

FAMILY TIMES

A Home-school Newsletter for New Testament Christians
Edited by Bev & Dave Hewitt and Karen & Dave Pratte
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Review of McGraw-Hill's Spectrum Workbooks

Reviewed by Wayne Walker

There are many different styles, methods, and approaches to homeschooling. Thus, there is no “one-size-fits-all” way of educating children at home, and the beauty of homeschooling is that the parents can tailor their style, method, or approach to fit the needs of their children and the family as a whole. Some in the homeschool movement oppose a “traditional” approach to education, calling it “bringing the school into the home” or “having school at home” rather than what they perceive as true “homeschooling.” While we would all undoubtedly agree that homeschooling is more than just teaching academics to children, certainly the academics must occupy an important place in our homeschooling plans because they are the results that the government will want to see.

For some of us who prefer a little structure in our activities to help us accomplish the aims that we set before us, the use of textbooks from which to learn the fundamentals, especially for the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic, and workbooks with which to practice using those fundamentals, is helpful. If you do not like the use of textbooks and workbooks, or have tried them and they did not work for you, then that is fine with me; I encourage you to find some method that does work for you, and I will promise not to criticize you. I hope and trust that you will not criticize me because of my preferences in homeschooling.

Having said that, when we began homeschooling five years ago, the academy of which we were then a part sent us the Accelerated Christian Education program with its PACE work-texts. These were all right, but they really did not accomplish what we wanted, so beginning with second grade we began using the Mott Media Classic Curriculum that uses the McGuffey Readers, the Ray's Arithmetics, and the Harvey's Grammars as textbooks. There are excellent workbooks written by Rudolph and Betty Moore for reading, writing, and arithmetic which are keyed to these time-tested textbooks.

However, the Mott Media workbooks continue only through the fourth grade. Now that Mark is in fifth grade, I wanted to find some other workbooks in which he could practice using the fundamentals that he has learned and continues to learn, especially in reading, writing, and arithmetic. For over a century, McGraw-Hill has been publishing textbooks and workbooks for use in public schools and for use by parents at home to supplement their children's schoolwork. Now, with the huge increase in homeschooling, they are actively marketing some of their works to homeschoolers as well.

Not long ago, I received a 2001 catalogue from McGraw-Hill Children's Publishing (8787 Orion Place, 4th Floor, Columbus, OH 43241-4027; if interested, you might ask them to put you on their list) of “Educational Materials for the Home — Over 800 products preschool through grade 8.” It contains some 46 pages of educational resources, beginning with their “Learn at Home” series, six books, one each for kindergarten through grade 6, which includes 36 weeks of lesson plans in reading, language skills, spelling math, science, and social studies, with ready-to-use, reproducible activity sheets and full-color illustrations (\$29.95 each). They also have a “Complete Book” series (\$14.95 each) for different subjects and

grade levels, the “Home Education Curriculum” for kindergarten through grade 6 (\$44.99 each), and the “Learning at Home Christian Workbook” series (\$10.99 each), along with other materials for various subjects.

However, the best-known and perhaps most often used series of workbooks published by McGraw-Hill is the “Spectrum” series, and it is these workbooks that I wish to review. In this series, there are books for each grade listed in reading (K-6), Writing (1-8), Language Arts (2-6), Phonics/Word Study (K-6), Dolch Sight Word Activities (K-1), Math (1-8), Spelling (1-6), Geography (3-6), and Enrichment Math and Reading (3-6). I cannot review all the books in the series, but we have chosen the Language Arts (to supplement our reading curriculum), the Writing, and the Math books for grade 5.

It is said that these “workbooks build a solid foundation for learning, so that you can be assured that the skills practiced at home will prepare students to meet the challenges of modern life. Experienced educators from across the country have contributed to these materials, which have been approved by every state’s Department of Education.” While we are only in our second week of the school year as I write this, I have found the “Spectrum” books that we are using to be quite good, helping to hone the basic skills. They appear to be designed as supplements for either classroom or home usage, but they cover such a broad range of material in each subject that it seems that with a little work one could almost possibly use them as a complete curriculum.

