



# The Tri-Cities Edifier

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## “His Parents Were Too Strict”

- by Boyd Sellers

Have you ever heard that statement? You'll see some scraggly kid who cares about nothing and nobody, who has long ago left the Lord (though he may have been faithfully “going to church”), and who has literally broken his parents hearts. You ask a friend, “What happened to him?” And he answers, “His parents were too strict - they made him assemble when the saints assembled - they made him dress modestly - they made him keep himself clean - etc., etc., etc.”

HIS PARENTS WERE TOO STRICT?? I don't believe it for a minute! They may have been inconsistent, or the child may have been rebellious, but too strict? I don't think so.

It is important that we understand that God demands that parents be strict. God commands that children obey their parents (Eph. 6:1) and honor their parents (vs 2). Fathers are commanded to “bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (vs 4). That requires strictness and discipline. It requires a decided attitude about what that father wants his child to be morally and spiritually.

Now, if you're talking about the parent who is ungodly, who wants his children to be something that he doesn't intend to be, that's HYPOCRISY. Or if you're talking about the child of godly parents who makes up his mind that he's not going to live right, that's REBELLION. But, remember, a child doesn't ruin his life simply because a godly mother and father were “too strict.” He had to go wrong IN SPITE OF all that they did for him. God demands that parents be strict. (see also Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:6, 15; 23:13-14; 29:15,17).

## THE VALUE OF YOUR FAITH

Carlton McPeak

Peter writing to the Christians who were “scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia” (I Peter 1:1) said their faith was “more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire” (1:7). Peter uses this very valuable metal to illustrate the value of our faith.

God will use this faith to protect us. This faith will result in our “praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (1:7). Ultimately this faith will result in “the salvation of our souls” (1:9).

With all these benefits and blessings resulting from our faith, how valuable do we consider our faith?

Things which are valuable to us, we take special care to protect them. Extreme care is exerted when we move that special piece of furniture. Hugh amounts of time is spent polishing that special automobile, which is the “apple of our eye.” Future generations will see us taking special care of that family heirloom and we will spend hours telling them about its history.

If our faith is special to us, should we not be taking the same actions? Would we not try to be constantly trying to “polish it up”? If it is more valuable to us than an heirloom, would we not be trying to “pass along” our faith to the next generation? Would we not take some pride in knowing that our faith is going to help us in praising God as well as one day saving our souls?

Our faith comes as a result of our hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17). If our faith is extremely valuable to us would

we not want to spend time hearing the word of God so that our faith would be growing? It seems reasonable to me that we would want to take advantage of every opportunity to learn something about God, His message, His Son and how the body of believers are to conduct themselves within the church and the community.

Attending multiple weekly services would be considered a joy and not a burden. A daily devotional would be something that we make sure we put into our schedule as an appointment which cannot be missed. Opportunities to discuss the word of God with people, especially fellow Christians, would be something we would consider as an extremely valuable use of our time.

Evidence shows that people who value something will spend time with that item. They will pay attention to the care and protection of the asset. Faith is something which we own and it should be extremely valuable to us. The value of your faith will be seen in your life as you are living God's way.

## What To Do With Our Time

Jim Deason

My grandmother once told me that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" and my grandmother was most always right. If you were among those who listen to me preach on a regular basis you would find that I say a lot about my grandmother. She was a veritable storehouse of illustrations and information. She was a woman who loved God and godly people. Though there was always a place for hard work (she couldn't abide with laziness) she knew how important it was for a young boy to learn how to laugh and enjoy life.

Solomon would have understood my grandmother. He said, "A joyful heart makes a cheerful face, But when the heart is sad, the spirit is broken" (Prov. 15:13) and again, "A joyful heart is good medicine, But a broken spirit dries up the bones" (Prov. 17:22). It is always to be understood that such merriment is to be kept in proper perspective with regard to the expenditure of both time and money. Solomon taught, "He who loves pleasure will become a poor man" (Prov. 21:17). Excess in most anything is not good. Recreation is an important part of our lives but it must be governed by certain principles. Here a few questions that I found from some long forgotten source that can help you as you determine how you spend your leisure time.

1. Is it right?
2. Do godly people generally do it?
3. Will it interfere with my family, school, or work?
4. Will it produce good or bad habits?
5. Will it lead into the places that are questionable?
6. Will my example and influence be injurious to others?
7. Will I associate with questionable people to be amused?
8. Can I afford the cost of time and money?
9. Do I have other obligations that should be paid first?
10. Is this amusement building or destroying my family?
11. Do I spend more time being amused than worshipping?
12. Would the Lord be amused by what I am amused?
13. Would my actions and deeds during this amusement please Jesus?
14. Would I be able to be taken to be with the Lord if he came while I was being amused?