

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nov. 6, 2011



How to Make Sure My Son Goes to Hell

by Carl Jenkins

As I write this, my son Benjamin is now four months old. Every day it seems as if he is learning something new. Every day it seems as if he is better able to understand the world around him. He can take in and better reason what is going on and why, and learns from that. As he grows older, he will be able to learn and process even more, and I imagine he will look for others to help teach him. Kristen and I, as his parents, will hold the most responsibility in teaching and training him in the best possible way to live his life. In considering this, I began to wonder how I could make sure his eternal life is spent in hell. I know my son will always have free-will to choose, but I can surely do my part in trying to make sure his life is one that leads him to hell right?

First, I'll make sure I never study the Bible in front of him. If I make sure this happens, Benjamin will learn to have no concern for God's Word. Whenever he needs to know the truth about science and how we this all came to be, he may miss out on the only explanation that makes any sense, but at least he won't have to worry about what the rest of the world thinks about him.

Benjamin will surely face problems and need to know how to deal with his internal and external conflicts. If he grows up learning to have no respect for the Bible, he'll never have to worry about making sacrifice and learning lessons from the only book that so perfectly teaches one how to have the best answer to that internal and external conflict, but can simply do what he feels is right and act selfishly, but as long as he'll be happy it must be right.

Besides, Christians as a whole must not believe that the studying the Bible with and in front of their children is that important anyway. Most Christian parents claim to want their child to go to heaven, and yet will never open up their Bible in front of their child or with their child, and yet believe their child will be properly trained to live a life on the road to heaven. Most Christian parents seem to believe that they can train their children through actions to have to respect for God's Word, the word by which all will be judged, and that child will know that path to walk. Common sense says that this cannot be true, but I know that if I want to make sure my son goes to hell, one thing I can do is just keep my Bible closed.

Second, if I want to make sure Ben gets to hell, I'll never act like a Christian in front of him. In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul noted that we are all living epistles, known and read of all men (II Cor. 3:2). If I want to ensure that my son goes to hell, then I'll just act like someone who wants to go there myself. I'll make sure to be lazy and selfish. I'll put myself first, my family second and God last, always. I'll make sure to use profanity and take the Lord's name in vain and make...

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you... (1 John 1:5).

**VISITORS,
WELCOME!**

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Class

10:30 a.m. WORSHIP

5:00 p.m. WORSHIP

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

We have Bible classes for
all ages & Pew Packers
on 1st & 3rd Sundays at
4:15 p.m.

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...sure to harm my body with cigarettes, alcohol and poor eating habits. I'll handle my finances poorly, but at least I'll have all of the material things I want.

Once again, many Christian parents claim to want to lead their children to heaven, yet choose to rarely act like a Christian before them. I cannot understand how a parent could think this way of life would lead a child to heaven at all. Throughout the Bible, parents are constantly reminded that the children will follow after their parents (Deut 11:19-21; Pro. 22:6; II Tim. 1:5-6), and yet many think this can be disregarded and their child will be fine. In all truth, they are leading their child down the path to hell, and if want to make sure my son goes to hell, I just need to follow their example of living a non-Christian life.

Third, if I want to make sure my son goes to hell I'll never encourage him to care for others. I'll always remind him that life is all about him. I've been slacking in my duties though already. He already has one onesie that states, "It is all about me" and my wife and I have yet to put him in that. We'll need to do better at training him to believe his life is the only one that matters. As he grows, this thought will become a way of life. He'll forget scripture such as James 1:27, Galatians 6:10 and II Corinthians 9:13. When he sees someone in need, he will simply pass them by, understanding that because they most likely put themselves in that position, they deserve to stay that way. Hopefully it will become so set in his nature, that he'll come to believe that his desires are above that of God's commands. I'll begin to pray daily that he never reads the proverb that states, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Pro 16:25) lest he come to believe there is something more important than he.

