

Teaching Devotional Skills to Christian School Children

By Shaun Karsemeyer

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer" (Psalm 19:14). These words ring true to every child of God, young and old. As Christians, our fervent desire is not only that God hear us in our prayers and in our worship, but also that what God hears is beautiful to Him. This is why we ask that God incline His ear to hear us. We would not ask that if we did not intend our prayers and our worship to be false or half-hearted!

We, along with the psalmist also cry aloud, "O how I love thy law! It is my meditation all the day" (Psalm 119:97). It is in this light that we must see that it is the duty of our Christian schools to teach our children not only biblical stories, but also biblical truths and how to present these truths before others.

As school teachers, parents have entrusted their children to us for a large part of the day. While much of the day is spent learning about God's creation in our math, language, history, and science, it is also a large part of the Christian teacher's responsibility to teach the students of those in our church(es) who have special needs that should be remem-

bered in prayer. Found on that list are very general groups of people, such as the aged, the lonely, and those who wander from the church. I also include specific cases of need, such as saints having surgery or suffering from a serious illness or disease, and of course, our minister, missionaries and seminary students.

"And now, little children, abide in him" (1 John 2:28). This is the verse I use at the beginning of the year when I introduce devotions to my class. The following are the reasons I give to the students as to why they need to learn devotional skills:

1. They abide in God when they pray to Him and discuss His Word. It must be their desire to also worship Him and to stand in His presence.
2. They must learn devotional skills at a young age. They do not have to wait until they are older. As soon as they are able to read the Bible and speak a prayer, they should be doing these things.
3. The students will one day be required to lead devotions. One day, they, too, will lead their families, societies, or perhaps even classrooms or congregations in prayer and devotions. For this reason, it is important for them to listen carefully as their parents, teachers, and

The Christian school is only an extension of the godly home. What is taught in school does not replace what is taught at home. No, it simply extends and continues the work that godly parents have begun and have passed on to the Christian teacher. Therefore, as students, parents, and teachers, we must all have the same godly attitude toward this development in a Christian young person's life.

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