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Eternal Salvation

If you have never personally believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, consider this the opportunity of a lifetime, your eternal lifetime.

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved.” (Acts 16:31)

“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not believe in the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on Him.” (John 3:36)

“For by grace you have been saved through faith; it is a gift from God, not of works lest anyone should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8,9)

How to Maximize Your Time Reading this Book

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” (John 14:26)

The Holy Spirit is the power for learning and applying the Word of God. He is the power for the Christian life; but He can only empower us if we have no unconfessed sin in our life. When we sin, we quench or extinguish the power of God the Holy Spirit in our lives (1Thessalonians 5:19). That is why it is important to name any sin immediately so that we maintain the power for the spiritual life.

“If we confess our sins (to God the Father), He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

Christian Parenting is a Free Publication

This book is provided freely at no cost to anyone. God in His grace provides us His Word and all that we need to fulfill His will and plan for our life. His grace provided everything needed to write this book.

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PREFACE

Children to me were obnoxious annoyances with little importance. They were just little ankle-biters, rug-rats, and curtain-climbers. When at all possible, I avoided them. Even once my wife Ruthanne, persuaded me that we should have children, I was still secretly hoping it would not happen. That all changed once we had our first daughter Maggie. When I held our little girl in my arms for the first time, I was smitten. Not long after that, we had our second daughter Kate. Fast forward 18 years, and here I am writing a book on Christian parenting, which is a testimony to God's grace, and how He uses circumstances to direct our path.

In the winter of 2020, I visited Tom and Cheryl Molinar, my dear friends who are missionaries in South Africa. They asked if I would be willing to speak about Christian parenting to the pastors and leaders, they were training. That led me to teaching several sessions on the subject. Afterwards, Tom and Cheryl suggested I consider putting the lessons into a book. That was the impetus for what follows. I hope you enjoy reading the book as much as I enjoyed writing it.

The information provided is from three major sources. The first and foremost is the Bible, which is the infallible Word of God. Most of the Biblical information contained herein I learned under the teaching ministries of R.B. Thieme, Jr., and R.B. Thieme, III, pastors of Berachah Church in Houston, Texas (www.berachahchurch.org). The second source is my mother and father, Alma and Bud Wilson, who faithfully saw to it that my sisters and I received Bible teaching from a very early age. The last source is the personal experience of raising two daughters, who are now a junior and senior in high school. Ruthanne and I are fortunate because our daughters are believers in Jesus Christ and are still positive toward daily Bible teaching.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE

Ruthanne and I have been married for 22 wonderful years, and each year gets better and better. For the last 18 years, we have been unified in the critical task of raising our girls so that they will be young adults prepared for life. Our success in that is in large part due to Ruthanne. We were blessed that she was able to be home with the girls all the way during their growing years up until they started high school. Ruthanne is not only a devoted wife, but a loving mother, and a strong example to our girls when they have their own families. She has tirelessly and unselfishly given her time in nurturing, caring, teaching, and training them. She taught them God's Word, especially when they were very little, as only a mother can. She was always there to tend to their boo-boos and care for them when they were sick. Ruthanne imparted manners, including the lost art of hand-written, thank you notes. She re-taught school subjects, helped with homework, and supported the girls in their every interest, sport, and activity. She shuttled the girls between school, games, piano recitals, ballet performances, etc. She was everywhere at once. I have no idea how she musters so much energy all the while taking good care of me and keeping our home in order and on track. Ruthanne exemplifies the wife of Proverbs 31. Any success we have with Maggie and Kate, you can look no further than their mother to understand why.

INTRODUCTION

Children are a work in progress. Parents lay a foundation, and then build on it every day, until one day, they discover their children are no longer children. They are young adults making their own decisions and choosing their own way in life. Children will either leave home with some degree of understanding, discernment, insight, and wisdom, thus having the potential for great happiness in life; or they will leave without any clue as to what life is really all about. They will be “trying to find themselves,” rather than letting God’s plan for their life unfold in His perfect timing. They will seek all manner of fulfillment and pleasure in life totally unaware of what really is important in life, or they will patiently wait content with God’s plan regardless of the circumstances. The difference is their attitude toward the Word of God, and as parents, you are foundational to that.

When you see your children using God’s Word in their everyday lives, it brings great joy to your soul. Ruthanne and I know that first-hand. To have this joy takes work. Parenting is hard work, but it is richly rewarding.

“I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.” (3 John 1:4)

Your greatest guide for parenting is in your soul – not this book. If you are growing *daily* in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, as we are mandated to do in 2 Peter 3:18, then you are acquiring the understanding, insight, discernment, and wisdom needed to raise your children. This book can be a good supplement, but there is no substitute for wisdom in your own soul accumulated over time from learning Bible doctrine under the authority of a well-qualified pastor-teacher who accurately teaches the Scriptures.¹

Don’t worry about your ability as a teacher. God will help you and provide all the training ideas and materials you need. God has assigned you the responsibility to train up the child in the way they should go.

¹ Throughout this book, the term Bible doctrine is used to connote all that is found in a verse or passage of Scripture. The verses of the Bible have many layers of understanding. We can spend a lifetime in deep and fervent study of the Word and only begin to scratch the surface. Such are the riches contained therein. And thus, when the term Bible doctrine is used, it is an expression intended to capture all the content available to us in the Scriptures.