I see many parents today who do their best to instill this lifestyle in their children who still want to claim they are leading their child to heaven. Once again, I fail to understand how this can be. Parents that make sure their child has every single thing they want, and every decision the parents make revolve around what the child wants. Christian parents constantly teach their children that the child's interest in sports, or work are reasonable excuses to forsake the assembly as it is where the child would rather be. The Bible constantly reminds the reader that God always comes first and foremost and others after that. Philippians 2:7-8 shows that Christ was a servant and humble before all men, and he taught his apostles to follow after this example. If I want to make sure my son goes to hell, I'll be sure to never suggest to him that anyone or anything comes before him.

Fourth, I'll never force him to attend services. Most Christians only study the Bible three times on Sunday and once on Wednesday and as I'll never be reading the Bible with or in front of him this is really the only logical step in the whole process. I'll just consistently do my best to keep him from knowing anything about God's Word.

Of course, all parents know that if you force your child to attend the assembling of the saints it will only push them away from it in the end. Of course, as a parent I'll still make my child eat, brush his teeth and go to bed at a reasonable time. I'll still make him gain a secular education and I'm sure there will be many other things I'll make him do and convince him are good for his life without worrying that he'll only be pushed away from doing those things. I know though that he'd never understand the benefit of coming together with the saints to study God's Word and to be edified and supported by other Christians so why bother anyway? This is the way many Christian parents raise their children today, and yet, like the other points so far, it does not make any sense spiritually. I know one good way to make sure my son goes to hell is to keep him out of the assembling of the saints.

Fifth, I'll encourage him to marry someone who isn't a Christian. Many Christians date and marry non-Christians with the mind thought that they'll be able to either deal with the problems that come with it fine or they'll end up converting their non-believing spouse. While of course conversion does occur occasionally, 80% of the time, the Christians faith is either lost or seriously damaged by the marriage. The majority of the Christians who marry non-Christians that I've spoken to love their spouse, but they also admit that it makes their Christian life that much harder and that if they could do it again they would probably wait to find a...

...Christian to marry.

Many Christian parents encourage this type of marriage just as long as their child will be happy. Usually when we think of a mixed marriage we think of an interracial marriage, but as one preacher put it, Christians ought to consider a mixed marriage one between a Christian and a non-Christian. A good Christian parent ought to rather have their child marry a Christian of a different race over a non-Christian with the same skin color. If I don't want to be that parent though, I'll just continue to pray that my son only puts his desire in a woman first without worry about the spiritual aspect of a wife. I've often heard that while the man is the head of the house, the woman is the neck. If I can encourage my son to find a wife who as a neck will turn him away from God, I'll be doing my part in making sure my son goes to hell.

Finally, I'll never teach him the plan of salvation. I will never sit down with him as a responsible parent and teach him what he must do to be saved. "Now hold on!" some might say, "He will surely hear from the preacher." First you must remember that I'm going to do my best to keep him out of studying the Bible and along with that I'll do my best to keep him from gathering with and learning from Christians. It won't be impossible for him to learn, but it will surely be harder. Even if he does end up foolishly choosing to attend services, plenty of other children are raised always going and constantly hearing the Lord's invitation offered without even considering obeying they Lord. I'll just have to pray that my son will take after those children, forsaken by their parents who hope someone else will do their work for them.

The greatest thing I could pray for with this is that someone who teaches a false method of salvation will get to him first. If I don't teach him, maybe someone who teaches that God predestines who will and will not be saved will get to Him first and will lull him into the security that since he is chosen by God, he has nothing to worry about. Maybe someone will tell him that all he has to do is believe, say the sinner's prayer or simply accept Jesus into his heart will get to him first. He won't find any of this taught in the Bible, but if I want my son to go to hell, it would be best to keep him out of that old book. Maybe he'll be taught that once you're saved you're always saved no matter what kind of life you live. Think of the security in that! I will just have to hope he never hears that one must believe in God (Hebrews 11:6), and then repent of their sins (Acts 2:38) and confess Christ as the son of God (Romans 10:9-10) and then be immersed in water for the remission of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Gal 3:27). Even if he does hear all of that, maybe someone will convince him that sprinkling infants or believers or simply pouring water over the individual will suffice despite that baptism literally translates to immerse. As long as I can make it harder for him to learn the truth, I'm doing my part in making sure my son goes to hell.

