Christian family in search of God’s ways: 

Homeschooling

The main reason why you can hold these pages in your hands is that we believe that “the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12 nkjv). Many years ago one of God’s faithful servants whose faith in the power of His Word has nourished many people influenced us to start homeschooling with our dear girls. It all started with her innocent questions sort of “Do you think we should send our children to Christian or public schools? Or should we homeschool them?” We replied that we didn’t want to pull them out of the society and that we believed it would be good for them to see the part of the world ruled by sin so that they could compare and choose Christ. She didn’t begin to persuade us explaining how wrong we were, and just left it at that except she humbly reminded how much sin can always be observed both in our families and churches. You see - it was the exact truth, and it was enough for us to get us off our balance...

It’s your turn now. We’re sharing the idea of homeschooling with you. You all surely heard about it. So – what do you think of homeschooling? Are these really your thoughts? And, what is much more important, what is the foundation of your thoughts?

“Your Word is a lamp to my feet”

There is no part of human life that lacks God’s instructions. The Word of God is an unfailing light for our paths. Our families are valuable for God so in the Bible we find a lot of promises, instructions and warnings given to families:

Deuteronomy 6:4-9:

4 Listen, Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord is one! 5 You must love the Lord your God with your whole mind, your whole being, and all your strength. 6 These words I am commanding you today must be kept in mind, 7 and you must teach them to your children and speak of them as you sit in your house, as you walk along the road, as you lie down, and as you get up. 8 You should tie them as a reminder on your forearm and fasten them as symbols on your forehead. 9 Inscribe them on the doorframes of your houses and gates.

Here we need to understand that “These WORDS I am commanding you today” (vs 6) remind us of everything Moses has been teaching Israel. It would be impossible to state all of this in detail, but we can summarize it under four key points that are crucial for our own understanding of scripture and for the education of our children. These four points

1. CREATION: God has created all things. Nothing came into existence by itself as evolution seems to teach. God created it all and we worship Him for this grand miracle.
2. FALL: All mankind fell into sin through the disobedience of Adam and Eve. This was a great moral
disaster and is the reason for all our problems and sorrows in this life.

3. PROVIDENCE: God is controlling and guiding all of life and history for His own glory. His
supernatural supervision of all things is a great miracle that supports all of life and guarantees us
that we, His children, are always in His loving care.

4. SALVATION (Moses understood this point because He was a prophet and knew the Messiah
would come): God sent His Son, Jesus Christ into the world to save us from sin. By the power of
His Holy Spirit Jesus redeems all who believe in Him as Savior and trust Him as Lord. He will
come again in judgment to receive His children into His eternal Heaven and to judge those who
reject Him.

These are four key points that must be woven through all of education. It is a tragedy that this is
not done in our public schools.

The Bible contains many more beautiful passages about educating ourselves and our children.
We suggest just three others that can be especially valuable for educational purposes:

Psalm 78:1-8:
1 A well-written song by Asaph. Pay attention, my people, to my instruction! Listen to the words I speak! 2 I will
sing a song that imparts wisdom; I will make insightful observations about the past. 3 What we have heard and
learned – that which our ancestors have told us – 4 we will not hide from their descendants. We will tell the next
generation about the Lord’s praiseworthy acts, about his strength and the amazing things he has done. 5 He
established a rule in Jacob; he set up a law in Israel. He commanded our ancestors to make his deeds known to
their descendants, 6 so that the next generation, children yet to be born, might know about them. They will grow
up and tell their descendants about them. 7 Then they will place their confidence in God. They will not forget the
works of God, and they will obey his commands. 8 Then they will not be like their ancestors, who were a stubborn
and rebellious generation, a generation that was not committed and faithful to God.

Ephesians 6:1-4:
1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first
commandment with a promise), 3 “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” 4 Fathers,
do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Titus 3:4-5
4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness
which we have done, but according to his mercy He saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewing of
the Holy Spirit.

“These words... must be kept in mind”. So let us ask you a serious question: What is there, in
your mind? Which innermost dreams guide your priorities, decisions, and teaching style? What do you
want for your children the most? Do you want them not to become alcohol and drug addicts? Do you
want them to grow self-reliant? Get quality education? Respect you? But... don’t almost all unbelievers
want the same?
We do know in theory that biblical instruction should be the central theme in the home. Nevertheless in practice we don’t examine all the events of a day in the light of the Bible and we talk to our children about it even rarer while we can prove Bible truths using everything that happens to us! Just think of this day. Which Bible truths has it reflected? That “the heart is deceitful above all things”? That “in this world you will have trouble”? That “a man reaps what he sows”? That “apart from Me you can do nothing”? With all our love and wisdom we must bring our children to these truths and we must do it not only during a Bible lesson. All our life should be a lesson!

