

Faithful Fathers

We need faithful fathers so badly today. Fifteen million US children, or 1 in 3, live without a father! Let that tragic number sink in.

We need fathers today who will be faithful **PROGENITORS**. Fathers, of course, are a part of giving physical life to a child (Genesis 1:28; 5:3). But, they need to stay around after the child's birth to help raise the child. They also need to be an integral part of giving their children spiritual life through God's word (Hebrews 11:7).

We need father's today who will be faithful **PROVIDERS**. Fathers should provide for the physical needs (1 Thessalonians 4:11-12), the spiritual needs (Ephesians 6:4), and the emotional needs (Colossians 3:21) of their children.

Finally, we need fathers today who will be faithful **PROTECTORS**. Fathers should protect their children from physical harm (Luke 11:11) and from spiritual harm (Proverbs 1:10,15).

Dads, if you want to be truly happy this coming Father's Day, make sure your children are physically healthy and spiritually faithful to the Lord.

- Chris Reeves -

Sentence Sermons

- Sin is sweet to the taste, but bitter to the stomach.
- If you will "keep the faith" it will keep you.
- What your Bible says is more important than what your culture says.
- It is better to have never been born, than to never have been born again.
- If you have the courage to say what you think, be sure what you think.

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Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

May 26, 2019



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Five Books on God's Reading List

I love books! Even in an age of electronic media and online reading, I still like the feel of a good book. Oddly enough, I also like the *smell* of a new book. Solomon wrote long ago, "Of the making of many books there is no end.." (Ecclesiastes 12:12), and I can certainly believe that. Consider the millions of books that have been written and recorded down through time.

Do you know there are some books that God likes too? Just like the New York Times Bestseller book list, God has a favorites reading list. Let's take a look at the five books that are on God's reading list.

The Book of the Law

God's law is recorded in a book - the 66 books of the Bible (Deuteronomy 31:24; Revelation 1:11). It is important that we seek this book (Isaiah 34:16). It is important to obey the words of this book (Revelation 21:27; 22:7,9). It is important not to alter the words of this book (Rev. 22:18-19). Have you been reading God's book of law lately?

The Book of Deeds

Many popular figures have written

books recording their deeds, such as athletes, politicians, celebrities, etc. The deeds of great Bible characters have also been recorded in a book - the Bible (Job 19:23-24; Nehemiah 13:14).

But, the deeds of *all mankind*, including you and I, are recorded in a book held by God (Psalm 56:8; 139:16). This record of the deeds of mankind will be part of the basis of God's judgment in the last day (Matthew 12:36-37; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 2:6). We cannot rewrite past pages in this book, but we can certainly edit them (Isaiah 43:25). We can control what is written on the present and future pages of this book (2 Peter 3:11). What deeds of yours, good or bad, are being written in this book each day?

The Book of Remembrance

Many memorials have been written and erected through the years to remember important persons such as presidents, generals, civil-rights leaders, etc. God also has a book of remembrance in his hand of all his faithful children (Malachi 3:16-17). God is not forgetful of the good works of his people (Hebrews 6:10). What will you be remembered for? Will God remember your name because you are a faithful child of God doing good deeds for him each day?

The Book of Judgment

God not only remembers the good of the righteous, but he also remembers the bad of the wicked (Exodus 17:14). God opens his book of judgment today upon wicked individuals and nations as he judges them through his providential reign over all the earth (Revelation 5:1-9; 10:1-11).

The Book of Life

All the names of the righteous are in the book of life (Daniel 12:1; Luke 10:20; Philippians 4:3). It is important to have our name written in this book (Revelation 13:8; 17:8; 20:15; 21:27). We do this by obeying the gospel of Jesus Christ and living faithfully each day. One's name may also be blotted out of this book through sinful living (Psalm 69:28; Revelation 3:5).

Knowing what God is "reading", what changes do we need to make today? The judgment day will not be a "pop quiz" ... we already know what is on the test (John 12:48; Romans 2:16)! Let's busy ourselves reading God's book of law so that our deeds will match with what God wants and we will be remembered for our obedience and judged accordingly. - *Chris Reeves*