

**BLESSED HOPE**

**BHBC**



**BIBLE CHURCH**

# Blessed Hope Bible Church

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*Learning ...*

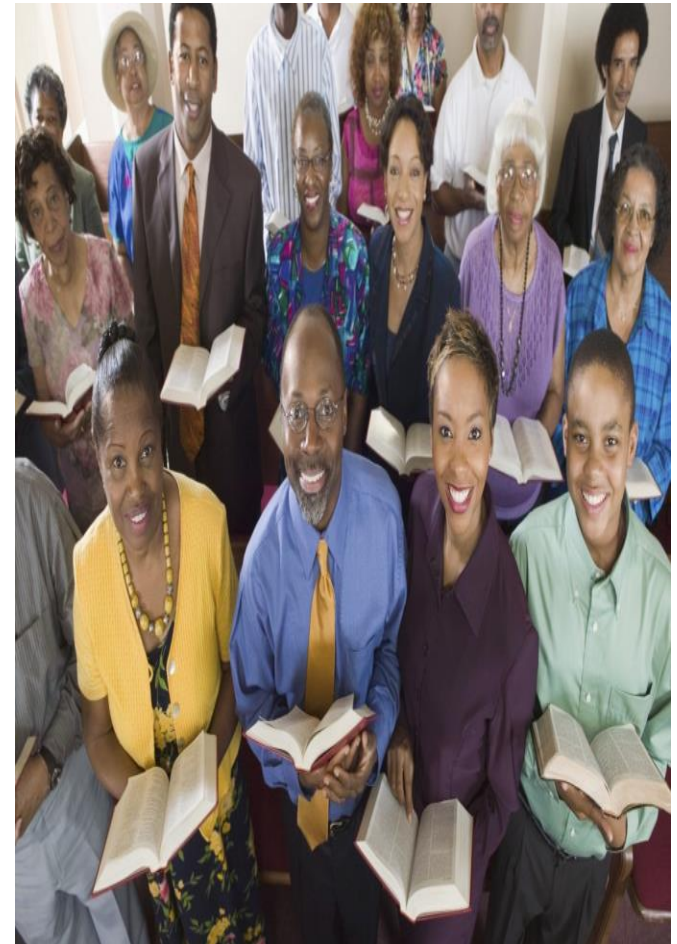
*Loving ...*

*Leaning ...*

*Living ...*

*Leading ...*

*By the Word  
of God*





# **LESSONS FROM THE WISDOM PSALMS**



# **INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION**

**PSALM 78:1-11**



# Introduction

- The greatest heroes of the church are those who invest in our children--an investment that will pay huge dividends when these children become adults and do great things to advance the kingdom of God.



- **SERMON LESSON:** We have a **mandate**, as parents, as a church, even as an individual believer, to **invest** in the spiritual training (upbringing) of the next generation.



- Psalm 78 is a wisdom psalm as well as a historical psalm (the longest in the Psalms)
- This Psalm is a “Maschil,” a psalm of contemplation, implying that one is to ponder, meditate, and mentally concentrate on spiritual truth.
- Psalm 78 was written by Asaph, a leader of one of the temple choirs, who lived during the time of David and was famous for his skills as a musician.
- In Psalm 78, Asaph is helping us to realize the necessity of teaching the next generation the word and works of God.

# Three Investments To Make For The Next Generation

- **THE CALL: RESPOND TO THE TRUTH 78:1-3**
  - **THE SUMMONS: Give ear, O my people, to my law** (e.g., No one can **help** the next generation to live for God unless they **hear** the Word of God themselves).
  - **THE SIGNIFICANCE: I will open my mouth in a parable**
    - The Lord Jesus Christ quoted this statement after speaking to the people in parables (cf., Matt.13:34-35).
    - A parable uses a everyday occurrence (e.g., sowing, fishing, or making dough for bread) to bring out a significant spiritual point or application.
    - If a person's heart is not right with God, the teaching of a parable can be missed due to a hostile, arrogant, apathetic, or just plain disrespectful, unbelieving attitude.
    - **Point:** No one can help the next generation with an unteachable attitude.





# TAMING THE UNTEACHABLE SPIRIT



UNTEACHABLE

- **THE CONTENT: REVEAL THE TRUTH 78:4-5**
  - **THE RESOLUTION:** We will not hide them (i.e., the parables and riddles) from their children (e.g., the fathers will teach their children's children, i.e., their grand-children)
    - **Illustration:** The worst attitude that a parent can have is: "I am not going to force religion on my children. I am going to let them make up their own minds when they are old enough." So in the meantime, during their impressionable year, the world forces its views upon them, and godless teachers, music, videos, and T.V. shows fashion their tender minds and hearts.
    - **Point:** There must be a resolution in our hearts and minds to teach the next generation the praises of the Lord, His strength, and His wonderful works

- **THE REVELATION:** For He (God) established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel.
- We do not need to come up with some new fangled teaching, pop psychology, some secret mystical mojo jojo to get to our children to focus on spiritual things.
  - The same God who brought Noah through the flood and Israel through the Red Sea and Daniel through the lion's den can bring our kids through whatever they may face.
  - The Old Time Religion really is good enough for me and you and our kids.
  - Now old methods and old ways of communicating may change, but the substance, the basics, the essentials will never change and we must never try to change them.
  - The next generation will still need to know their Bibles, how to pray, how to worship, how to share the gospel with others, and how to serve in the context of a church.

