

The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)
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TEACH US

Larry R. Ping II

Teaching is important. It is the only way one can learn something. And although one can be “self-taught,” much more often, learning is the product of being taught by someone else with more knowledge than us. Some folks in the Bible understood this concept, and asked for instruction. We must be the same. Consider these instances of such.

1. TEACH US WHAT WE SHALL DO UNTO THE CHILD. This was the plea of Manoah, the father of Sampson (Jdg. 13:8). He wanted to learn how to raise this unexpected child. We need more parents to today interested in learning to raise children in the right ways of the Lord. Fathers are instructed to raise their children “*in the nurture and admonition of the Lord*” (Eph. 6:4). The older women are to teach the younger women “*to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands*” (Tit. 2:4-5). Becoming a parent is a wonderful thing. Becoming a parent willing to teach children to be godly is better!

2) TEACH US WHAT WE SHALL SAY. Elihu included this in his speech in the latter part of the book of Job (Job 37:19). We all should possess the attitude of wanting to be taught what to say, when to say it and how to say it. Experience helps teach us. But the Bible speaks of “*sin of their mouth and the words of their lips*” (Psa. 59:12). We must be careful to watch our speech, for “*by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned*” (Matt. 12:37). James warned, “*the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell*” (Jam. 3:6). May we be wise in how we choose to talk (or not talk in certain circumstances), knowing “*Death and life are in the power of the tongue*” (Prov. 18:21).

3) TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAYS. Moses said, “*The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly*

away. Who knoweth the power of thine anger? even according to thy fear, so is thy wrath. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom” (Psa. 90:10-12). We need to be taught, one way or another, about the brevity of life. Life is referred to as a “*vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away*” (Jam. 4:14). Peter mentioned, “*For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away*” (I Pet. 1:24). Solomon warned, “*Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth*” (Prov. 27:1). May we learn early and well, our days upon this earth are numbered. This being so, may we “*live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ*” (Tit. 2:12-13).

4) TEACH US OF HIS WAYS. In prophecies concerning the coming of the Lord’s church, both Isaiah and Micah made the call (cont.)

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to be taught the ways of God (Isa. 2:3; Mic. 4:2). Peter and the other apostles did just that on the day of Pentecost when they preached about “*Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs*” (Acts 2:22). Paul emphasized the importance of teaching when writing, “*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*” (Rom. 10:13-17). The Psalmist had a great attitude towards the need for being taught. Psalm 119 especially stands out. It is written, “*teach me thy statutes*” (Psa. 119:12,26,33,64,68,124,135).

The Psalmist also said, “*Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments*” (Psa. 119:66). May we always be teachable, as was Apollos in Acts 18:24-26.

5) TEACH US TO PRAY. Luke records, “*And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples*” (Lk. 11:1). Derived from this scripture is the fact one needs to be taught how to pray. One does not learn this skill automatically. Jesus would first offer a model prayer. He said, “*After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. For if ye*

forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (Matt. 6:9-15). Jesus used this model prayer to teach about the core needs of a prayer. They include respect for the Father, the need to submit to God and His will, humbly requesting daily necessities, seeking help and strength from the Father, and the ever-present need for help with temptation and forgiveness.

Paul encouraged the Philippians to “*Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God*” (Php. 4:6). Later he would exhort the Thessalonians to “*Pray without ceasing*” (I Thess. 5:17).

May we ever live to be righteous, for “*the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil*” (I Pet. 3:12).

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm