERVING OTHERS, BUT HE DIDN'T SPEND ENOUGH TIME RAISING HIS BOYS RIGHT. THEY WERE NOW GROWN MEN, AND THEIR JOB WAS TO BE PRIESTS. BUT THEY, AS WE READ IN 1ST SAMUEL 2:12, DID NOT EVEN KNOW THE LORD. THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO HELP PEOPLE WORSHIP GOD, BUT THEY WERE TREATING THE SACRIFICES LIKE THEIR OWN MEAT MARKET. THEY WERE ALSO COMMITTING FORNICATION WITH SOME OF THE WOMEN WHO CAME TO WORSHIP, CHAPTER 2, VERSE 22. YOUNG SAMUEL WAS GIVEN TO THE LORD, AND HE WORKED IN THE TEMPLE UNDER ELI'S DIRECTION, AND THIS WAS THE FIRST PROPHECY THAT THIS YOUNG SAMUEL EVER RECEIVED. AND THE TEXT TELLS US THAT THE LORD TELLS SAMUEL THAT ELI'S ENTIRE HOUSEHOLD IS GOING TO BE UTTERLY DESTROYED. WHY IS THAT DESTRUCTION COMING? FOR THE INIQUITY THAT ELI KNOWS ABOUT. YOU SEE, BACK IN THE PREVIOUS CHAPTER, HE CONFRONTED HIS SONS, CHAPTER 2, VERSE 23, BUT HIS SONS IGNORED THEIR FATHER'S WARNINGS AND THEY CONTINUED IN THEIR SIN, KEPT DOING WHAT THEY HAD BEEN DOING. IT DIDN'T CHANGE THEIR BEHAVIOR AT ALL. SO WHAT WAS ELI TO DO? HE JUST THREW UP HIS HANDS AND GAVE UP TRYING TO DO ANYTHING WITH HIS SONS. YOU SEE, THE PASSAGE TELLS US THAT HIS SONS HAD MADE THEMSELVES VILE. THEY HAD COMMITTED THESE SINS WITH THE SACRIFICES, THEY HAD COMMITTED THESE SINS WITH THE WOMEN. AND THEIR WHOLE JOB AS PRIESTS, THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO BE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN GOD AND THE PEOPLE, THAT GO-BETWEEN; BUT RATHER THAN HELPING BRIDGE THAT CONNECTION, THEY WERE MAKING A DISCONNECT BETWEEN THE PEOPLE AND GOD. INSTEAD OF HELPING THEM, THEY WERE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE PEOPLE. AND THEIR ACTIONS CAUSED OTHER PEOPLE TO STUMBLE. 1ST SAMUEL 2:17 TELLS US THAT THE PEOPLE DESPISED HAVING TO BRING THEIR SACRIFICES TO THE

