



Richard Hughes, Editor

An outreach of Richard Hughes Ministries, Inc.

The Pen of a Ready Writer

*...I speak of the things which I have made touching the king:
My tongue is the Pen of a Ready Writer (Psalm 45:1).*

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The First Commandment with Promise

Children are instructed by God to obey their parents in the Lord, for this is right. The commandment is the fourth of *The Ten Commandments*, and the first with promise. The Apostle Paul states it this way: *Honour thy father and thy mother, that it may be well with thee and that thou mayest live long on the earth* (Ephesians 6:2-3). You find the commandment introduced in Exodus 20:12 and repeated in Deuteronomy 5:16.

To acknowledge the commandment is to identify gender: everyone has a father and a mother. Obeying this commandment is to demonstrate a humble attitude: to actually *honour* thy father and thy mother. By it we recognize God's order for the family: the father first, the mother second, the children third. To practice this commandment is to grasp equality: honour is shown to both our father and our mother. Indeed, this is the first act of obedience men perform toward God's Word from childhood.

This is the first of the six commandments that define man's dealings with men. The six literally encompass how we are to love our neighbor, beginning with the first people with whom we interact: our parents. Learning to honour one's father and to honour one's mother sets the tone for how we respond toward all authority figures.

Honour is not something we can demand. *Honour* is freely given to someone we admire. Our admiration is based on the character of its recipient. A loving father is not only the protector and the provider, but also the proper pattern for his children. They learn how they should live day by day by his example. His honoring of their mother helps the children emulate his practice. Likewise, as their mother honors their father, the children will naturally follow by honoring him themselves.

God's commandment to honour thy father and thy mother places a requirement on the parents to be honorable in their own conduct. A parent who curses his children or beats his wife or brow-beats the family cannot demand honour. He does not deserve honour. Yet, honouring him in spite of himself may be the one way an older child may reach his hard heart for Christ.

We cannot undo the past; we can do right today. We are to honor our father and our mother, regardless of their worthiness; and, God will give a reward for doing so.

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A Mother's Work is Never Done

When I think of "Moms," I think of sacrifice. Being a good Mother requires commitment, selflessness, patience, unconditional love. She truly reflects the fruit of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance (Galatians 5:22-23).

Her efforts in rearing a child often demand hard, diligent labor. And, sometimes, it can be thankless work. But, the rewards are gratifying: her children!

As I watch the four wonderful Mom's in our family now, I want to support each of them by being there for them and by praying for them. And, as the Lord gives me opportunity, my desire is to pass on to my grandchildren my love for the Lord and my love for them.

Moses spoke of teaching our grandchildren. God desires us to pass on our faith: *Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons; specially the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children* (Deuteronomy 4:9-10). With each successive generation, a Mother's work is never done!

Is Gratitude a Lost Grace?

The Oxford Dictionary defines *gratitude* as "the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness." The term *gratitude* is not used in Scripture; yet, we find its synonym, *thanks*, abounding in the Word of God.

The first use of *thanks* is in a song of David, recorded in 2 Samuel 22. Verse 50 reads – *Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O Lord, among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto thy name.* Why did David show the Lord thanks? Because God delivered him from all his enemies (v. 1).

The Lord recompensed David according to his righteousness; according to his cleanness in the sight of the Lord. With the merciful, God will show himself merciful. With the upright, God will show himself upright. With the pure, God will show himself pure (verses 25-27).

Reflecting God's righteousness begins with receiving the mercy of God in Christ Jesus. As the publican humbled himself, saying, *God, be merciful to me, a sinner* (Luke 18:13), so must we acknowledge our need for God's mercy.

MOTHER'S DAY

On May 8th, we will celebrate Mother's Day. I hope that your Mother is still living. I pray that she is in good health and that you have sweet fellowship with her.

To be able to hold her hand, to thank her and to tell her that you love her is worth far more than most of us realize. So, please, take the opportunity while you can.

HOMEcoming, MAY 1ST

Third Street Baptist Church, Cordele, GA, will celebrate Homecoming on May 1st. The Lord allowed me the honor of being their pastor from July of 1997 to July of 2004. I am looking forward to being with the congregation on that day and seeing how the Lord has worked.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH CONESTEE, HOSTS A MEETING

First Baptist Church, Conestee, SC, will host a meeting starting Monday evening, May 9th. All-day services will be held on Tuesday, May 10th, with lunch and supper served on the grounds.