Please understand that the books are not written from a uniquely “Christian” perspective, but neither have I found the ones that we purchased to be anti-Christian or ungodly, as is the case with some materials used in government schools. They simply focus on the basic skills involved in learning grammar, writing, and arithmetic the way they used to be when many of us went to public school and actually learned something by continual review and practice of the fundamentals in grammar, writing, and arithmetic. They seem to be quite easily adaptable to the textbooks that we are using, and I recall reading somewhere when I was doing the research that they are designed to supplement any standard curriculum.

You can order the “Spectrum” books directly from McGraw-Hill by writing 251 Jefferson St., M.S. #12, Waldoboro, ME 04572; phoning toll free 1-800-417-3261; or faxing 1-888-203-9361. The books are \$7.95 each plus tax and shipping (free shipping for orders over \$65). However, CBD (Christian Book Distributors; P. O. Box 7000, Peabody, MA 01961-7000; 1-800-247-4787) has them for \$6.35 each. I have also seen them for sale in other homeschool catalogues, religious bookstores that carry homeschool materials, and homeschool conventions. In addition, McGraw-Hill offers a free educational Parent Newsletter if you call their toll-free number or visit their Web site at www.MHkids.com.

A Penny Saved and a Stitch in Time

by Janet Metzger

*****Eating out can be very expensive these days. When my children were younger it was more affordable, because many restaurants offer free meals to children under a certain age. Here are two websites for you to check out to find some of your favorite recipes to try at home: www.topsecretrecipes.com and www.copykat.com.

The local Wal-Mart stopped selling my oldest son’s favorite Taco Bell hot sauce, but I found a recipe on the first website for Taco Bell’s fire sauce. It made a very large portion for much cheaper than I was paying for it.

*****The following are some tips submitted by Rhonda Bosworth. If any of you have any time or money-saving tips you’d like to share, please send them to brother Pratte or myself, and they will be included in the next issue of *Family Times*.

Great Ideas – Some Tips That Work

- 1) Flies or bees bothering you? Spray them with hairspray and they will take a quick dive.
- 2) Sealed envelope - Put in the freezer for a few hours, then slide a knife under the flap. The envelope can then be resealed. (hmmmmmm...)
- 3) Use Empty toilet paper roll to store appliance cords. It keeps them neat and you can write on the roll what appliance it belongs to.
- 4) For icy door steps in freezing temperatures: get warm water and put Dawn dishwashing liquid in it. Pour it all over the steps. They won’t refreeze.
- 5) Crayon marks on walls? This worked wonderfully! A damp rag, dipped in baking soda. Comes off with little effort (elbow grease that is!).