PRIESTS BECAUSE OF WHAT THESE SONS WERE DOING. JESUS SAID IN MARK 9:42, IT'S BETTER FOR A MILLSTONE TO BE HUNG AROUND SOMEBODY'S NECK AND HAVE THEM THROWN INTO THE SEA THAN TO CAUSE ONE OF HIS CHILDREN TO STUMBLE. AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THESE BOYS WERE DOING. THEY WERE GROWN MEN, ACTUALLY. BUT YOU SEE, THEIR FATHER, ELI, HE DID NOT RESTRAIN THEM. THERE'S THIS IMPLIED RESPONSIBILITY HERE FOR ELI TO STOP THEIR SINFUL BEHAVIOR. BUT HE DIDN'T DO IT. TOO OFTEN TIMES, PARENTS JUST GIVE UP WHEN THINGS GET HARD. THEY DO EXACTLY WHAT ELI DID RIGHT HERE. BUT WE SEE THE RESULT OF THAT. IN THIS CASE, HIS FAMILY WAS GOING TO BE WIPED OFF THE EARTH; AND EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE SINS THEY COMMITTED WOULD NOT BE FORGIVEN. YOU SEE, WE UNDERSTAND FROM THIS THAT PARENTS HAVE A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY TO RAISE THEIR CHILDREN PROPERLY, THAT WE STILL NEED TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO INFLUENCE OUR CHILDREN EVEN WHEN THEY'RE ADULTS. BUT YOU SEE, SOME PARENTS, THEY'RE TOO SOFT ON THEIR KIDS BECAUSE IN PART, THEY BLAME THEMSELVES FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S SHORTCOMINGS. DON'T GO MAKING EXCUSES FOR YOUR CHILDREN. TRUE AGAPE LOVE, DO WHAT'S IN THEIR ULTIMATE BEST INTEREST EVEN IF THEY DON'T LIKE IT. WE NEED TO HAVE THAT URGENCY LIKE WE DID WHEN OUR CHILDREN WERE YOUNG AND THEY WOULD RUN OUT INTO THE STREET WITHOUT LOOKING. HOW URGENT IS A PARENT DEALING WITH THAT SITUATION? BUT YET THEY MAY BE RUNNING INTO THE STREET HEADING TO DESTRUCTION, AND WE DON'T HAVE THAT SAME URGENCY? AT TIMES, PARENTING IS GOING TO BE HARD. BUT DON'T STOP. DON'T QUIT. DON'T GIVE UP. BE LIKE THAT FATHER OF THE PRODIGAL SON. HE KEPT LOOKING FOR HIS SON, WANTING AND WAITING FOR HIM TO COME BACK. GOD OUR FATHER IS LIKE THAT, TOO. AND THAT'S GOOD NEWS FOR US TODAY. WELL, IT'S TIME TO HEAD OVER TO THE WORKSHOP, WHERE TROY SPRADLIN IS WAITING FOR US. TODAY HE'LL BE REPAIRING OUR UNDERSTANDING ABOUT GOOGLE REVIEWS.

>> ARE YOU PLANNING A VACATION? WELL, CHECK OUT THE GOOGLE REVIEWS SO THAT YOU CAN FIND THE BEST HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS IN THAT AREA. NOT HAPPY WITH THE SERVICE YOU RECEIVED AT THAT DEPARTMENT STORE YESTERDAY? WELL, BE SURE AND LEAVE THEM A BAD REVIEW ON GOOGLE SO OTHERS WILL KNOW TO AVOID IT. OR DO YOU OWN A BUSINESS? WELL, THEN DON'T FORGET TO ASK YOUR CUSTOMERS TO LEAVE YOU A GOOD REVIEW SO IT WILL DRIVE MORE BUSINESS YOUR WAY. WHAT ABOUT CHOOSING A CHURCH TO ATTEND? YOU GUESSED IT. GO AND SEE WHAT THE GOOGLE REVIEWS ARE SO YOU CAN MAKE A RIGHT DECISION? HMM. YOU KNOW, WE'VE BECOME A SOCIETY THAT HEAVILY DEPENDS ON THE INTERNET FOR SO MANY DIFFERENT THINGS, INCLUDING HELPING US MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT WHERE TO GO AND WHAT TO BUY AND ALL WITH THE HELP OF GOOGLE REVIEWS. AND YES, EVEN CHURCHES THAT HAVE A PRESENCE ON THE WEB RECEIVE REVIEWS FROM THE GOOGLE SEARCH ENGINE. YET I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER, DO PEOPLE ACTUALLY MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT ATTENDING SOME CHURCH BASED OFF OF GOOGLE REVIEWS? WELL, SURPRISINGLY, I'M AFRAID TO SAY THAT THEY DO. NOW LISTEN, COMBING THROUGH REVIEWS MAKES SENSE AND CAN BE HELPFUL IN MANY AREAS OF OUR LIVES. FOR EXAMPLE, IF SOMEONE IS PLANNING TO BOOK AN AIRBNB, JUST CHECKING THE REVIEWS CAN OFTEN PREVENT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN UNCOMFORTABLE STAY. I MEAN, AFTER ALL, NOBODY WANTS TO GO ON A ROMANTIC GETAWAY AND THEN FIND OUT THE ROOM YOU PAID FOR IS IN THE BASEMENT OF SOMEONE'S CREEPY HOUSE. BUT WHEN IT COMES TO MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT RELIGIOUS THINGS, WELL, DEPENDING ON SOMETHING LIKE GOOGLE REVIEWS SHOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE THE CRITERIA ON WHICH YOU BASE YOUR DECISION. YOU SEE, REVIEWS ARE NOTHING MORE THAN PEOPLE'S OPINIONS; AND OPINION DOES NOT DETERMINE WHAT CONSTITUTES A SOUND, SCRIPTURAL CHURCH OF OUR LORD. SO INSTEAD OF GOOGLE REVIEWS, WHAT SHOULD BE THE CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING A CHURCH? WELL, THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE: WE SHOULD USE THE BIBLE AND ONLY THE BIBLE. YOU SEE, WITHIN THE NEW TESTAMENT WE CAN FIND ALL THE IDENTIFYING MARKS OF WHAT WE SHOULD LOOK FOR IN A CHURCH. FOR EXAMPLE, ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS THAT SHOULD STAND OUT IS THE NAME THAT IT USES. THE BIBLE DESCRIBES JESUS' CHURCH AS THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN PASSAGES LIKE ROMANS 16:16. IN FACT, IT'S ALWAYS DESCRIBED AS BELONGING TO

