

FAMILY TIMES

A Home-school Newsletter for New Testament Christians
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PLEASE CHECK YOUR RENEWAL DATE

This issue completes the current school year. This means that some of you will need to renew for next year. Please look at the address label on your envelope. If it shows the number "99" (for 1999), but NOT "00" (for 2000), then you need to renew. By sending your renewal promptly, you should continue to receive *Family Times*, and you save us the trouble of sending out notices.

Those of you who are in our HSLDA discount group should especially remember that you must continue your *Family Times* subscription in order to continue to save money on your HSLDA renewal.

Thanks to everyone for your cooperation and your interest in *Family Times*.

HOW CAN WE BLAME IT ALL ON GUNS?

By Paul Harvey, submitted by Mark Mayberry

[The following is a transcript of Paul Harvey's radio message on 05/08/99. The San Angelo Times printed it on the Editorial Page Letters on Tuesday, April 27, 1999. It discusses the tragedy in which 15 people were slain in a Littleton, Colorado, public high school.]

For the life of me, I can't understand what could have gone wrong in Littleton, Colo. If only the parents had kept their children away from the guns, we wouldn't have had such a tragedy. Yeah, it must have been the guns...

1. It couldn't have been because of half our children being raised in broken homes.
2. It couldn't have been because our children get to spend an average of 30 seconds in meaningful conversation with their parents each day. After all, we give our children quality time.
3. It couldn't have been because we treat our children as pets and our pets as children.
4. It couldn't have been because we place our children in day care centers where they learn their socialization skills among their peers under the law of the jungle while employees who have no vested interest in the children look on and make sure that no blood is spilled.
5. It couldn't have been because we allow our children to watch, on average, seven hours of television a day filled with the glorification of sex and violence that isn't fit for adult consumption.
6. It couldn't have been because we allow our children to enter into virtual worlds in which, to win the game, one must kill as many opponents as possible in the most sadistic way possible.
7. It couldn't have been because we have sterilized and contracepted our families down to sizes so small that the children we do have are so spoiled with material things that they come to equate the receiving of the material with love.
8. It couldn't have been because our children, who historically have been seen as a blessing from God, are now being viewed as either a mistake created when contraception fails or inconveniences that parents try to raise in their spare time.
9. It couldn't have been because our nation is the world leader in developing a "culture of death" in which 20 million to 30 million babies have been killed by abortion.

10. It couldn't have been because we give two-year prison sentences to teen-agers who kill their newborns.

11. It couldn't have been because our school systems teach the children that they are nothing but glorified apes who have evolutionized out of some primordial soup of mud by teaching evolution as fact and by handing out condoms as if they were candy.

12. It couldn't have been because we teach our children that there are no laws of morality that transcend us, that everything is relative and that actions don't have consequences. What the h**k, the president gets away with it.

Nah, it must have been the guns.

A PENNY SAVED AND A STITCH IN TIME

By Janet Metzger

Web Sites and newsletters

For those of you with Internet access, here are some sites you might be interested in for thrifty tips. Some are available as newsletters emailed to you with Internet access not necessary.

www.valupage.com

This is a web site updated weekly. If you enter your zip code, the site brings up 3 different grocery stores from which to choose. Usually I choose the closest and most convenient for us. The site will then show items that you can check off to be printed out. When you present the printed page to the cashier at the grocery, a little printer by the cash register will print out your web bucks. The web bucks can be used on your next visit to the grocery for any food item.

It's really not as complicated as it may sound. For instance, my husband and one of my sons enjoy Morningstar Farm meatless breakfast patties. This is a frequent listing on ValuPage. Often I have a coupon for \$1 off each box, and when I receive a web buck for \$1, the savings add up.

<http://come.to/joys> or <http://members.tripod.com/~joyscpns/joys.html>

This is the site by a lady named Joy who lives in Auburn, KY. She receives coupons from 4 or 5 different states. If interested, you set up an account, by sending whatever amount you wish (\$5, \$10, depending on how often you plan on ordering), then order your coupons from the site which is updated weekly. Usually for the 5-cent coupons you must order a minimum of 5 coupons, but for the larger cents-off coupons you can order 1 or 2 or how many you want. There is a very large selection of coupons from which to choose. If you enjoy couponing, this is a terrific site. She has several people working for her and usually sends the coupons out within 24 hours, unless it is a holiday.