- 6) Permanent marker on appliances/counter tops (like store receipt BLUE!) rubbing alcohol on paper towel.
- 7) Whenever I purchase a box of S.O.S Pads, I immediately take a pair of scissors and cut each pad into halves. After years of having to throw away rusted and unused and smelly pads, I finally decided that this would be much more economical. And now a box of S.O.S pads last me indefinitely! In fact, I have noticed that the scissors get sharpened this way!
- 8) Opening brand new jars can be a feat in itself. Well, I have found a way to make it the easiest thing to do. Instead of banging a jar of jam, pickles, etc., with a knife until it loosens up, I simply reach into the drawer and pull out the handy nutcracker. It adjusts to the size of the jar and I simply give it a good twist and off pops the lid!
- 9) Blood stains on clothes? Not to worry! Just pour a little peroxide on a cloth and proceed to wipe off every drop of blood. Works every time! (Be sure to rinse with water or you'll end up with a hole in the cloth.)
- 10) Use vertical strokes when washing windows outside and horizontal for inside windows. This way you can tell which side has the streaks. Straight vinegar will get outside windows really clean. Don't wash windows on a sunny day. They will dry too quickly and will probably streak.
- 11) Spray a bit of perfume on the light bulb in any room to create a lovely light scent in each room when the light is turned on. Place fabric softener sheets in dresser drawers and your clothes will smell freshly washed for weeks to come. You can also do this with towels and linen.
- 12) Candles will last a lot longer if placed in the freezer for at least 3 hours prior to burning.
- 13) To clean artificial flowers, pour some salt into a paper bag and add the flowers. Shake vigorously as the salt will absorb all the dust and dirt and leave your artificial flowers looking like new! Works like a charm!
- 14) To easily remove burnt-on food from your skillet, simply add a drop or two of dish soap and enough water to cover bottom of pan, and bring to a boil on stovetop.
- 15) Spray your Tupperware with nonstick cooking spray before pouring in tomato based sauces and there won't be any stains.
- 16) When a cake recipe calls for flouring the baking pan, use a bit of the dry cake mix instead and there won't be any white mess on the outside of the cake.
- 17) Wrap celery in aluminum foil when putting in the refrigerator and it will keep for weeks.
- 18) When boiling corn on the cob, add a pinch of sugar to help bring out the corn's natural sweetness.
- 19) Cure for headaches: Take a lime, cut it in half and rub it on your forehead. The throbbing will go away.
- 20). To get rid of itch from mosquito bites, try applying soap on the area and you will experience instant relief.
- 21) Ants, ants, ants everywhere ... Well, they are said to never cross a chalk line. So get your chalk out and draw a line on the floor or wherever ants tend to march. See for yourself.
- 22) Use air-freshener to clean mirrors. It does a good job and better still, leaves a lovely smell to the shine.
- 23) When you get a splinter, reach for the scotch tape before resorting to tweezers or a needle. Simply put the scotch tape over the splinter, then pull it off. Scotch tape removes most splinters painlessly and easily.
- 24) Now look what you can do with Alka Seltzer.
- * Clean a toilet. Drop in two Alka Seltzer tablets, wait twenty minutes, brush and flush. The citric acid and effervescent action clean vitreous China.
 - * Clean a vase. To remove a stain from the bottom of a glass vase or cruet, fill with water and drop in two Alka Seltzer tablets.
 - * Polish jewelry. Drop two Alka Seltzer tablets into a glass of water and immerse the jewelry for two minutes.
 - * Clean a thermos bottle. Fill the bottle with water, drop in four Alka Seltzer tablets, and let soak for an hour (or longer, if necessary).
 - * Unclog a drain. Clear the sink drain by dropping three Alka Seltzer tablets down the drain followed by a cup of Heinz White Vinegar. Wait a few minutes, then run the hot water.

Italic Handwriting Series (Getty and Dubay)

Reviewed by Sally Anne Perz

Our family has used this series successfully from the time our oldest was learning to write. The seven books available are Book A: Basic Italic (14mm), Book B: Basic Italic (11mm, 9mm), Book C: Basic Italic (9mm, 6mm and Introduction to Cursive Italic), Book D: Cursive Italic (6mm, 5mm), Book E: Cursive Italic (6mm, 5mm, 4mm), Book F: Cursive Italic (6mm, 5mm, 4mm), Book G: Cursive Italic (5mm, 4mm), and the Instruction Manual (which you really don't need).

The books loosely correspond to grade levels, but if you work 10-15 minutes a day each book will not last a year. Though I am no handwriting expert, I feel that it has worked well for us to allow the children to proceed at their own pace. For example, our son is not exactly a writing enthusiast; he does the least amount he must do each day (usually a page) and has worked through a book each year successfully. Our daughters beg to do as many pages as they like and have worked through the books more quickly, including coloring the pictures on each page in the first few books.

When the children do each page neatly, they produce very nice and easy-to-read handwriting. With as little as must be done each day, this is not a difficult feat, and the children can work primarily by themselves. I usually introduce them to the letters and sounds the first year, using Book A, while I am teaching them to read. However, in the latter books, they need little or no instruction.

Another thing we really like about the Italic books is that they use such variety for writing practice. The children will write a number of useful words and sentences to include: names, days, months, numbers, planets, countries, and various types of poems. On some pages, they will be asked to assess themselves and choose their best work. We were also pleased to find that the writing is very close to the computer font "Lucida calligraphy" and "Lucida handwriting" which is helpful when I make sheets on the computer for them.