GOD OR JESUS; AND THAT'S BECAUSE JESUS SAID, I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH IN MATTHEW 16:18. SO DOES THE CHURCH YOU'RE CONSIDERING CARRYING THE NAME OF JESUS? WELL, IT SHOULD. THAT'S IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER IN YOUR REVIEW. SECONDLY, WHO'S THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH? COLOSSIANS 1:18 SAYS THAT JESUS IS THE HEAD OF THE BODY, THE CHURCH. THAT MEANS THAT NO ONE IN THE CHURCH HAS THE AUTHORITY TO ELEVATE THEMSELVES AS ITS SUPREME LEADER. NOW, NEITHER DO WE FIND A CENTRAL OFFICE OR A HEADQUARTERS PRESIDING OVER THE AFFAIRS OF MULTIPLE CHURCHES; INSTEAD, EACH CONGREGATION IN THE NEW TESTAMENT WAS AUTONOMOUS, MEANING THAT THEY GOVERNED THEMSELVES. THEY ARE OVERSEEN BY A PLURALITY OF ELDERS, AS WE FIND IN ACTS 20:28 AND 1ST PETER 5:1-4, AND NEVER BY ONE SINGULAR PASTOR OVER A CONGREGATION. A TRUE CHURCH OF THE LORD FOLLOWS THAT BIBLE EXAMPLE. SO DOES THE CHURCH YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT ATTENDING HAVE A SUPERVISING HEADQUARTERS OR A HEAD PASTOR? WELL, IT SHOULDN'T, ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE. THIRDLY, HOW DOES THE CHURCH CONDUCT ITS WORSHIP? YOU SEE, ACCORDING TO JESUS, GOD IS SPIRIT, AND THOSE WHO WORSHIP HIM MUST WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH, SAYS JOHN 4:24. THAT MEANS THAT ONE MUST BE IN THE RIGHT STATE OF BEING AND THEY MUST WORSHIP ACCORDING TO HOW GOD PRESCRIBED IT IN THE BIBLE. WE CAN'T HAVE THE ATTITUDE OF JUST DOING WHATEVER WE WANT OR ADDING THINGS NOT AUTHORIZED BY SCRIPTURE. THAT'S WHY THE CHURCH OF CHRIST SINGS IN A CAPPELLA, FOR EXAMPLE. WE FOLLOW THE PATTERN OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, AND WE FIND NO EXAMPLES OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS BEING USED IN CHRISTIAN WORSHIP UNTIL HUNDREDS OF YEARS LATER, AFTER THE BIBLE WAS COMPLETED, WHICH INDICATES IT WAS SOMEONE'S OPINION TO ADD THEM, NOT SOMETHING APPROVED BY THE WORD OF GOD. SO DOES THE CHURCH YOU'RE LOOKING AT FOLLOW THAT SCRIPTURAL PATTERN? WELL, I HOPE YOU NOW SEE THAT MATTERS OF RELIGION ARE NOT SUBJECT TO GOOGLE REVIEWS. SOMEONE'S OPINION OR REVIEW ABOUT A CHURCH WILL NOT HELP YOU GET INTO HEAVEN. INSTEAD, GO CHECK OUT THAT CHURCH FOR YOURSELF WITH YOUR BIBLE IN HAND.