If you wish you enjoyed couponing, but don't really, you might try at least using some of the higher value coupons. Many grocery stores double coupons up to 50 cents, so even if you got in the habit of using those, it could help your pocketbook, especially for frequently purchased items, like diapers, cereal, pet food, etc.

The Dollar Stretcher

This is a newsletter sent out weekly with articles and money-saving tips. To subscribe send email to subscribe-dollar-stretcher-2@xc.org. If you would like the newsletter sent as a text file attachment to an email, send email to subscribe-dollar-stretcher-attach@xc.org.

Other ideas

Summer is fast approaching. Here are a couple of money saving ideas to quench everyone's thirst.

My family *loves* Gatorade, but it is usually fairly pricey. Some stores sell it in canisters of powder that you can mix yourself. You can make 2 gallons for \$3.99 as compared to \$4.19 for 1 gallon if bought readymade.

Water is economical, convenient, and good for you. If you have children involved in sports or you like to go camping or travel, you can save some of the 24 oz. plastic bottles, Gatorade or Powerade bottles, clean them out, fill half full with water and freeze. Before you go to the ballgame, camping, etc., fill the bottles the rest of the way with water. The ice will keep them nice and cold. When you or the children are finished, just throw them away.

The last tip was submitted by Sarah Yeater. She suggested that many over-the-counter medicines are much cheaper if you buy the store brand. Many large stores have their own generic brand of Tylenol, Dimetapp, Robitussin, etc. Just check the ingredients, and often they are identical, for a fraction of the cost.

If any of you have any time or money saving advice you would like to share in future articles, please send them to me privately at metzger@kih.net or forward them to David.

THE PROPER FRAMEWORK FOR TEACHING HISTORY

Mark Mayberry, 1305 Bayou Drive Alvin, TX 77511

We recently attended the Southeast Texas Homeschool Association's Curriculum Fair that was held in Houston, TX. One of the highlights of the event was talking with and listening to Rob Shearer. Owner of Greenleaf Press <www.greenleafpress.com> and author of several interesting and useful books, Shearer has a passion for history. As we attempt to teach our children history, he said that it is important that we do so within the proper framework.

The modern liberal framework for interpreting history is an unshakable belief in progress. This model, largely unquestioned, is very appealing to many. First of all, it is flattering to those who live in the present. If progress is inevitable, we must of necessity be better than our forefathers. Standing atop the ladder of human history, representing the pinnacle of human advancement, we are socially and morally and intellectually superior to all who have come before. Secondly, this view of history is comforting. The modern approach to societal problems is to emote compassion, talk about the issue, allow time to pass, and then confidently expect the problem to go away. Why? Because, based on liberal assumptions, on the graph of human history, we are moving onward and upward. Problems must of necessity solve themselves.

In contrast, consider decline over time as an alternative framework for interpreting history. According to the classical view of history, the ancients remembered a golden age somewhere in the distant past, and viewed subsequent events as a slow, inevitable slide downhill. This could be called Dad's View of History: "Son, in my day, people were better, stronger, wiser. When I went to school, we didn't ride buses. We had to walk for five miles, often through deep snow, and it was uphill both ways!"

Probably a more realistic view is to recognize that history is a re-occurring cycle of advancement and decline. The unique shape of a saw-tooth blade is perhaps the best visual model. Human history is a succession of sharp rises and gradual declines. This illustration is superior to the more familiar idea that historical cycles can be visualized as a circle. A circle implies symmetry between phases. Yet, in reality periods of advancement are often short and quick, encompassing one or two generations, while periods of decline are often slow and gradual, covering many years. Great accomplishments often occur in a very brief span of time, and then succeeding generations live off that stored up capital, until that capital is completely depleted.

Actually, this concept is reflected in the pages of the Bible. Perfection reigned in the Garden of Eden until the fall of Adam, and it has been downhill ever since. Abraham exemplified a spirit of faithfulness, but this quality gradually declined in Isaac and Jacob. Renewal occurred in Joseph, but spirituality suffered in subsequent generations. Moses and Joshua represent high points. During the days of the judges, the saw-tooth analogy is evident in alternating periods of repentance and restoration, followed by long periods of apostasy and punishment. Israel's golden age occurred in the time of David and Solomon. However, after the nation divided, the northern ten tribes, cursed with a succession of wicked leaders, experienced a long, slow slide into barbarism. Although the Southern kingdom had some good kings, providing an upward angle of the saw-tooth pattern, the moral and spiritual life of Judah also declined over time. Punishment lay at the end of the decline.