The books are generally five dollars each and are available in most home education catalogs and on amazon.com. We highly recommend them!

Rules for teachers in 1915

These rules were posted in some school rooms in 1915. Today they can be found gathering dust in museums. A search on the Internet should give various sources that document the authenticity of these rules. How times have changed!

1. You will not marry during the term of your contract.
2. You are not to keep company with men.
3. You must be home between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless attending a school function.
4. You may not loiter downtown in ice cream stores.
5. You may not travel beyond city limits unless you have the permission of the chairman of the board.
6. You may not ride in a carriage or automobile with any man unless he is your father or brother.
7. You may not smoke cigarettes.
8. You may not dress in bright colors.
9. You may under no circumstances dye your hair.
10. You must wear at least two petticoats.
11. Your dresses must not be any shorter than two inches above the ankle.
12. To keep the school room neat and clean, you must:
 - * sweep the floor at least once daily
 - * scrub the floor at least once a week with hot, soapy water
 - * clean the blackboards at least once a day
 - * start the fire at 7 a.m. so the room will be warm by 8 a.m.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Beginning with this issue of *Family Times* we have added some more regular contributors. Wayne Walker and Sally Anne Perz have both agreed to contribute material from time to time. Look for the articles in this issue by Wayne and Sally. Meanwhile, Janet Metzger continues to be a regular contributor with her articles on A Penny Saved and a Stitch in Time. We continue to appreciate her contributions.

Please tell a friend about *Family Times*!

by Kelia A Ballou

My husband Troxel and I home schooled our two children Kennon and Marla from birth to high school graduation. After receiving their associate degrees from Florida College, they are now completing their undergraduate education at the University of Texas in Austin. We believe that the things they learned in Scouting helped them to become responsible young adults.

Before joining Scouts, the kids were involved with gymnastics, soccer and judo, among other things. We believe that children's activities should be well rounded so that they will be exposed to a variety of experiences but limited so that they will not have every single minute of their lives structured. We gave our children a choice from several activities, including Scouts. They chose Scouts. We're glad they did.

Kennon was in the 4th grade when he joined Cub Scouts. Marla was in the 2nd grade when she joined Brownie Scouts. Since Troxel and I believed it very important to be directly involved with our children's activities - we were not home schooling our kids to just turn them over to unknown influences in Scouting or anywhere else - we determined to be Scouts (or Scouters, as adults are called) ourselves. Troxel had been a Scout as a child and a Cub Scout Den Leader as a young unmarried adult. I had no Scouting experience at all, other than one year as a Bluebird in the Campfire Girls program. Troxel became Kennon's Cub Scout assistant Den Leader and later an assistant Scoutmaster when Kennon became a Boy Scout. I was Marla's Girl Scout Troop Leader until she graduated from our home-school high school. Kennon earned the Eagle Scout rank, the highest rank in Boy Scouting. Marla earned the Gold Award, the highest achievement in Girl Scouting.

Troxel likes to say that comparing Boy Scouts to Girl Scouts is like comparing apples to onions (or vice versa). They have similarities in composition and use, but they are very different in how they go about doing things.

Boys from first-grade age to 5th grade can join Cub Scouts made up of dens of about 8 to 10 boys. Adult Den Leaders do most of the planning and directing but begin as soon as possible to involve the boys. Activities available to Cubs include earning awards; doing pinewood derby competitions, crafts, and field trips; and limited camping. Many dens make up a pack. Families are encouraged to attend monthly pack meetings to show support for their sons and to recognize their achievements. When a boy is finishing the 5th grade, he can move up to a Boy Scout troop. If there is more than one troop in his area, a boy can choose whichever one he wants to join.

A Boy Scout troop is made up of 5 to over 100 boys headed by an adult Scoutmaster and as many adult Assistant Scoutmasters as can be amassed but led by the boys themselves. Boys are grouped into patrols led by boy patrol leaders. The Senior Patrol Leader is the boy leader of the troop, overseeing all activities with the counsel and direction of the Scoutmaster. (Additionally, both Cub and Boy Scouts need a large network of behind-the-scenes adults to make the programs work.)