>> INSTEAD OF GOOGLE REVIEWS, WE SHOULD JUDGE A CHURCH BY THE LORD'S CRITERIA. AND AS TROY SAID, WE'LL FIND THAT IN THE BIBLE. THANKS, TROY. HERE AT GOOD NEWS TODAY, WE'RE ALWAYS WANTING OUR AUDIENCE TO SPEND TIME IN THE BIBLE, SEE THINGS FOR THEMSELVES. ONE WAY YOU CAN DO THAT IS BY ENROLLING IN OUR FREE BIBLE COURSE. IN JUST A MOMENT, WE'LL GIVE YOU OUR CONTACT INFORMATION SO THAT YOU CAN SEND US YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION. JIM DEARMAN WILL JOIN US RIGHT AFTER.

>> YOU MAY HAVE QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT GOOD NEWS TODAY. WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU. OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE FREE BIBLE STUDY MATERIALS, PLEASE CONTACT US. OUR MAILING ADDRESS IS GOOD NEWS TODAY, P.O. BOX 206, DUNLAP, TENNESSEE, 37327. AGAIN, THAT'S GOOD NEWS TODAY, P.O. BOX 206, DUNLAP, TENNESSEE, 37327. YOU MAY PREFER TO E-MAIL US AT GOODNEWSTODAYTV@GMAIL.COM. THAT'S GOODNEWSTODAYTV@GMAIL.COM. OR CALL US TOLL-FREE AT 1-877-384-7221. THAT'S 1-877-384-7221. WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU. HEARING FROM OUR AUDIENCE IS ALWAYS GOOD NEWS TO US.

>> THE EASIEST WAY TO ENROLL IN OUR BIBLE COURSE IS ON OUR WEBSITE AT GNTTV.ORG. JUST CLICK WHERE IT SAYS BIBLE COURSE, FILL OUT THE INFORMATION, AND WE'LL MAIL IT TO YOU. WE'RE PLEASED TO PARTNER WITH TRUTH.FM TO BRING YOU A 24/7 STREAM OF GOOD NEWS TODAY ON THEIR WEBSITE. IN ADDITION TO THE GOOD NEWS TODAY CHANNEL, THEY ALSO HAVE SEVERAL OTHERS THAT ALL CONTAIN EXCELLENT BIBLE LESSONS. NOW HERE'S JIM DEARMAN.

>> A LITTLE BOY ONCE DECLARED THAT HE LOVED HIS MOTHER WITH ALL HIS STRENGTH. SOMEONE ASKED HIM WHAT HE MEANT BY ALL HIS STRENGTH. HE SAID, WELL, I'LL TELL YOU. YOU SEE, WE LIVE ON THE FOURTH FLOOR OF THIS TENEMENT, AND THERE IS NO ELEVATOR, AND THE COAL IS KEPT DOWN IN THE BASEMENT. MOTHER IS BUSY ALL THE

TIME, AND SHE ISN'T VERY STRONG. SO I SEE TO IT THAT THE COAL HOLD IS NEVER EMPTY. I LUG THE COAL UP FOUR FLIGHTS OF STAIRS ALL BY MYSELF. AND IT'S A PRETTY BIG COAL HOLD. IT TAKES ALL MY STRENGTH TO GET IT UP HERE. NOW, ISN'T THAT LOVING MY MOTHER WITH ALL MY STRENGTH? WELL AS THIS LITTLE BOY LOVED HIS MOTHER WITH AN OBVIOUSLY INHERENT GRATITUDE FOR WHAT SHE HAD SACRIFICED FOR HIM, WE ARE TO LOVE GOD WITH ALL OUR STRENGTH, LOVINGLY, WILLINGLY, OBEDIENTLY, WITH GRATITUDE FOR THE GREAT SACRIFICE OF HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, JESUS CHRIST.

>> THANKS FOR THAT, JIM. OUR APPS ARE AN EXCELLENT PLACE TO GET A DOSE OF GOOD NEWS TODAY OR ANY DAY. WE HAVE MATERIAL THAT YOU'LL SEE ON OUR PROGRAM AS WELL AS SOME EXCELLENT MATERIAL FROM YEARS GONE BY. THEY'RE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR PHONE, TELEVISION, OR TABLET, AND THEY'RE ALWAYS FREE. NOW IT'S TIME FOR FABRIC OF FAMILY, WHERE AUSTIN FOWLER SITS DOWN WITH BARRY GILREATH AND THEY DISCUSS THE IMPORTANCE OF TRAINING CHILDREN.