In more recent times, the Renaissance and the Reformation represent a brief period of remarkable progress. After a period of decline, the next dramatic high point is the founding of the American Republic. However, by many standards of measure, it has been downhill ever since. Thus we see that progress is not inevitable. The graph of our history is not upward and onward. Rather, despite our technological progress, we are in a long period of cultural and moral decline. The question, therefore, is "What lies ahead?" Unless this downward trend is reversed, the answer from both the Bible and history is simple: "Judgment Awaits."

EDITOR'S NOTES

Once again we thank Janet Metzger and Mark Mayberry for their usual excellent material. Thanks also to Heather Joy for her review of Bob Jones texts. Also as promised, we have included another article on Raising Godly Children. It returned due to popular demand (two people asked for it)! ☺

Thanks to all for your interest, and please contact us if you have articles of interest to our readers.

Seven Keys to Raising Godly Children (a series continued)

KEY #5: AUTHORITY

Authority is the right to give instructions and require obedience.

Our age generally rejects and even despises the concepts of authority, rules, law, and duty.

People insist on doing their own thing, being their own person, and having their own way. As one man said to me, "I don't want anybody telling me what to do."

So people demand "freedom" from all restrictions. They object when government is firm with criminals. They object when schools make strict rules and discipline children firmly. They object when strict obedience to truth is preached from the pulpit and when those who do not obey truth are rebuked and disciplined. They even object to the concept of a firm God who hates evil and punishes evildoers!

This rejection of authority is especially obvious in the modern concept of the family. How often do you see TV shows, books, movies, or cartoons that portray a father who is a capable, responsible family leader? Generally, he shares authority equally with the wife, or else he is a bumbler, who is dominated and manipulated by his wife.

Likewise society denies that children should be required to submit to parental authority.

Consider some examples:

Parent Effectiveness Training, introduced by Thomas Gordon, advocates that parents give up all use of power (authority). Conflicts between parent and child must be resolved by finding a course that is mutually agreeable to both parent and child. Children and parents are all forbidden to "impose" their solution on the other. (See the high school text *Parenting and Children*, by H. Westlake, pp. 46-50.)

The Children's Liberation Movement leads young people to rebel against parents like the Women's Liberation movement led women to rebel against their husbands.

We want the power to determine our own destiny. We want the immediate end of adult chauvinism ... Age might once have led to wisdom, but the old have proven themselves unable to deal with present reality ... the young must take the lead... — "Youth Liberation," Youth Liberation Press, via *Christian Inquirer*, 10/79

Child advocate programs, such as state child abuse agencies, are staffed by social workers, many of whom believe these modern views of child liberation. They try to convince parents that they have no right to take firm leadership of their children and that they are subject to government prosecution if they do so!

As a result, many children have their own parents "buffaloed." Parents are afraid to cross their children — afraid the children will throw a fit, run away, get into drugs, report them to the government, or be taken away by government agencies. The children, not the parents, end up being the dominant influence in the home.

Nevertheless, we affirm that proper use of authority is an essential key to successful parenthood.

I. WHY IS AUTHORITY IMPORTANT IN THE HOME?

A. AUTHORITY IN THE HOME IS ORDAINED BY GOD.

Husbands Have Authority Over Wives.

Ephesians 5:22-24 — The wife should obey her husband as the church should obey Christ. Can the church please God if it disobeys Jesus? No, and neither can the wife please God if she disobeys her husband. This applies in "everything." The only exception would be if her husband required her to sin against God (Acts 5:29).

1 Corinthians 11:3 — The head of the woman is the man, just as the head of man is Christ.

1 Peter 3:1,5,6 — Women should be subject to their husbands as Sarah was to Abraham. [See also Tit. 2:5; Col. 3:18.]

Consider this quotation from Judge Samuel Leibowitz, Senior Judge in Brooklyn Criminal Court:

Young people in Italy respect authority ... That respect starts in the home — then carries over into the school, the city streets, the courts.