Most Boy Scout troops have camping as one of their main activities. Older Scouts teach younger Scouts the skills necessary to camp, including food shopping, cooking, equipment care and set-up, and program while camping. When Troxel and Kennon started Boy Scout camping, our family camping improved greatly, especially the meals.

Other activities Boy Scouts can do include planning and carrying out ceremonies, high adventure backpacking, white-water rafting, canoeing, giving service to the community, and helping other boys with their projects.

Boy Scouts can advance through a series of levels from Scout to Eagle. Each level involves a tenure, earning merit badges, leadership requirements and doing service. Each of these areas greatly enhanced our home schooling, giving Kennon opportunities to learn and experience things that he might not otherwise have had. To complete his Eagle project, for example, he had to research area needs for a potential project; interact with an architect and contractor; solicit funding from several companies and individuals; sell drinks at local sports events to get the rest of his funds; buy, measure and cut lumber; build a play structure while directing others to do most of the actual work; write and submit a report; then be interviewed to evaluate what he had done. These skills will help him all his life.

Unlike Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts of a narrow age range are usually in one troop from when they are in kindergarten (Daisy) through 12th grade (Seniors). Some troops have as many as 40 to 50 girls, but most in our area have between 10-15 girls in each troop. The size criteria for our troop was roughly how many

could fit around our dining room table. Each troop has one leader and at least one co-leader, depending on the troop size. Other adult helpers needed include camping, first aider, and cookie parents.

Girl Scouts promotes many activities that go hand-in-hand with home schooling. The try-its (Brownies), badges (Juniors), and interest projects (Cadettes and Seniors) are earned by doing requirements that expose the Scout to a broad spectrum of information and experiences. We found that many of these areas coincided with Marla's school subjects. Likewise, we found that by enhancing some school requirements, Marla could discharge some schoolwork while earning her Girl Scout awards.

In addition to the awards Girl Scouts can earn are the many activities that they can engage in that they might not otherwise do, e.g., doing crafts and playing games, selling cookies, planning and doing ceremonies, camping, traveling, canoeing, sailing, horseback riding and backpacking. Older Scouts can apply for Wider Ops - opportunities to travel all over the country to participate in different kinds of programs. Scouts of all ages are encouraged to serve their communities. Over the years our troop decorated and donated baby blankets to give to poor mothers who might have nothing more than a newspaper to carry home their newborns from the hospital, collected and sorted food for a food pantry, collected necessary toiletries for county hospital patients, and entertained elderly Alzheimer patients.

As older Scouts our troop raised money for 2 years to go to London, England for nine days. Not only did the girls learn salesmanship and hard work, they also learned that they could have a dream, work towards a goal, and enjoy the fruits of their efforts. It was a great experience. Girl Scouts provided a solid framework from which we could take this trip.

As with any other 'secular' organization, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts have elements that parents - especially Christian parents - need to be aware of and protect their children from. These include exposure to kids who may have little or no moral training, exposure to ideas from the national organizations that may not fit in with a family's goals, and time commitments that could get in the way of more important things.

But the goal of both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts generally is to help build good character in its members while having fun. We believe they accomplished that for our children.

[Editor's note: In addition to the notes Kelia has given, I would add that parents should also be aware of other differences between Boy and Girl Scouts. Boy Scouts, as you may know, are currently under heavy fire from homosexuals and atheists, because the organization maintains its requirement that members must believe in God and homosexuals cannot join. The Girl Scouts, unfortunately, have dropped their requirement of faith in God; and I understand that at the national level, at least, they have adopted some feminist concepts. I am increasingly hearing of pro-family people who are upset with the Girl Scouts organization. No doubt the local leaders will determine the quality of experience any child has in scouting. – Dave Pratte]

Improving Modern Education

A college research paper by Micah R. Sellers

The question of what will make education better for our children is one that will be asked year after year after year. According to Lawrence Reed, president of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, a free-market research and education organization in Michigan, it can stop being asked, because the answer is obvious. "The one ingredient that makes the most difference in how well and how much children learn is parental involvement" (Reed 85). While the school systems are perplexed as to whether it is smaller class sizes, year-round schooling, or bigger and better equipment, a growing number of parents are figuring the secret out on their own, and home educating their children (Reed 85).