The main question

We should take stone by stone and lay the foundation of knowing God in our children’s hearts. And it’s not about some observance of outward formalities. That is, the main question about homeschooling should never be added up to the next: public school, Christian school or home school? There are lots of unbelieving parents who by different reasons have chosen the last. There are also believing parents who consider offering such a huge sacrifice as homeschooling to be the fulfillment of all their parental responsibilities! (Sadly to say we have also fallen into this trap). Praise be to our jealous God Who doesn’t allow His children to live with such a delusion! Chapter 2 of Colossians is pretty sobering in this respect. If you then remember a well-known passage of Galatians – “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision (formal Christian education) nor uncircumcision (formal secular education) has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love” – you will be faced with much more serious and essential question:

As parents, what should we do every day so that Jesus Christ becomes the King of our children’s lives?

It is in search of answering this question that more and more parents all over the world choose homeschooling as one of the elements of practical Christianity (along with many other elements). After they come to the conviction that they must prepare their children for the ministry to Christ whom they call their King, they reject to sacrifice the child to their laziness, ambitions or lack of wisdom. They ask themselves: How will we be able to teach our children Biblical perspective if 5 or 6 days out of 7 they spend under the instruction of mentors who don’t live in the Bible’s Grace? These parents recognize: if we don’t teach our children someone else will do that. Our children will learn because their mind longs for knowledge. If they hear the interpretation of history, politics, sense of life, family relationship and so on made by their friends, unbelieving teachers, TV, fashion magazines more often than the Biblical interpretation, they aren’t going to master that important practice – practice to distinguish good from evil:

Hebrews 5:14:
But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.
So when God’s Word convinces parents that the most important thing they must pass to their descendants is the Biblical instruction they come to the understanding that their children cannot get formal public education under the direction of ungodly teachers and in the system that is based on anti-Christian values and supports them.

**The most common objections**

We know your main objection. We have heard it many times. “Thousands of believers send their children to public schools, and the children grow into Christians”. Dear brothers, sisters, friends! This fact only proves God’s mercy and it can never be used as an evidence of these parents’ right choice! For example, many people come to God at a mature age, but does it mean we should delay our repentance till the middle life? God and not the statistics is our King, and our life needs to be ruled by His Word and not by statistical data.

Some of you may be concerned that without a school life children will grow misfits in this severe world, that they won’t know how to stand up for themselves. Do you really think they should stand up for themselves? People believed and still believe that Christ was losing while being on the cross, after He had rejected to stand up for Himself, when in truths He was winning the great victory for us but He did it with His love and humility, not with His fists.

One more common question – “How will they be able to live without community?” Well, living without a God-worshiping community is one thing. But living without a mammon-worshiping community is something absolutely different. God’s Word directs us to keep staying within church, God’s people. As for the ungodly community – “to be in the world, but not of the world” – shouldn’t we as parents first little by little prepare our children for their redemptive function in such a community which frequently acts extremely cruelly and unmercifully? Our children often spend time with unbelieving relatives, they can attend different clubs, they mix with their peers in the yard. Isn’t that enough?

We also understand that many of you are just afraid that nothing will come out of it. That you won’t have enough educational experience, academic books, enough strength to fight against protesting grandparents... The enemy doesn’t want us to believe that God loves our children, our families, that He will meet all our needs if we are determined to follow Him:

**Psalm 115:12-15:**

12 The Lord takes notice of us, he will bless – he will bless the family of Israel, he will bless the family of Aaron. 13 He will bless his loyal followers, both young and old. 14 May he increase your numbers, yours and your children’s! 15 May you be blessed by the Lord, the creator of heaven and earth!

**The whole world or soul?**

**Deuteronomy 30:6,19:**


\(^{6}\)And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live. \(^{19}\) I call heaven and earth to witness against
you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live.

We all love our children. But what are we really ready to give so that they become Christ’s disciples? Is He really our King? Can we really be satisfied with raising children who can gain the whole world but whose souls are lost?

Life is war, and the battlefield is your child’s heart. The battle is being fought, and this is a battle for the soul. Isn’t that thoughtless that we parents are more concerned about visible things than about invisible? So often we worry about grades and not about hearts of those precious little people whom we so much love and for whom we are responsible to our Father!

Our homes need to be built upon the Bible, upon the moral law of God and upon the saving Grace of God. Every life situation needs to be related to God’s revelation. Every thought needs to be taken captive to make it obedient to Christ. This way our children will see every day that God rules over all things, that He is trustworthy, that He is the only One in whom there is the truth. Our children won’t learn these things themselves – and how much less they will learn these things with non-Christians. It is our responsibility.

We understand that there are situations in which homeschooling looks unreal. We also know how frightening it looks to start it. We ourselves made a lot of mistakes. And we recognize the fact that homeschooling is hard work. But fear goes away when we do right. If the Bible’s truths are our solid beliefs then we’ll be willing to live them out even if we have to suffer or have a rough time. And we’ll be willing to say together with Apostle Paul:

**Philippians 3:8:**

*More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ.*

If you have any questions we’ll be happy to answer them. Write, e-mail, call us, and what is better – come to see us! Cherkassy is beautiful any season 😊

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