- **THE RESPONSIBILITY:** Which He commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children.
- **Commitment #1:** The older generation must be **obedient** to the commandment of the Lord.
  - **Commitment #2:** The older generation must **teach** the newer generation so that that newer generation will know the commandments of the Lord and live by them (e.g., Deut.6:6-7)
  - **Warning:** If the older generation refuses to set a godly example to the new generation, that new generation will progress into even more moral corruption which will lead to destruction (e.g., Read 2 Kings 17:7-18)



- **THE CONSEQUENCE: RESULTS OF THE TRUTH**  
**78:6-11**

- **THE POSITIVE CONSEQUENCE:** When the next generation is taught the things of God, some very positive things happen.

- They will come to know them (I.e., commandments of the Lord)
- They will declare them to their children
- They and their children will set their hope in God (I.e., they will live their lives in trust and dependency on the Lord)
- They and their children will not forget the works of God
- They and their children will keep God's commandments
- They and their children will be better than their forefathers (I.e., they will not be stubborn and rebellious against the Lord; they will not have an evil heart within them; and they will not have an unfaithful spirit within them).

- **THE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCE:** When the next generation is not taught the things of God, some very negative things happen.
  - Like Ephraim, they will suffer defeat after defeat in life because they willfully refused to live for the Lord.
  - Like Ephraim, they will live a corrupt, immoral, unethical, and godless life.
    - Like Ephraim willfully did not keep the covenant of God, they will willfully disobeyed God's clear commandments.
    - Like Ephraim willfully refused to walk in God's law, they will willfully be rebellious and hostile to the standards of God.
    - Like Ephraim, they will forget God works and the wonders that He has reveal clear in the word of God.

# A CHALLENGE FOR YOU

**Will you help us invest in the spiritual upbringing of the next generation??**

- **First**, come to Sunday school and Bible study.
- **Second**, bring your children to Sunday school, children's church, and JAM.
- **Third**, have family devotions in your home with your children.

RECEIVE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR  
SAVIOUR TODAY!!

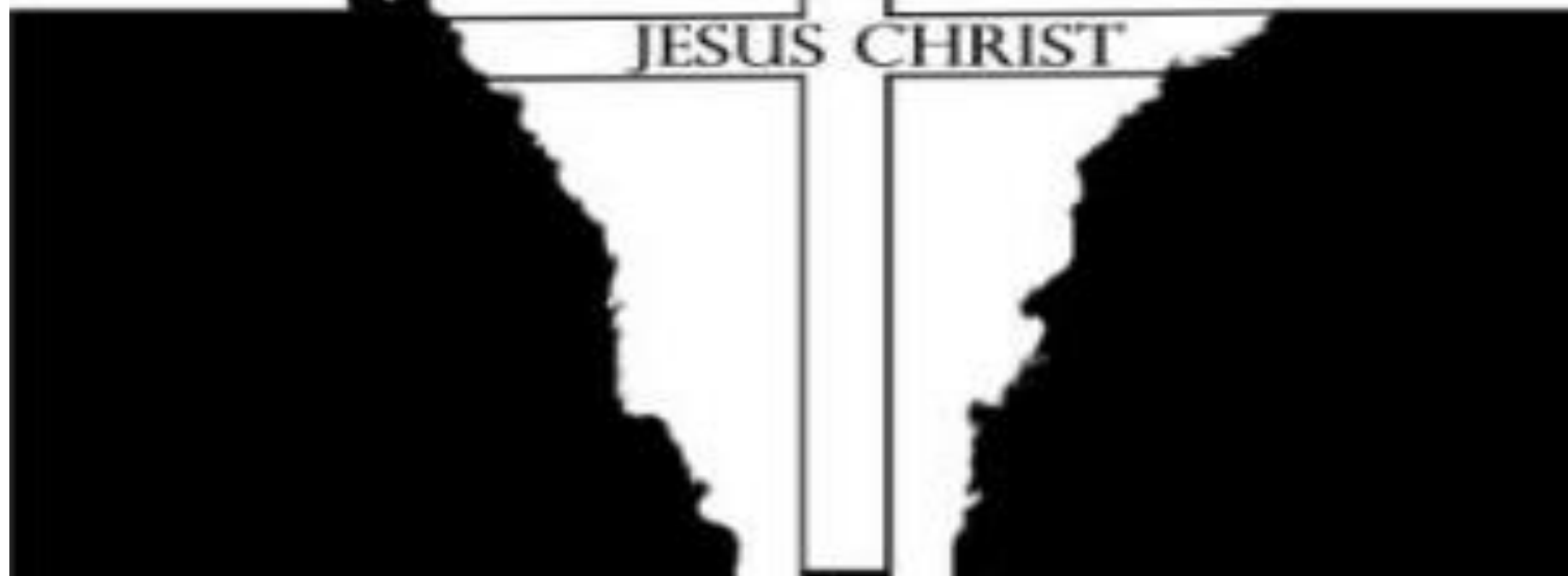




GOD HAS PROVIDED THE  
ONLY WAY...WE MUST MAKE  
THE CHOICE



JESUS CHRIST



- 1. Acknowledge** that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died on the cross for your sin, and that He arose again from the dead on the third day.
- 2. Admit** that you are a sinner, **guilty** of sin and **responsible** and **accountable** to a holy God for your sin, and that you are under His just condemnation and eternal punishment for your sin.
- 3. Affirm** that the Lord Jesus Christ is your Lord and Saviour by **receiving** His provision of salvation through your faith in Him alone.