Up until the nineteenth century, the home, the church, and the small community school – in that order - were the places where children gained their education. Since then, public schools have, in many cases, become solely responsible. Statistics from a 1996 report from Temple University in Pennsylvania say that one in every three parents are almost completely uninvolved with their children's education, and one in every three children admits his parents have no idea how they are doing in school (Reed 85). Most parents expect the public school system, along with teaching them to read and write, to teach them the ways of the world (Digiacommo 159).

Parental involvement is important so children can see that education is important to success. It is important enough that their mom and dad are going to see to it that it is done right. Too many times adults criticize the public school systems, and complain that it is not giving their child the moral values

that he needs, while they are not being the moral examples and stepping in and doing their duty as they should be. We cannot stop the fact that children learn. They will learn whether they are in school, or at home, or with their friends. Parents need to step in and know what their children are learning (Digiaco-
como 160).

Some parents opt to fix this by getting more involved with their child's school, but amid the mess of the public school system, there are some who Reed refers to as "Heroes" (85). He believes them to be just such because "Home schooling is the ultimate in parental involvement" (Reed 85). While there are many good private and public schools in the nation, and home schooling is not for everyone, those who have chosen that particular path have, for the most part, experienced great success. It is quite a feat for an adult to be able to juggle all the responsibilities of an adult while being a full time, twenty-four hour a day teacher (Reed 86).

Parents choose home schooling for a variety of reasons. Some choose it for religious freedom and a greater moral emphasis, or perhaps others because of their fear of un-safety in the public schools. The reasons they choose make the home-school parent extremely protective of their rights, and the chance of losing them in the past produced a panic among the home-schooling parents. Largely because of the flood of letters and phone calls, the House of Representatives changed their plans, and it turned out to be "One of the most stunning turnabouts in legislative history" (Reed 86).

Moral excellence is probably one of the biggest draws to home schooling. Ultimately, parents are responsible for their children's moral behavior. There is no better way to teach a child to be moral than to show them how to be moral. How much more strongly can one be taught than by watching it and living it all day long, rather than just in the afternoon or evening after school? Home schooling enables one to teach morals while also teaching English, or math, or whatever the subject may be. Public schools often are required to be so politically correct, that they make life seem as though there are no absolutes, and all things are relative to the situation, rather than teaching that there are rights and wrongs, and one must choose the right way. It is so important to instill morality in our children's lives while they are young (Ballmann 89-90).

While skeptics of this alternative form of teaching are concerned with home-schooled children not getting the proper education or the social atmosphere needed to grow into normal adults, the facts are saying just the opposite. A report conducted by the National Home Education Research Institute in 1990 showed home-schooled students to be in the eightieth percentile academically, and reports done by different states have showed that they likewise do strikingly better on college entrance exams. Prestigious schools like Harvard and Yale eagerly accept home-schooled students. "There's simply no evidence that home-schooled children (with a rare exception) make anything but fine, solid citizens who respect others and work hard as adults" (Reed 87).

While home schoolers are commonly accused of being socially awkward, this is a harsh and unfair title. After all, other than in a schoolroom setting, when else would you find a whole room full of one exact age group? This makes the schoolroom an unnatural setting, therefore making it the awkward setting rather than that of the home. On the other hand, home schoolers associate with quite a variety of ages and kinds of people, and learn to get along with all types. In theory, this actually gives home schoolers the potential to be some of the most socially adjusted people around (Ballmann 90-91).

A comic strip by cartoonist Chuck Asay entitled "The Evolution of Education in America" begins by showing a small log cabin with a mother standing outside the door calling to her children to come in for their lessons. The next box shows the private schools, followed by public education, then the "consolidated, open-classroom concept" school, then the "value-free, outcome-based, inclusive, politically correct" school. The final block shows a small house with a mother standing outside the door calling to her children to come in for their lessons (Reed 87). His point really hits home. After scratching our heads year after year trying to decide what is missing in our nation's education program, what we finally come back to is that education starts and stops in the home. "No conventional school can hold a candle to a home school where the parental ingredients of love, responsibility and commitment are found" (Ballmann 102).

