

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden

Matthew 5:14

Store In My Heart

1Peter 4:16

Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

Suffering for evil should be expected. There should be shame. Suffering because one serves Christ should never cause shame. In fact, it should cause us to give even greater praise to God.

The time may come when we must serve Christ with full knowledge that such service might bring us physical harm and loss. We must not let fear of such keep us from serving, but should proudly serve even in face of such dangers so that God will be glorified by our life.

Our life is not our own. We have given it to Christ and all that we do must give glory to Him and the Father. Let us be careful to stand firm on the commands and teachings found in His inspired Word no matter the cost to self.

The Power of Influence

Philip Wismer

In these busy and stress filled times; in a world characterized by rapidly deteriorating moral standards, it would be well for us to fully appreciate that we can and are continually influencing others. *"No man liveth to himself and no man dieth to himself"* (**Romans 14:7**).

No matter what our station in life may be, we are influencing someone else. We can either lead them to a higher and better life, or we can lead them downward. Many who we may scarcely know and never think of as being affected by our "manner of life" nevertheless are. This realization should motivate in each of us some sobering and serious thinking.

We can no more prevent what we are, what we do and what we say from influencing all we contact than we can prevent our bodies from throwing a shadow in the sunshine. Our conduct, our conversation reflects the things we are most interested in. If our interests are in things pure, things healthful, these are the things we do and talk about and will to some extent, at least, promote in others a desire to participate in the more wholesome things in life.

We, as parents, should realize the influence we exert over our families. The younger parents especially should recognize how quickly children can detect any defects or deceits in our lives and perhaps lose respect for us and the better things of life. Most parents like to have their children



Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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For Our Information

Betty Ragsdale went to the wound doctor last week.

Amy Simpson is seeing some relief after a shot for her back pain.

Camille Matthews is still in the hospital.

Theresa and John LaValla are out of quarantine.

Mention each other in prayer to the Father.

Tonight we start with 1Kings 10.

Wednesday we are in 1Timothy 4:6.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

attend bible study regularly, but are themselves often careless about regular attendance at the worship services. The children usually attend until young adulthood and then just stop. Why? Were they not influenced by the parental indifference? Who do you think may be held responsible for these children going out into the world without God, without Christ, without a hope beyond this life?

There are so many examples in the Bible of the lasting impressions for good and for evil that parents pass on to their children. Paul reminds Timothy of the *"unfeigned faith that is in thee: which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice"* (2Timothy 1:5).

Yes, influence is a most powerful thing; it never dies. True, when physical death comes to each one of us, our opportunities to be examples are past, but our "works" still speak. We read, *"Abel ...he being dead yet speaketh"* (Hebrews 11:4).

(I found this article in a folder named "articles'ready" on Dad's computer. At the bottom of the article he had included this, (This article was written by Philip Wismer in 1965. He was an elder of the Jordan church of Christ, Jorday, Ontario Canada until his death in 1970). If you think about it, the article itself is a testament to the teaching it provides. I have never heard of Philip Wismer and this article was written just a year or so after I was born, in a country that I have never visited. Yet I can learn a powerful lesson by reading this message and giving serious thought to the teaching it contains. That is the power of influence. If such an article can have an effect on my understanding of responsibility, imagine the effect you have on the people with whom you interact on a daily basis.

I have a cousin who has never obeyed the Gospel. One of the reasons he gave me long ago was how his cousins and friends who had obeyed were doing more things contrary to the teaching of Scripture after obedience than they did before. I am sad to say that I was included in that number. Our bad actions were a hindrance to his obedience. This illustrates, vividly, in my mind the lesson of influence. "You are the light of the world." DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!