As one can see, it is a lot easier for a parent to help make sure a child goes to hell than it is for a parent to help make sure his child goes to heaven. All it really takes is encouragement to put God after oneself and all else will follow from that.

This has been a hard thing for me to write. Of course it was all done in sarcasm to make a point, but even knowing that it was still hard to write. First it forced me to focus in on the fact that I now have a son to rear and just how much I must put into that raising to do my best to help him get to heaven. Second it also caused me to lament over the many parents who state that they want to lead their children to heaven yet do all of the above and more all the while convincing themselves that they are doing the best thing for their children. I know that in the end, my son will always have the ability to choose what he wants to do with his life, but that does not take away my responsibility to train him in a way pleasing to God. He is only four months old now, but in just a blink of the eye he will be moving out of his parent's house to start a life of his own. He may move across the country even. Soon he will find a woman to call his wife and settle down to have children of his own. I know I don't have much time to train him as I ought in the grand scheme of things, no parent does. Remember this as you consider what is best for your child.

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Several of our number have been sick and still are sick with various illnesses of the season: stomach virus, flu, sinus infection, and flu. Let us pray that all are better very soon!

Wiley & Betty Tuggle.
Tim II, Rachel, & Titus Wilkes

Let us not forget to pray for the works being done through Fishers of Men, Far East Missions, and the Open Door Ministry.

Family & Friends

Peyton Harville, one of Ginger's students, was having some major seizures, he is back home and doing much better. Let's pray for his improvement.

Josh & Maggie Farrow, loss of 15 mo. old daughter.

Luke Finchman, in loss of grandmother and other trials.

Hannah O'Brien, pregnant with twins.

Renee Loya, (cousin of Elizabeth Baker), has MS.

Wes, brother of Deb Peeler, has cancer

Norman & Brenda Mahan, tragic motorcycle accident.

Linda Lentz, recovering from double bypass surgery.

Charles Easley, Molly's grandfather, is in the hospital with multiple health problems.

Allen Beech's daughter, (Allen is a friend to Andy), she tried to commit suicide. Needs our prayers.

Jeff Nichols -- on breathing machine, not doing well.

Carl Hounshell -- One of the elders at Independence has some serious health problems, but is improving.

Virginia Mayfield -- friend of Bren, has leukemia.

Ray Maples -- undergoing chemo-therapy for leukemia.

Janie Brister -- has multiple health problems.

Cathy Thompson -- has lupus.

James Angel; Steve Angel; Gloria Angel; Bob Spurlin;

David Bragg; Kelly Ann Cooper; Carla Carlson.

November Birthdays

Kara Johnson -- 11/14

Shirley Yarbro -- 11/14

Timothy Wilkes, Sr. -- 11/18

Wiley Tuggle -- 11/25

Virginia Sowell -- 11/26

November Anniversary

Jeremy & Mindy Moore

Get Involved!

Sunday Night for the Savior -- Nov. 6

Get contacts to Jason/Clifton by AM service.
Bringing finger foods!

Bible Bowl -- Nov. 12 -- 10:30 AM

Acts 8, 9, & 10 -- Study hard!

Providence Place Devotional

Nov. 13 -- 1PM

Area Wide Youth Devo -- Nov. 19

@Looxahoma -- 5PM

Fishers of Men Class at Coldwater

We have recorded **64 studies** with **26 people** so far in our study reports.

Please pray for the teachers and students!

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, November 6

Morning

Prayer Before Class

Announcements

Song Leader

Lord's Supper:

Preside

Assist

Opening Prayer

Sermon

Closing Prayer

Evening

Song Leader

Opening Prayer

Sermon

Lord's Supper

Closing Prayer

Jeremy Moore

Jared Brown

Andy Ratliff

Jeffrey Ferrell

Johnny Bayless

Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

Billy Bland

Caleb Baker

Clifton Angel

Wiley Tuggle

Andy Ratliff

Jason Bayless

Clifton Angel

Jeffrey Ferrell

Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

Ron Johnson

Wednesday, November 9

Song Leader

Prayer

Invitation

Prayer

Andy Ratliff

Shane Staten

Clifton Angel

Jerry Davis