>> AUSTIN, IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK WITH US ON THE SET HERE FOR FABRIC OF FAMILY, THESE SHORT SEGMENTS FOR GOOD NEWS TODAY. I WANT TO TALK ABOUT TRAINING UP OUR CHILDREN. YOU KNOW, THE BIBLE SAYS THAT WE'RE TO TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY THEY SHOULD GO, AND WHEN THEY'RE OLD, THEY'LL NOT DEPART FROM IT. I KNOW THAT YOUR PARENTS HAVE DONE A WONDERFUL JOB REARING YOU, AND I'VE KNOWN YOU SINCE YOU WERE 6 YEARS OLD, AND YOU'RE NOW VERY INVOLVED WITH MISSION WORK ACROSS THE GLOBE. AND I JUST WANTED TO KIND OF HAVE YOU ON THE PROGRAM TODAY TO KIND OF TALK ABOUT THE TRAINING THAT YOU RECEIVED AND THINGS YOU THINK THAT BENEFITED YOU AS A YOUNG PERSON WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP. OF COURSE, YOU'RE A GROWN MAN NOW; BUT WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT YOU FOUND TO BE VALUABLE IN YOUR LIFE AS YOU LOOK BACK?

>> YOU KNOW, I THINK THERE'S A LOT OF THINGS TO BE THANKFUL FOR. AND ONE OF THEM IS GROWING UP IN A CHRISTIAN HOME. I RECENTLY ASKED MY GRANDMOTHER THE OTHER DAY, I SAID, I KNOW YOUR MOM WAS A CHRISTIAN, I SAID, BUT HOW MANY GENERATIONS DOES OUR FAMILY GO THAT ARE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH AND CHRISTIANS? AND SHE SAYS, I REALLY DON'T KNOW. SHE GOES, IT GOES BACK ANOTHER GENERATION FROM WHAT YOU KNOW. AND SO SEVERAL GENERATIONS OF CHRISTIANS. AND I THINK PART OF THAT IS BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT ONLY TAUGHT ME, BUT THEY HAVE TRAINED ME. THE VERSE THAT YOU QUOTE FROM PROVERBS 22:6, I THINK THAT WAS ONE OF YOUR ASSIGNMENTS YOU GAVE ME TO QUOTE ONE TIME. AND MY PARENTS, THEY ALWAYS TOOK TIME TO GET ME TO MEMORIZE SCRIPTURE, WHICH I'VE ALWAYS STUCK TO THOSE VERSES, REMEMBERED THEM. I THINK THAT'S ONE WAY WE CAN TRAIN CHILDREN IS MEMORIZATION OF BIBLE, BIBLE TIME, TEACHING THOSE THINGS. BUT ALSO, ONE THING THAT MY GRANDDAD DID TO TRAIN ME WAS TAKE HIM ON VISITS TO THOSE IN NURSING HOMES AND THOSE DIFFERENT PLACES. AND YOU KNOW, HE'D SAY, HEY, LET'S GO MAKE A VISIT. OKAY, I'M WITH YOU, YOU KNOW. AND THAT'S BECAUSE I KNOW HOW TO DO IT. I KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT.

>> YOU'RE COMFORTABLE. YOU DID IT AS A KID. YOUR GRANDPARENTS AND PARENTS WERE VERY, VERY INVOLVED IN THOSE KINDS OF THINGS.

>> YEAH. AND I THINK THAT THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN WHO I AM TODAY. IT'S NOT LIKE, HEY, LET'S GO VISIT SO AND SO AT THE NURSING HOME, AND IT'S KIND OF LIKE, OKAY, YOU KNOW, I'VE NEVER BEEN THERE BEFORE. IT'S JUST SECOND NATURE NOW, BECAUSE I'VE BEEN DOING IT FOR SO LONG. AND ALSO THE SAME WAY WITH PUBLIC SPEAKING AND BEING THERE IN THE ASSEMBLY.

>> DO YOU REMEMBER HOW OLD YOU WERE WHEN YOU GAVE YOUR FIRST SERMON?

