

# EXCELSIOR NEWSLETTER

Excelsior Classical Covenantal Community

September 2009

www.excelsiorclassical.org

## “Bringing up Children for God” by Edward Payson

*“Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages.” – Exodus 2:9*

These words were addressed to Pharaoh’s daughter to the mother of Moses. Of the circumstances which occasioned them, it can scarcely be necessary to inform you. You need not be told, that, soon after the birth of this future leader of Israel, his parents were compelled by the cruelty of the Egyptian king to expose him in an ark of bulrushes, on the banks of the Nile. In this situation he was found by the daughter of Pharaoh; and so powerfully did his infantile cries excite her compassion, that she determined not only to rescue him from a watery grave, but to adopt and educate him as her own. His sister Miriam, who at a distance, had watched his fate unseen, now came forward like a person entirely unacquainted with the circumstances of his exposure, and on hearing of the princess’ determination, offered to procure a Hebrew woman, to take care of him, until he should be of sufficient age to appear at her father’s court. This offer being accepted, she immediately went and called the child’s mother, to whose case he was committed by the princess in the words of our text, - Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages.

• In similar language, my friends, does God address parents. To every one, on whom he bestows the blessings of children, He says in His word and by the voice of His Providence, Take this child and educate it for me, and I will give thee thy wages.

From this passage, therefore, we may take occasion to show,

1. What is implied in education children for God.

2. The reward which he gives to those who perform this duty aright.

The first thing implied in educating children for God, is a realizing, heart-felt conviction that they are His property, His children, rather than ours; and that he commits them for a time to our care, merely for the purpose of education, as we place children under the care of human instructors for the same purpose. However carefully we may educate children, yet we cannot be said to educate them for God, unless we feel that they are His; for if we feel that they are ours exclusively, we shall and must educate them for ourselves and not for Him. To know that they are His, is to feel a cordial, operative conviction

### Sign-Up List

We are still needing families to chose an area to volunteer in this year. Here is the list so far:

\* Thanksgiving Feast-

\* Field trip to American Village-

Connie Ramsey

\* Trip to Washington D.C. &

Williamsburg-

Sandy Morris

\* Organize TeenPact group-

Shelley Crampton

\* End of School Program-

\* End of School Party-

\* Mom’s Night Out-

\* Family Nights-

\* Service Opportunities-

\* Other Field Trips-

Susanne Dye



that He has a sovereign right to dispose of them as He pleases, and to take them from us whenever He thinks fit. That they are His, and that He possesses this right, is evident from innumerable passages in the inspired writings. We are there told that God is the former of our bodies, and the father of our spirits; that we are all his offspring, and that consequently we are not our own but His. We are also assured that, as the soul of the parent, so also the soul of the children are His; and God, once and again severely reproves and threatens the Jews, because they sacrificed His children in the fire, to Moloch. Yet plain and explicit as these passages are, how few parents appear to feel their force. How few appear to feel and act as if conscious that they and theirs were the absolute property of God; that they were merely the foster-parents of their children, and that, in all which they do for them, they are, or ought to be, acting for God. But it is evident that they must feel this before they can bring up their children for Him; for how can they educate their children for a Being whose existence they do not realize, whose right to them they do not acknowledge, and whose character they do not love?

Nearly connected with this is a second thing implied in educating children for God, - namely, a cordial and solemn

dedication or surrender of them to Him, to be his forever. We have already shown that they are his property and not ours; and by dedicating them to Him, we mean nothing more than an explicit acknowledgment that we consider them as entirely His; and that we unreservedly surrender them to him for time and eternity. This, my friends, is a reasonable service. The apostle beseeches Christians by the tender mercies of God, to present themselves as living sacrifices to Him, holy and acceptable and to glorify God in their bodies and spirits which are His. But the same considerations which render it right and reasonable that we should dedicate ourselves to God, render it equally right and reasonable, that to Him we should also dedicate our children. If we refuse to give them to God, how can we be said to educate them for Him?

Edward Payson (1783-1827) American Congregational preacher; pastor of the Congregational Church of Portland, ME, born in Rindge, NH, USA.

From "Children to Be Educated for God" in *The Complete Works of Edward Payson*, Vol. III, reprinted by Sprinkle Publications.

## Preparing for September...

### Shakespeare Night

"The Taming of the Shrew"

Tuesday, September 22nd

Contact Rachel Green for more information.

### September Headmasters

September 4th - Robert Green

September 11th - Daryl Weathers

September 18th - Charlie Hardin

September 25th - Daryl Weathers

## Lunch:

September 4th -

**Little Caesar's**

September 11th -

**Taco Bell**

September 18th -

**Atlanta Bread Co.**

September 25th -

**Abner's**