EDITORIAL NOTES

We want to thank Kelia Ballou and Micah Sellers for the articles they submitted for this issue of *Family Times*. We appreciate their contributions, and we hope you find them helpful. We would be glad to receive articles from any of our other subscribers too!

Seven Keys for Raising Godly Children (a series by Dave Pratte)

Key#6: Motivation (continued)

II. REWARDS AS A FORM OF CONTROL

Some parents act as though controlling children is entirely a matter of punishment. They never give rewards and sometimes speak as though they think it is wrong to do so. But consider a Biblical defense of using rewards in raising children.

A. REWARDS FOR OUR SERVICE ARE PART OF LIFE.

Luke 10:7 — The laborer is worthy of his wage. On the other hand, lazy, negligent workers do not receive these rewards. (See Matt. 25:14-30; 20:1-15; James 5:4; 1 Cor. 9:6-14; 1 Tim. 5:17,18; Eph. 4:28; 2 Thess. 3:10).

Men do not work on a job simply for the fun of it. We rightly expect a reward in the form of material goods, etc. We also expect people who benefit from our labors to express appreciation for our work. All this is as it should be.

One of parents' main duties is to prepare children for life when they leave home. In life they have the right to expect rewards for their labor. Why should we not teach them this by rewarding them as they grow up?

B. GOD REWARDS PEOPLE FOR THEIR SERVICE.

Hebrews 11:6 — God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. He often rewarded Israel for their faithfulness (Deut. 28:1,2ff). In the New Testament He promises us all spiritual blessings in this life if we serve Him (Eph. 1:3), and we will receive eternal life at the Judgment if we are faithful (Rom. 8:14,17; 2:6-11; etc.)

God does not just punish evil, but He also rewards good. This always has been and always will be a fundamental part of the Divine nature. If we are going to use the fact that God chastises us as proof we should chastise our children, then shouldn't we be consistent and also imitate His example of rewarding good? Remember that God is our perfect example of a father. By using rewards as well as punishments, we help our children understand the true nature of our Heavenly Father.

C. A BIBLE EXAMPLE OF PARENTAL REWARDS

Luke 15:20-24 — When the prodigal son returned, after determining to turn from wrong and start doing right, the father kissed him, rejoiced, and gave a feast in his honor. Giving rewards and expressions of appreciation is simply a matter of being grateful (Rom. 13:7).

This does not mean the child should be paid money for everything he does. In the first place, he should be led to understand that his parents are already providing him with food, clothes, shelter, etc., and the child in fact owes it to the parent to be willing to work for what he already receives. If the laborer is worthy of his reward, then the children owe it to the parents to do work in return for all the work the parents do for the child! And especially in spiritual matters, children need to learn the value of deferring their reward till judgment day, not necessarily expecting immediate rewards for serving God.

The nature of the reward should be a matter of the parents' good judgment. Money is just one of many possible rewards. We should especially emphasize praise and expressions of appreciation as rewards (Rom. 13:7; Matt. 25:21).

Parents should use their ingenuity. Frequently children ask parents, "Can we go do ..." We often respond, "If you'll do this work first, then you may what you requested to do." Perhaps you would read a book to the child after he picks up his toys. Perhaps you could pay an allowance to an older child for special jobs he does. The point is to give pleasant results to reward the child for doing good as well as giving unpleasant consequences for failing to do good.

EDITORIAL NOTES

As we begin another new school year, *Family Times* has made a few changes. We have now permanently dropped our State Contact and Hospitality List features, but as mentioned elsewhere, we have added some new regular contributors.

In addition, Wayne Walker has agreed to become our curricula review editor. He will be contacting people to ask them to "volunteer" to write reviews of various home-school materials. Some of you may hear from him from time to time with his requests. We appreciate Wayne's work.

Thanks again for your interest in *Family Times*.