>> FIRST LIKE FULL SERMON, LIKE 30 MINUTES? I WAS PROBABLY 8 OR 9. AND THE FIRST FULL SERMON I DID LIKE 30 MINUTES WAS AT LIKE 19, YOU KNOW.

>> BUT I REMEMBER EVEN AS A CHILD, YOU MEMORIZED A BOOK OF THE BIBLE. I REMEMBER YOU QUOTING THAT FOR US ON A YOUTH NIGHT WE HAD.

>> AND I THINK THOSE YOUTH NIGHTS ARE ESSENTIAL, TOO. AND PARENTS NEED TO ENCOURAGE THEIR KIDS, HEY, WHY DON'T YOU READ SCRIPTURE THIS TIME? AND THE NEXT TIME, WHY DON'T YOU LEAD A SONG? AND NEXT TIME, WHY DON'T YOU GIVE A LITTLE SHORT TALK. AND BY ENCOURAGING AND PRACTICING AT HOME AND DOING THOSE THINGS, YOU CAN DO MORE IN PUBLIC WORSHIP. WHEN THEY BECOME A CHRISTIAN, THEY'RE ALREADY CONFIDENT IN THEMSELVES. IT'S NOT UP THERE AND HAVE THAT FEAR OF PUBLIC SPEAKING IF YOU DO IT YOUNG, AND IT'S JUST SECOND NATURE, YOU KNOW.

>> THAT'S WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY, SECOND NATURE. BECAUSE IF WE DON'T ENCOURAGE OUR CHILDREN TO DO THESE TYPES OF THINGS WHEN THEY'RE YOUNG, THEN WHEN ARE THEY GOING TO LEARN IT? HOW ARE THEY GOING TO BECOME COMFORTABLE WITH IT? THEY MAY ALWAYS REFUSE TO DO THOSE THINGS IF WE DON'T START THEM WHILE THEY'RE YOUNG.

>> AND I THINK THAT THAT'S SOMETHING THAT'S IMPORTANT, TOO, IS THAT GRANDPARENT GENERATION. I THINK IT'S GOD'S DESIGN, OBVIOUSLY, FOR GRANDPARENTS TO RAISE THEIR GRANDCHILDREN; BUT WE SEE IN THE BIBLE SUCH AS TIMOTHY'S GRANDMOTHER TEACHING HIM. I THINK THEY CAN HAVE A VITAL ROLE IN HELPING THEIR GRANDCHILDREN BE FAITHFUL. AND YOU CAN SEE THAT GENERATION CONTINUE BECAUSE OF THEIR INFLUENCE AS GRANDPARENTS AS WELL.

>> AND I THINK THAT'S A GOOD POINT YOU MAKE THERE, BECAUSE WE DO HAVE NOT JUST PARENTS, BUT GRANDPARENTS WHO WATCH THE PROGRAM. AND WE WOULD WANT TO ENCOURAGE THESE GRANDPARENTS TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN ENCOURAGING THEIR GRANDCHILDREN TO BE INVOLVED IN THESE KINDS OF ACTIVITIES.

>> FOR SURE. AND I CAN REMEMBER, WHEN MY PARENTS OWNED THE SIGN SHOP, MY GRANDFATHER WOULD COME BY, AND HE'D SAY, OKAY, LET'S PRACTICE. LET'S GO OVER THIS, YOU KNOW. AND SO I ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT. AND I HAVE FOND MEMORIES OF GOING TO VISIT WITH HIM AND JIMMY GREGORY ON MONDAYS. AND SO IT'S JUST TAKING THEM OUT AND BEING A PART AND GETTING THEM INVOLVED AND STAYING INVOLVED SO THAT WHEN THEY GET OLD, THEY'RE ALREADY TRAINED AND THEY CAN BE THOSE LEADERS THAT GOD WANTS THEM TO BE IN THE LOCAL CHURCH.

>> WELL, AUSTIN, YOU'RE A FINE EXAMPLE OF SOMEONE WHO IS VERY ACTIVE IN THE CHURCH TODAY, AND I DO BELIEVE THAT A LOT OF THAT IS DUE TO THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF YOUR FAMILY OVER THE YEARS. AND SO OTHERS, I HOPE, CAN BE INSPIRED AND ENCOURAGED BY THAT TO FOLLOW THAT SAME PLAN AS FAR AS THEIR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN ARE CONCERNED, TO ENCOURAGE THEM IN THE LORD. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH US FOR THIS SEGMENT TODAY.

