THE VALIDITY OF INSTRUCTION

**DATE: 5/24/2015 pm**

**TEXT: Proverbs 4:1-9**

**INTRODUCTION**

**v.1** talks about ***“Instruction”***

***“Instruction”*** *– the teaching process or something taught*

The teacher in this case, is the parent and is instructing the pupil (child) in the matter of wisdom

The teaching/instruction of the home is emphasized in this text

It is not the Sunday school or the public school or even the Christian School for that matter

But the parents who are chiefly responsible for teaching their children, especially in the areas of wisdom

The Instruction given is to be *valid*

**Valid –** *something that is reasonable and effective*

The validity of Instruction is emphasized in 3 distinct ways by the one giving the Instruction

Let’s pray and then look at that thought

***“The Validity of Instruction”***

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. THE “TRAINER” - v.1**

***“Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding”***

Who is the Primary Trainer?

**A.** ***“a father”***

The ***“father”*** is the trainer

The Fathers have the primary responsibility for training their family / children

Today we complain about the lack of capability of our teachers

The real problem of lack, however, is with the fathers who have failed miserably to train their children properly

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

My question now is *“Who is going to train the Fathers?”*

**II Timothy 3:16, 17 –** ***“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:” “That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works”***

God’s Plan is for the church to do that

Who are to be Instructed / trained?

**B. *“Children”***

It obvious that the children are the objects of instruction

And God expects parents to educate their children

Let’s look at a few verses

**Genesis 18:19 *– “For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him”***

**Deuteronomy 4:9, 10 *– “Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;”
 “Specially the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children”***

**Deuteronomy 11:19 – *“And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up”***

**Isaiah 38:19 – *“The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day: the father to the children shall make known thy truth”***

**Ephesians 6:4 – *“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord”***

Children are always learning

If the parents fail to teach them …the children will learn from other sources

The Child’s responsibility is to …

**C. *“Hear”***

The word ***“hear”*** is a call for undivided attention

It asks for complete concentration on what is spoken

To attend to instruction one must pay attention to *every word* of instruction

***“attend”*** - intransitive verb that means *to listen or pay close attention to somebody or something*

***“Attend to know”***

Listen and learn from those who have been there and been through it

The experience of age is an advantage if it gets a child’s attention

How do we get their attention?

By getting their hearts

**Proverbs 23:26 *– “My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways”***

So how do we do that? (creditability)

I suggest that you genuinely love and respect them

When they know you do, they will respond to you in just about every thing

The appeal here for someone’s attention is necessary because … of our default setting

So many are unwilling to listen (unfortunately)…

What is said often *goes in one ear and out the other*

They do not attend to instruction because they do not allow it to take hold

They are unwilling to listen

Some do not want to hear because they feel they are already **too busy**

They don’t have time to listen

If there is no time to listen … there will be plenty of time to regret it later

Some do not want to listen because they are **too big**

They have an inflated idea of their intelligence and think they know it all

They don’t hold on to instruction because they really never catch it,

Because they think they are smarter than their parents

Some don’t want to learn because they are **too** **blind**

They can’t see their noses before their faces

They think of their teachers as old and out of date

**THE “TRAINER”**

**II. THE “TEACHER” –v.2**

The Trainer is the Physical medium by which the Teaching is applied

The first Teacher is …

**A. Good Doctrine**

***“For I give you good doctrine”***

***“Doctrine”*** are the principles that form the basis of our beliefs

The Validity of Instruction is also found in the fact that it is ***“good doctrine”***

Most everything taught in our public schools today would not qualify as good doctrine

The world has forsaken the ways of God

But Godly wisdom is always ***“good doctrine”***

Therefore we must not forsake its teaching

Valid teaching must be respected and accepted readily

Not cast aside as out-of-date

Not all doctrine is good

Some doctrines are the ***“doctrines of devils”***

**I Timothy 4:1 –** ***“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils”***

Some doctrines are ***“doctrines of men”***

**Colossians 2:22–*“Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?”***

Some doctrines are ***“strange doctrines”***

**Hebrews 13:9a –** ***“Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines”***

The good doctrine that was to be received came from...