I went into Italian homes to see for myself. I found that even in the poorest family the father is respected by the wife and children as its head. He rules with varying degrees of love and tenderness and firmness. His household has rules to live by, and the child who disobeys them is punished.

Thus I found the nine-word principle that I think can do more for us than all the committees, ordinances and multi-million-dollar programs combined: *Put Father back at the head of the family.*

The American teen-ager has been raised in a household where “obey” is an outlawed word, and where the mother has put herself at the head of the family. — *Reader's Digest*, March, 1958, via *Plain Truth about Child-Rearing*, p. 7

This is an old quotation, so it may not fit circumstances in Italy today. But the principle stated is still true, because it agrees with the Bible.

Until parents correct their own relationship toward authority, they have no basis to expect children to respect the parents' authority. A husband cannot maintain authority over his children, if he cannot maintain authority over his wife. A wife will never maintain respect from her children, when she refuses to respect the authority of her husband.

Parents Have Authority Over Children.

Proverbs 1:8 — A son should hear his father's instruction, and not forsake his mother's law.

Deuteronomy 21:18-21 — Under the Old Testament, a stubborn and rebellious son, who would not obey his parents, was to be stoned.

Luke 2:51 — Jesus set the example for children by being subject to His earthly parents.

Romans 1:30,32 — Disobedience to parents, like other sins, causes one to be worthy of death. It is wrong to practice disobedience or to take pleasure in others who do so.

Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20 — Children should obey their parents.

Isaiah 3:12 — Describing the woes and wickedness of Israel, God said that children would oppress them and women would rule over them. Likewise our society errs when these oppressive conditions prevail. [Cf. 2 Tim. 3:2; Jer. 35; Phil. 2:22; 1 Pet. 1:14; Prov. 30:17.]

No doubt such teachings as these make some people feel extremely uncomfortable, but all this comes from the word of God. God made both parents and children. He knows what is best for all. If these views seem overly strict to you, then please consider seriously the great likelihood that you have been too influenced by the philosophy of our permissive society.

B. AUTHORITY PRODUCES COOPERATION & ORGANIZATION IN THE HOME.

When people work together, organization and cooperation are needed in order to accomplish good. But organization and cooperation require someone to be recognized as a leader with authority. This explains why God ordained authority in every human relationship that He ordained.

Citizens must submit to civil government

See Romans 13:1-6; 1 Peter 2:13,14.

Imagine what a country would be like if there were no rules, so everyone did as he pleased. We could not even drive down the street — no one would even know what side to drive on or who had the right-of-way at intersections!

Employees must submit to their employers

See Ephesians 6:5-8; 1 Peter 2:18.

Consider what a business would be like with no supervision. If everyone came and went when they pleased, did whatever they pleased whenever they pleased, how would any work get done?

The point is that authority among humans is necessary in order to achieve cooperation. Someone has to be in charge. Without proper leadership, every effort of people to work together would be ruined due to indecision. Likewise in the home, someone has to be in charge. God has ordained that the husband is the head, and the children are to submit to the parents.

(to be continued)

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE FAMILY TIMES PROJECTS

* Discounts for Home School Legal Defense Association membership. Write for more information.

* Hospitality List — If you have signed up, you should receive your copy with this issue. If you have not signed up but want to, please contact us.

* Printed materials about home schooling. Write us or see our web site for details.

INTERESTING QUOTATION

[Editor's Note: Family Research Councils' Ed Facts contained this item. I suspect the comparison between schools and prisons reveals more than was intended.]

The National PTA ... supports Clinton administration education proposals such as federal funding for local school construction. U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley presented National PTA conference attendees with the argument that, "If the federal government can build prisons, they ought to be able to build schools."

BRIEF REVIEW OF BOB JONES TEXTS

Submitted by Heather Joy

We have used two texts published by Bob Jones.

We used the Bob Jones Speech Course, and were very pleased with it. The book begins by teaching a speaker to understand the audience to whom they will be speaking. It discusses choosing a topic and doing research. It defines types of speeches, plays, and debates, and even discusses the speaker's appearance.

The Bob Jones Biology text does not just cover the basics. It contains much material, and would best be covered in two years. To save money, you can just buy the teacher's edition. We found the text very informative.