>> GOOD TO BE HERE.

>> WE'LL HAVE YOU BACK AGAIN REAL SOON.

>> THE CHURCH PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN REINFORCING THE LESSONS THAT PARENTS ARE TEACHING THEIR CHILDREN. THANKS, GENTLEMEN. WE'VE GOT A GREAT WAY FOR YOU TO START EVERY DAY, AND THAT'S WITH THE GOOD NEWS TODAY PODCAST. JUST SEARCH FOR GOOD NEWS TODAY DAILY DEVOTIONAL TIME WHEREVER YOU GET YOUR PODCASTS, AND START EVERY DAY WITH YOUR DAILY DOSE OF GOOD NEWS. IN JUST A MOMENT, WE'LL GIVE OUR BIBLE QUESTION TO ANTHONY DISMUKE AND TROY SPRADLIN.

>> (SINGING)

>> NOW WE HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION FOR ANTHONY AND TROY: DOES PROVERBS 22:6 GUARANTEE THAT OUR CHILDREN WILL BE FAITHFUL IF WE DO A GOOD JOB OF RAISING THEM?

>> TROY, ARE THERE ANY GUARANTEES IN THIS WORLD?

>> NOT THAT I'M - NO, NOT REALLY. I DON'T THINK SO. ARE THERE?

>> WELL, LIKE YOU SAID, NOT REALLY. BUT THERE IS ONE. THERE'S ONE GUARANTEE THAT YOU CAN REST ASSURED WILL HAPPEN. THAT'S DEATH, RIGHT?

>> OH, ABSOLUTELY. HEBREWS 9:27.

>> THAT'S RIGHT. WE ALL HAVE AN APPOINTMENT FOR DEATH. AND SO THAT'S THE ONLY THING THAT'S REALLY GUARANTEED UNTO US. I MEAN, A LOT OF PEOPLE MIGHT GUARANTEE YOU A LOT OF THINGS.

>> YEAH. I'M ALWAYS LOOKING FOR A GUARANTEE.

>> THEY MIGHT NOT FOLLOW THROUGH ON THAT GUARANTEE. SO IT'S REALLY NOT EVER REALLY 100% SOMETHING THAT'S GUARANTEED UNTO US. BUT THAT BRINGS US TO OUR QUESTION TODAY.

>> OKAY.

>> WE HAVE THE QUESTION WHERE ONE ASKS, DOES PROVERBS 22:6, DOES THAT GUARANTEE THAT IF WE REAR OUR CHILDREN IN THE WAY THAT THEY SHOULD GO, THAT THEY WILL FOLLOW THE LORD?

>> WOW. WELL, THAT'S A HEARTFELT QUESTION, BECAUSE I KNOW A LOT OF PARENTS THAT WISH THAT WAS THE CASE. BUT UNFORTUNATELY, NO, IT DOESN'T GUARANTEE ANYTHING. NOW, THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT JUST BECAUSE THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT YOU SHOULDN'T DO IT OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT. AND SO THE VERSE SAYS, TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO, AND WHEN HE'S OLD, HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT. BUT WE'VE GOT TO REMEMBER THAT WE HAVE FREE WILL. EVERY INDIVIDUAL HAS FREE WILL.

>> WE ARE FREE MORAL AGENTS, RIGHT? AND SO THE IDEA IS THAT WE DO THE BEST THAT WE CAN.

>> THAT'S RIGHT.

>> YOU REAR THEM UP IN THE WAY THAT THEY SHOULD GO. AND SO WHEN THEY GET TO A CERTAIN AGE, IT BECOMES VERY DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO DEPART FROM THAT REARING THAT THEY HAVE. YOU KNOW, IT BECOMES A PART OF THEIR BEING AND WHO THEY ARE, AND SO IT'S A KNEE-JERK REACTION WHEN YOU TRY TO DO SOMETHING OUTSIDE OF THAT.

>> YEAH. AND AS YOU SAID, WE NEED TO ALWAYS BE WORKING TOWARDS HELPING OUR CHILDREN. PARENTS NEED TO BE TRAINING UP THEIR CHILDREN. IN FACT, YOU GO BACK IN THE OLD TESTAMENT TIMES, IN DEUTERONOMY CHAPTER 6, GOD COMMANDED THEM, HE SAYS, TEACH THEM DILIGENTLY THESE LAWS TO YOUR CHILDREN, AND THEY SHALL TALK OF THEM WHEN THEY SIT IN THE HOUSE AND WHEN THEY WALK IN THE WAY, WHEN THEY LIE DOWN, WHEN YOU RISE UP. SO ALL THE TIME YOU NEED TO BE DOING THE BEST YOU CAN TO TEACH YOUR CHILDREN THESE THINGS. BUT THERE'S STILL NO GUARANTEE. AND

WE SEE THAT IN OTHER PASSAGES LIKE EZEKIEL CHAPTER 18, WHERE IT TALKS ABOUT THAT THE FATHER SHALL NOT INHERIT THE SINS OF THE SON AND THE SON SHALL NOT INHERIT THE SINS OF THE FATHER. THAT CLEARLY SHOWS THAT FREE WILL WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT.

>> EXACTLY. AND IN EPHESIANS, HE LETS US KNOW, EPHESIANS 6:4, THAT WE ARE TO REAR OUR CHILDREN IN THE ADMONITION OF THE LORD.

>> YES.

>> AND THAT'S JUST THE BEST THAT WE CAN DO. WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THIS, GOD HAS SHOWED US. AS WE TALKED ABOUT, THE OLD TESTAMENT IS WRITTEN FOR OUR LEARNING. GOD HAS SHOWED US ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, HIS CHILDREN, RIGHT, ISRAEL, THOUGH HE'S DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO GET THEM ON THE RIGHT PATH AND TO BE RIGHTEOUS AND TO FOLLOW HIS COMMANDS.

>> THEY STILL WENT THEIR OWN WAY.

>> THEY STILL WENT THEIR OWN WAY.

>> SOME DID AND SOME DIDN'T.

>> EXACTLY.

>> AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN WITH YOUR CHILDREN. BUT HERE'S ONE THING: IF YOU DON'T RAISE THEM UP THIS WAY, THERE MIGHT BE A GUARANTEE THAT THEY WON'T; BUT EVEN THAT IS NOT A GUARANTEE BECAUSE OF PEOPLE LIKE JOSIAH. JOSIAH IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, HE HAD BAD INFLUENCE, AND YET HE WAS A MAN OF GOD. AND SO THE MAIN POINT IS, PARENTS, MAKE SURE THAT YOU'RE TEACHING YOUR CHILDREN, SHOW THEM THAT EXAMPLE THAT THEY NEED, RAISE THEM UP IN THE WAY AND THE ADMONITION OF THE LORD. ABSOLUTELY.

>> RIGHT. AND GOD BEING THE GREATEST FATHER OF ALL.

>> AMEN.

>> BEING THE GREATEST FATHER OF ALL STILL DIDN'T HAVE THAT GUARANTEE.

>> THAT'S RIGHT. AMEN.

>> WELL, WE'VE GIVEN A LOT OF INFORMATION ABOUT PARENTING IN THIS EPISODE. FEEL FREE TO SHARE THIS PROGRAM WITH THE PARENTS AROUND YOU. REMEMBER, YOU CAN DO THAT THROUGH OUR WEBSITE, THROUGH OUR APPS, OR THROUGH OUR PODCAST. YOU CAN WATCH OR LISTEN TO THE PROGRAM AGAIN IF YOU WANT TO CHECK THESE THINGS IN THE SCRIPTURES FOR YOURSELF. BE LIKE THOSE BEREANS IN ACTS 17:11. THEY SEARCHED THE SCRIPTURES TO SEE IF THESE THINGS WERE SO. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO DO THAT IN EVERY ASPECT OF YOUR LIFE, INCLUDING HOW TO BE A GOOD PARENT. YOU MAY STILL HAVE SOME QUESTIONS. CONTACT US. WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. WE MIGHT EVEN ANSWER THAT QUESTION ON OUR PROGRAM. KNOW THAT WE LOVE YOU, WE'RE PRAYING FOR YOU, AND WE WANT YOU TO MAKE IT TO HEAVEN

>> SINGING: GOOD NEWS TODAY