Context: Parental Responsibility to "Teach" Children:

Thirdly, a parent ought to teach their children to "guide thy heart in the way" (Proverbs 23:19). Nurturing of the heart is of utmost importance. Solomon writes, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23). While the parent may do all that they can do to instill interest, knowledge, understanding, conviction, and obedience in their children it is ultimately up to the child themselves to put the principles they learn to practice.

Fourthly, a parent is to instruct their children to stay away from alcohol and those who partake of it (Proverbs 23:20-21; see also 23:31-32). Alcohol and drugs will drag an individual down. It is more often than not that a perverse beer drinker will bring your child down rather than your child bringing that person up. Why would one want to put themselves in the company of drinking and drugs?

Fifthly, teach your children to honor and respect their father and mother (Proverbs 23:22). Children that are not taught to honor and respect their parents will not honor and respect others in positions of authority. The greatest problems within the church today revolve around this issue (see 2 Peter 2:10; Jude 1:8).

Sixthly, a child is to be taught to "buy the truth and sell it not" (Proverbs 23:23). To succeed in this area is to attain victory as a parent. A child who does not see the value in wisdom and truth is a child destined for heartaches now and forevermore. The wise king Solomon saw that wisdom is "the principle thing in one's life" (Proverbs 4:7-9). Wisdom is so important that it should define what the child's life is (see Proverbs 4:13). A child who sees the true value of wisdom will give all diligence to obtain her (see Proverbs 8:18-19). Solomon writes, "How much better is it to get wisdom that gold! Yea, to get understanding is rather to be chosen than silver" (Proverbs 16:16). Imagine a young man or woman today willing to spend more time studying God's word and praying than playing a video game, texting on a cell phone, playing a baseball game, or watching a favorite television.
program. More often than not it is the phone, game or television that grabs the majority of their time and interest. Wisdom is important, valuable, and it is also an acquired disposition that will add years to one's life (see Proverbs 10:27-30). Proverbs gives us the secret to succeeding in having others come to faith and conviction. The secret is instilling in others the value of wisdom and spirituality. When people see the true value of wisdom they too will share your faith, conviction, zeal, and intense interest in the things of God.

Lastly, parents are to teach their children to "let thy father and thy mother be glad, and let her that bare thee rejoice" (Proverbs 23:24-25). Children ought to want their parents to be happy and filled with joy. It is the rebellious child that brings sorrow and grief to the family. The child who gives heed to the above principles will bring joy and happiness to the home. The rebellious, alcohol drinker, drug abuser, and disrespectful will bring unrest and sadness to a home.

Discipline and correction

Parents also have the responsibility to administer timely discipline and correction to children. Consider the fact that discipline and correction equates to love. Solomon writes, "He that spares his rod hates his son; but he that loves him chastens him diligently" (Proverbs 13:24). Again, Solomon writes, "The rod and reproof give wisdom; but a child left to himself causes shame to his mother" (Proverbs 29:15). Note that love and wisdom are directly associated with discipline and correction. Seeing that wisdom is the principle thing in life it stands to reason that the parent must meet the responsibility of discipline. To fail in this area is to ruin a child.

Imagine a world in which there were no consequences for wrong doing. Such a place would be without a government to exercise civil order. The society would be a free for all. People would not think twice about doing evil because there are no consequences to their actions. A parent that does not discipline their child ruins that person's hope of gaining wisdom. One of the worst thing a parent can do to their child is to recognize a wrong and either say nothing about it or nag, harp, gripe, scream, and get angry at the child. Such actions on the part of the parent will only exasperate the child (see Ephesians 6:4). The child needs to be showed that the action or word was wrong and then instructed in the ways of righteousness (see Proverbs 13:24; 15:22). When the child's error is corrected wisdom will result (Proverbs 10:17). Shameful behavior in a child is never to be tolerated but rather identified and punished (see Proverbs 19:25; 29:17). Solomon writes, "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him" (Proverbs 22:15). When the foolishness and shame is removed the child has hope (see Proverbs 19:18; 23:13-14). Parents responsibility is to set the standard for the child and hold them accountable.

Continued Next Week
1 and 2 Corinthians

Introduction:

1 and 2 Corinthians may be viewed, in some respects, to an Elder's handbook on handling issues among brethren. The two books reveal Paul's inspired approach to Christians who are walking in sin, Christians who will not repent of sins, Christians who teach error, and Christians who are factious in the church. Paul's desire was to handle all these issues by the "meekness and gentleness of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:1). Such an attitude is not easy when fellow Christians belittle you and attempt to ruin the Lord's church. Emotions can sometimes get the better of us. Let us examine these two books and note that problems in the Lord's church must be dealt with rather than ignored.

I. The Occasion for Writing 1 Corinthians:
   B. Five years latter Paul writes the first epistle to Corinthians from Ephesus (1 Corinthians 16:8-9).
   C. Paul had received two letters from the Corinthians regarding their troubles.
   D. The needy saints in Jerusalem (1 Corinthians 16; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Romans 15:22-29).

II. Letters from the Corinthian church and Chloe's Household reveal the following Problems:
   A. Measuring a person's level of importance by who baptized them (1 Corinthians 1:12-16; 3:3-4, 21; 4:6).
   B. Tolerating sin (1 Corinthians 5:1ff).
   C. Justifying fornication (1 Corinthians 6:12ff).
   D. See overhead for complete list of sins.

III. The Occasion for Writing 2 Corinthians:
   A. Paul wanted to know where the Corinthians stood: Had they repented or were they permitting the factious in the church to ruin their faith? The suspense was too great for Paul.
   B. Paul finds Titus and a good report is given yet there were still trouble areas:
      1. Factious brethren were spreading false rumors about Paul.
      2. The Corinthians had more sins to be forgiven of.
      3. Paul wanted to make sure they were ready with the gift for the needy in Jerusalem.
   C. Paul sends Titus back to the Corinthians with the second epistle after a period over one year had passed since the first epistle was written (see 2 Corinthians 9:1-2).

Conclusion:

Paul was putting the brethren to the test to see whether they would be obedient in all areas of their lives (see 2 Corinthians 2:9). Paul states that the only approved condition before Jehovah God is that of being "un-reprovable" (without blame or guilty of wrong) (1 Corinthians 1:8). Paul would not sit back in apathy while brethren lost their souls. Elders, preachers, deacons, and members of the body of Christ would do well to study these two books and learn Jehovah's will when brethren are walking in sin.