

NEWSLETTER

July - 2024

Sunday Service: 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study:
7:00 p.m.

Sunday Bible Study: *Will resume in September*

SPEAKERS

July 7: Ivan Niemela, *Holy Communion*

July 14: Ivan Niemela

July 21: Ken Storm

July 28: Ivan Niemela

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TAPIOLA APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH

Train up a Child

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it” - Proverbs 22:6

Our text tells parents to teach their little children about God’s way of salvation, otherwise the world will gladly teach them and it’s from those teachings that they will find it difficult to depart from when they are older. Parents cannot make their children to be believers but it is their responsibility to teach their children from the Bible of the way of salvation that comes through the sprinkling of Jesus’ blood on a penitent soul. Then, when they grow older, they will know what must be done to be saved. Each child will walk his own pathway in life: some will remain faithful to Jesus; some will turn their back on Jesus until later in life; some will depart from Jesus and never look back; and some will not be taught of Jesus at all but all will be called by God throughout their lives. He does this by sending out His messengers both near and far to preach the gospel of forgiveness to all who will repent of the sin that troubles them.

King Manasseh of Judah is an example of a child who was brought up in a God-fearing home who turned his back on God until later in life. His father, King Hezekiah, *“did that which was right in the sight of the Lord”* (2 Kings 18:3), and yet, he was not saved until later in his life (this in itself is a message to us). Despite being exposed to the Word of God as a youth, Manasseh chose a different spiritual path in life than that of his father and *“did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord”* (2 Kings 21:2). He went so far as to promote other forms of religion; he built high places of worship in opposition to his father, and he even sacrificed his sons to pagan gods. It was not until God allowed Manasseh to experience great affliction at the hands of Assyria because of his sinful life that he finally cried out to God and humbled himself before God so that God heard his supplication, *“... Then Manasseh knew that the Lord he was God”* (2 Chr 33:12-13).

Besides children, Jesus also tells all believers to teach others about Him, regardless of age, specifically about the forgiveness of sins: He tells us *“that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem”* (Luke 24:47). He tells us this because it is sin that separates us from God and we *“all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:23). As it was in the Old Testament, sins were confessed in front of a priest, so it is today that we can confess our sins to a fellow believer who is a New Testament priest (1 Peter 2:9). Believers today have the keys of the kingdom of heaven, *“Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained”* (John 20:23). Thus, with confidence you may *“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed”* (James 5:16).

The very reason that we should begin teaching our children as soon as possible about salvation is that Satan is compared to a roaring lion *“... seeking whom he may devour”* (1 Peter 5:8). And, as is their nature, lions on the hunt seek out the youngest of the herd. Godly teaching provides our children with a suit of armor to fend off Satan’s advances. Moreover, God promises that we can be *“... confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ”* (Philippians 1:6).

Therefore, it is our Christian duty as parents and as believers in general to let our children and others know that we are all sinners and that it is only the blood of Jesus that can wash away our sin. It is easier to speak of sin but most difficult to speak of repentance because Satan abhors the blood of Christ. Thus, Satan subtly convinces many people to reject the need to confess any sin to another person. That very ploy was used by King Jeroboam to prevent his people from going “... *up to do sacrifice in the house of the Lord at Jerusalem*” (1 Kings 12:27). It was at the door of that tabernacle where sins were confessed and proclaimed forgiven by a priest. Jeroboam made two gold calves, one at Bethel and the other at Dan, where the people could worship and make confession because it was too difficult to go to Jerusalem: “*And this thing became a sin*” (1 Kings 12:30).

God loves all people despite our many sins. He merely asks us to repent and to believe the gospel of forgiveness preached to us by a fellow believer. Pray that God would give you, dear believer, the opportunity to speak to others, not of what you think is right or of what you have heard others say or write, but in the light of His Word found in the Bible. We are in the latter days and time is short.

God's Peace,
Charles Korhonen