**B. The Law (The Bible)**

***“…forsake ye not my law”***

It was ***“my”*** Law because the teacher had embraced it

According to **Ps. 119** the Bible has many names

The ***“Law”*** is just one of them

Commandments, Precepts, Judgments, Statutes, testimonies

… Are some of the other … just to name a few

Why is the Bible so important in our lives?

**1.** We Grow Spiritually as Individuals by it

A 30-minute sermon once a week is not a sufficient time in the Word

If we expect to mature as followers of the Lord,

We must commit to a lifestyle of letting the Word of Christ dwell in us

**Colossians 3:16 –** ***“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord”***

**2.** Our Churches will be Healthier for it

Healthy churches are made up of healthy members

Church members who dwell in the Word overflow with the fruits of the Spirit

They are patient, loving, joyful, and others-focused

**3.** We than can Reach more for Christ with it

Biblical literacy is the foundation for soul winning and missions

We should not expect to be motivated to tell others about God’s love for them if we are not engaged in His Word ourselves

Conversely, when we are dwelling in the Word and it is dwelling in us

We can’t help but tell others the Good News of Christ

Our Teacher is the Holy Spirit and the Word of God

He emphasizes the importance of not forsaking the Word of God

**THE “TRAINER”**

**THE “TEACHER”**

Now let’s look at …

**III. THE “TESTIMONY” – vs.3-9**

The trainer or teacher of this Instruction now gives the testimony of his credentials for teaching

Why he felt he made a Good Teacher

**A. The ‘Teachers’ – v.3, 4**

***“For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother” “He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live”***

The qualifications for this father in our text is that he received excellent training from his Parents

His father and mother fulfilled their obligations in teaching and showing affection for him

Therefore he is eminently qualified to teach

We know he embraced it like his father

His father uses the personal pronoun ***“my”*** as well

***“my words”, “my commandments”***

**II Tim. 2:2 *– “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also”***

Parents teaching their children is proof of their love for them

We teach by what we do and by what we do not do

If we do not take an active role in teaching our children

We are still teaching, but in the worst kind of way

**B. The ‘Teaching’ – vs. 5-9**

The *teachings* given by the teacher/trainer were excellent

I’d like to note the 5 areas of what he taught

**1.** The Securing of Wisdom – **v.5**

***“Get wisdom, get understanding”***

This is a summary of the counsel the child is to seek

In all your seeking, seek wisdom

**2.** The Steadfastness for Wisdom – **vs. 4-6**

***“Let thine heart retain my words... forget it not... Forsake her not”***

Keep wisdom in your heart, be faithful and steadfast to retain wisdom

Do not forsake wise conduct

**3.** The Superiority of Wisdom – **v.7**

***“Wisdom is the principal* [first] *thing*"**

The principal thing does not mean it is the only thing

But it is the thing that goes before other things

There are many things that can claim our attention

But wisdom needs to be at the top of the list

It is more important than anything else that can be listed

Because of its superiority it must be sought

It is a prized possession that must be purchased with the price of pursuit

There is no danger in getting too much and it will be worth the greatest effort to get it

Wisdom is the most important subject in the curriculum of learning

Major on wisdom

You may seek to major on other areas

But make Wisdom your priority

**4.** The Support of Wisdom – **v.8**

***“Exalt her... embrace her”***

Support wisdom by honoring wisdom and by holding tenaciously to it

**5.** The Splendor of Wisdom – **v. 9**

***“She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace; a crown of glory*...”**

Wisdom adorns the person with great splendor

It glorifies

Of course, the only way the world will see the glory of Wisdom is the way it is adorn in a believer’s life,

For they do not have the eyes to perceive real Wisdom

**CONCLUSION**