

No.  
104

***"IF YE THEN BE RISEN WITH CHRIST, SEEK THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE ABOVE, WHERE CHRIST SITTETH ON THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD."***  
***COL.3.1***

**ADDRESS TO PARENTS.**

***An Address (revised)***

***At 61, Upton Lane, Forest Gate.  
1st Sept. 1913.***

***by***

***PERCY W. HEWARD***

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***Correspondence welcome: Scriptural literature for Believers  
Gottlieb-Daimler-Str.1 – 74343 Sachsenheim – GERMANY***

**ADDRESS TO PARENTS.**

An Address by Mr. P. W. Heward,  
At 61, Upton Lane, Forest Gate.  
1st Sept. 1913.

Psalm 34. Read.

Our subject, dear friends, is, as you know, true training of children, as made clear in the Scripture, and therefore seen in the LIGHT of Scripture. If this is our subject, I trust that our object is, as the little leaflet announcing the meeting put it, that the Lord Jesus may be exalted. Unless there be this object before us, unless there be the thought of doing all to the glory of God, our gathering together this evening will only be an event, will only be a mere meeting, - but if there be the thought of the glory of God, our gathering together this evening will be something that can please Him Who though so infinitely glorious, is graciously willing to be pleased with the tiny things of His tiny people. I trust that the Lord Jesus may be exalted throughout this meeting as the Saviour, and also that He may be exalted as Lord. As many of us as have been brought by grace to own Him as our Saviour can truly exalt Him, for He hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad, "Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord, who can show forth all His praise?" The wondrous lovingkindness that has been freely bestowed on the lost is a wondrous argument for unceasing praise in the words that we have just read - "I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall continually be in my mouth." I am sorry for the meeting that does not have something of a praise-meeting in it. If we are exalting the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, we shall undoubtedly praise Him with uprightness of heart, but it is not enough to own Christ as Saviour, we need to own Him as Lord in His authority, and in His guidance of the whole of our daily life. It is in connection with this that we are gathered together this evening. The question of the use of time, the question of responsibility to others, and similar questions must come up now in every believing heart. For years, as most of those here gathered know, it has been our privilege and desire, in God's mercy, to take an interest in children, and to desire that children should be brought while young to have opportunities for the deeper

study of the Scriptures. I am persuaded of this, that, for the most part, too little, mentally, is expected from children. They are taught that they cannot do this and they cannot do that, and they believe that part of their teaching until they have partly ruined the mind that God gave them. I know that the fall has affected all minds, but we also know it is easy to spoil the mind still further, and the majority of adults, who have any thought at all, have to sorrowfully acknowledge that their mind is somewhat bent and twisted, and damaged in their early life. Now we are gathered with a desire that this may be in some measure hindered for those who are still in early life, and with a desire beyond this, that God may be glorified in their salvation, and that the mental powers may become doubly useful after there is the gift of God, which is eternal life. It is with this thought in mind that we are particularly concerned about the training of the children. You may recollect that in the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of the letter to the Roman believers, the apostle mentions particularly among sins, and in a very important position, disobedience to parents; and that in 2 Tim. 3, in the list of the sins of the last days we have a special stress, once more in a list of sins, upon disobedience to parents. I take it that this Scripture stress brings before us that the training of children is one of the most important things. Indeed we find that the one who was called to oversight in gatherings of God's people of old, was required to be one who ruled his own house well, and who had his children, believing children, not accused of riot, or unruly. In other words Scripture makes the qualification for usefulness, first spiritual control of oneself, for that is mentioned at the outset in the list of qualifications; and secondly, spiritual control of children; and even those who held office for the Lord as assistants in the earlier assemblies of God, who were not possessors of children of their own, were required to stand well in front of children, and to have control over children, or they were not Scripturally allowed to exercise their position among the Lord's people. Our version rather veils this by inserting the word "their". "Ruling THEIR children well", we are told, but the passage is literally - "standing well in front of children". You will recollect in this connection that on some previous meetings different parts of God's Truth have come before us. We pondered Adonijah, and the striking words, "His father had not at any time displeased him, saying, Why hast thou done so." We realized that it was the responsibility of parents to displease their children awhile, lest they should grow up to be Adonijahs. We noticed the intense interest of a job, who though he felt his children would not openly speak against God, was concerned

about the very sins of their heart, and on this account offered sacrifices for all of them. Furthermore, we remembered the striking utterance in the book of Judges, “How shall we order the child”? and we saw that the answer involved primarily the ordering of the parents, I do not mean by the children; but by the Lord’s gracious guidance and control. We noticed on another occasion those expressive words in proverbs, “Train up a child on the mouth of his way, and when he is old he will not depart from it”. “The mouth of the way” being THE BEGINNING. Indeed we find in the later Scriptures a tremendous stress upon the BEGINNING in a way that glorifies God. One delights to notice the old homes that are brought before us in Scripture precept, in the Book of Deuteronomy, where the Scripture is the topic of conversation. You will recollect how on several occasions Moses was instructed by God to refer to the CHILDREN as those asking their parents different things. In Exodus 12, and in Exodus 13, and in Josh. 4 the children ask “What mean ye?” or an equivalent. Now I am afraid there is a tendency among parents at the present time not to desire too many questions, but Scripture is emphatic that it is desirable the children should be enquiring, though not inquisitive, enquiring as to facts and things concerning God. Hence a parent should not check this though it requires a Christian parent to rightly deal with it, and a Christian parent who is ever seeking to increase his or her knowledge of the Truth of God, that there may be a better fitness to answer the enquiring questions which should always be welcomed and loved. Ah, dear friends, I would again emphasize this deep and solemn importance of CHRISTIAN parents. Only if you personally know what it is to be born from above, and to experience the grace of God in your own heart, are you really competent to guide those who are entrusted to your care. It is impossible to train up a child unless one has been in God’s school oneself, and God has no dead ones in His school. In the expressive words of the Lord Jesus one must be born from above, for the flesh profiteth nothing, but if any man is in Christ there is a new creation; and so we may pass along to the passage that was on my mind for this evening’s subject - 2 Tim. 3. We have already noticed an early verse from this passage that brings before us disobedience to parents as a sad and increasing and resultful sin; but the chapter goes on to tell of one who was not disobedient to parents, and that is the subject which I believe God would have us ponder together on this occasion. The 14<sup>th</sup> verse addressed to Timothy reads - “But continue thou in the things that thou hast learned, and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them,

and that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the men of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” Here we have the interesting story of some of the early life of one whom Paul chose to be perhaps his most trusted helper, for on one occasion he said, “I have no man like-minded, who will naturally care for your state”, and at another time he said “Watch THOU in all things, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry, FOR I AM READY TO BE OFFERED”, as much as to say, you can take my place as far as another can, more than other who would think themselves competent. Indeed to Timothy was entrusted a wonderful responsibility for the work of God in Asia, even when all in Asia turned away from Paul. Now can we see anything of the TRAINING of Timothy? for I suppose Christian parents have in their hearts and minds longings that their children may grow up to be useful unto the Lord, and in the Lord’s work. But remember this, we cannot depend with laziness on God’s sovereignty. I believe that God can make a Timothy in a day, but we are to realize our responsibility for a training which takes thousands of days. Slipshod carelessness - (allow me to speak plainly. It is, I think, quite recognized among us that plainness of speech befits the Gospel of Christ, and all concerning it, - slipshod carelessness) - is easy and natural; inconsistency is exceedingly easy, but how many parents there are who manifest these things, and when their children grow up they are surprised that the seed of carelessness they have sown brings a hundred fold fruit. They are surprised that their inconsistencies are very resultful, - for remember this, if we sow, we reap more than we sow particularly is it so with weeds and with that which is evil, Parents have solemn results that are far-reaching, and incalculable in connection with failures to be consistent in DAILY life. Jerky control is not control at all. Irregularity is not only a thief of time, but it is entirely ruinous in the training of children, yet it is possible to even be proud of one’s irregularity as a proof that one has not fallen into a routine. But it is sometimes well to be in the so-called rut of routine, or at least to have a certain development of that fruit of the spirit, which is self-control. We notice in this passage the striking words, “from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures.” The expression is more literally “from a baby”. The word itself is related to ones signifying to nourish, and I have no doubt the apostle by inspiration of God

glances at the nourishing up with the words of sound doctrine. The term is employed for Christ when a Babe, and also is found in Acts 7 of the young children cast out in Egypt, and further is 1 Peter 2 where we render "as newborn BABES". It is a matter of deep regret that it is not rendered "a babe" her. "From a babe thou hast known the Holy Scriptures". Here is the shame thought of the MOUTH of the way, the beginning of the way, from babyhood onwards. Scripture lays a great stress upon EARLINESS. It is not enough to begin with the child when a good few years have passed by. Education begins at once. Training starts at the very beginning. I do not mean that training can be always in the same manner. You cannot train a baby quite by the same arrangements that you would train a full grown child, but this only makes the importance of this thought the more striking, for a baby is influenced by what I may call the moral and spiritual ATMOSPHERE of the home. A baby is influenced greatly by the spiritual routine of a believing parent's life, and every irregularity or jerkiness prevents a real impression. It is only by absolute consistency that there can be an impression upon a baby mind, but the passage here, as you notice, brings before us, not only the general training by godly character, but beyond this, the special training definitely in the things of God, "From a baby thou hast known the Holy Scriptures". How many grown up people to-day are afraid lest babies should learn too much, and ruin their minds or become old too quickly, or SOMETHING of this character. Scripture does not suggest such fears. Human opinions are always changing. If they remain too long the same, people would become tired of the fashion, and so in one way or another they are changing about, but the underlying object, unrealized often by men, is to get away from the things of God. There is nothing more victorious for Satan than to persuade parents that their children are too young for the study of the Scriptures, for if the children can be kept from the definite study of the Scriptures for a few years, sin has a much more powerful foothold in the mind; and, the mind will probably be so damaged that it will never produce the work it would have produced otherwise in that life. A large number are very afraid lest children should over-work. I am not sure that adults overwork so frequently as it is generally believed. They may miss-arrange their work. They may over-worry, for 1% of worry is over-worry, but overwork is somewhat difficult to locate. It is far rarer than we imagined, certainly among children it is exceedingly rare. A child will muddle up work, and thus have an "over" of a wrong kind, but it is not the work that is "over", it is the muddling up,

and this is largely produced because parents are afraid to overwork (I mean here, to overwork the children). The child is trained to be so afraid of overwork that the child's mind is twisted to muddle things up. I would put in a definite plea in this connection; there are parents who would be horrified at the thought of physical cruelty to a child; - mental cruelty cannot be seen, but it is far more common, and far more resultful; and kind indulgent parents are oftentimes murdering their children's minds. I would put it plainly, for I feel there is nothing that is more dangerous at the present time than this. The mind of the child works, and not having appointed and arranged work, the mind works in wrong ways, and becomes twisted and strangled. The mind has opportunity for occupation with sin, occupation with the thought of foolishness, which is sin. Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, but foolishness is not well-pleasing to God, yet oftentimes parents are inclined to view foolishness as almost desirable in those who are young. They are afraid lest their children should look upon life too seriously. But beloved friends, if by grace, we realize in measure what life is, and what it is to have pleasures in the Lord Jesus Christ, surely we shall see that to encourage children to plant their early life in the pleasures of sin, and in the foolishness which does not satisfy, - is actually worse than unkind. There are far greater pleasures in the things of God. I need hardly say that we could go a step further. The child who is foolish, and who is encouraged in early life to foolishness by the unkind smiles at babies' pretty ways, the baby who is encouraged to foolishness in this connection, is continually running against the wall of so-called parental correction, (for in such circumstances it is not real), and as a rule the parent who is weak is impatient, and the child running against that wall is not really happy, for there is always a measure of jerky uncertainty. I believe from a mental standpoint, though that is quite secondary, - from a mental standpoint there is more true joy in an occupied mind, more true pleasure in an arranged mind, than in the disorderly confused mind, unable to think, and taught to over-estimate play. You know it is difficult to define what is play and what is work. Many younger and older ones alike turn their play into the hardest work, but the more desirable thing is to turn one's work into enjoyment, and this would commonly be the result, if parents looked upon things in the right way. And the words that I am bringing before you, I trust from the heart, and in accord with the Scriptures, are not only for parents, but apply to all those who are gathered, I believe, with some interest, (may it be spiritual), in the welfare of children. So,

dear friends, remember that the one who grew up as Timothy to the help of Paul knew the Holy Scriptures. His mind was occupied from babyhood with the Holy Scriptures. His mother, and his grandmother did not spoil him, till his mind was unable to grasp these things. Do you say you would like to see some Timothys? Again let me remind you they are not trained in a few weeks. Often there is a beginning too late, I know God can overrule this, and if we confess our sins He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, but to confess sin aright is to leave sins:- therefore let us by personal action, and by influence in the future, seek to bring before all we can reach the value of early training in the things of God. (As to the Bible School, here I would mention to you particularly, as you may know of others who can be brought to its studies, my thought is, in general, of those from 6 to 16, cases of under 6 we have had already, and cases of under 6 I shall be glad to welcome in the future, but in THESE circumstances I shall want our friends to specially ask about them, that we may have a little talk concerning the necessary arrangements for the helping forward of the younger ones, in connection with the tiny studies that they do at that age. I do not mean the training starts at after 6, but that the difficulty is we have all the boys and girls together here, and it is difficult to increase unduly the number of those who are very young, and yet provide sufficient arrangements for those who are considerably older.)

We pass next to the words “from a baby thou hast known the Holy Scriptures”. The word “holy” is the same word used for the temple, i.e. of “sacred” buildings, in an earlier dispensation. The sacred Scriptures. We look on the outside of our Bibles, and see the words Holy Bible. Oh, do we realize the holiness of the Truth? A man on going into the temple would realize in olden times it was a holy building. Ah, dear friends, there is too much irreverence at the present day. Parents need to bring before their children as Timothy’s mother before him that these are the Holy Scriptures. I know the book is only made of paper and ink, but nevertheless it contains the Holy Scriptures, and even the Book should not be handled roughly and carelessly. Let a child have a Bible of his or her own, a Bible worth prizing, and let the child be taught, and encouraged to prize that Bible and care for it with diligence. Do not say, “Oh, any Bible will do for the children, it does not matter if it is their own or somebody else’s”, all these things help in irreverence. Let the children understand from your treatment of the Scripture, both as a book, and furthermore from your treatment of it in study,

that you value the Holy Scriptures, that they are Holy to you. What can a child think about a Bible School, and about studying the Holy Scriptures, if that child never sees the parent studying them? Oh, you may say, but I am so busy, Ah, dear friends, there are not a few who have found that they would be so busy if they did not study the Scriptures, that they would be so busy that they could never get through their work unless they studied the Scriptures. Imagine a man who persisted in saying "I am too busy to eat", he would not very long remain busy. There are some things that are necessary, and I would deeply urge upon believing parents the importance of reading the Scriptures with their children, HOLY Scriptures. I know very well that there are some difficulties in the way, but that is one of the greatest encouragements. Difficulties are most useful, and I hope you think I am not merely dreaming when I suggest that I would look forward to the time when a larger number of the children of the Bible School did some of their homework WITH their parents, that the daily readings perhaps, were read by parents with their children, and some of the parts of those daily readings explained by the parents to the children, - that there might be preparation of this kind. Oh, do you say, I have no time? Stays, dear friend, are you sure that you have time NOT to do this.

Again, the Holy Scriptures are here brought before us by an unusual word. It is not the ordinary term for Scriptures. It is used in John 7 - How knoweth This Man letters? The sacred letters. We talk about a man of letters to-day, meaning thereby education. That is the thought here, - "from a child thou hast known the sacred letters". Perhaps you have said that you want your children to be well educated, well then you cannot leave the Scripture out. Scripture emphasizes that the one who is a man of letters is a man who known the sacred letters. I believe that education is largely a failure at the present time, because the Scriptures are increasingly thrown out of their right place. With all the boasted advance of to-day, minds are peculiarly shallow. There is not much THINKING. There may be a fair amount of cramming with facts to be forgotten a little time afterwards, but real thinking is comparatively rare. We flatter ourselves, or there is the tendency so to do, that world has certain progress mentally, - that it is progressing toward evil with an awful progress in pride, in plain, but I am merely speaking now of the mental progress. We sometimes are inclined to flatter ourselves there is this, but I am inclined to believe the idea is largely a delusion.

The amount of time spent on training of children to-day, so called training, is far larger than any other times. The outlay of labour produces a miserable result. The things to GOD are put in the background, and the loving of pleasure more than the loving of God is leading to a bitter harvest. Mere knowledge of facts is not education. At the present day the majority of people have never tried much to think. They have thought it is too much work to think, whereas there is nothing more pleasurable mentally, and if the heart is subordinate to the Lord, it is blessed to think in Scripture, where we have depth of reasoning and heights of argument that no human book can reach or parallel in the slightest degree. "From a child thou hast known THE SACRED LETTERS". Ah, dear friends, let the Scriptures have a larger proportion in the children's TRAINING, and education. I hope you will not regard it as merely interest in that which is nearest when I beg of those whose children attend the Bible School to put the Bible School arrangements first. Let other things come in second, whatever those other things may be. I might partly claim this in a measure of fairness, for the strain of the work, though a labour of love, is a real labour, but I would claim it on a far higher ground, - for the children's sake, and, beyond that, for the glory of the Lord. You may try other methods but the children will not be educated. The sacred letters produce, by God's working a man of letters. Furthermore, the word here used doubtless refers to the fact that Timothy was trained as a baby in the Hebrew. I think there is little doubt that such is part of the necessary translation of the words. Undoubtedly he knew Greek early, and NOW we have the Greek Scriptures as well, and the arguments to the Hebrew would apply to the Greek also. I suppose there is not an adult present who is learning Greek or Hebrew who would not wish (if it were justifiable so to wish) that he or she had been able to learn the rudiments in early childhood. Timothy from a baby knew the sacred letters. Educational value of the learning of a language is not small, but the spiritual value, if God pleased so to bless it, of being acquainted with the exact words of the Holy Spirit, those choice jewels handed down year after year, - the spiritual value of feeling, "I am saying the very words which God gave that man of God two thousand years and more age," - such a feeling is surely more than enough compensation for the necessary labours. Do not discourage to this work, encourage it enthusiastically, for your enthusiasm will be largely reflected by the children, and without a word of discouragement, without a definite act of discouragement, you can, more easily than you think, influence the children to

waste their own time, and yours, a little longer. May I take the opportunity in this connection of saying a word or two as to the Hebrew and Greek work here? This part of our Bible School involves a certain outlay of time and of strength. I am thankful for the co-operation of various ones of the Lord's people, for it is impossible for me to bear the full responsibility in Hebrew and Greek, because I cannot make all pupils go at the same rate. But I have come to the conclusion for next term that apart from those who are already in my own class for the Hebrew and Greek for whom there will be a certain minimum of knowledge that they will be required to have to continue in that class, - apart from these, I have decided that others will not be allowed to stay to the Hebrew and Greek classes unless they bring a special request from their parents to this end. I do not want any to feel that this privilege is a matter of mere compulsion, but I would say to you, dear parents and friends, who may be influencing others as to this Bible School, that if you value your children's progress as to the sacred letters, put no obstacle in their way, but encourage them with all the enthusiasm you have to take up the study while they are young. Yes, ENCOURAGE them. We shall be having probably three classes for the Hebrew and Greek this term. The first class will be of any among the younger ones whose parents desire them to take this advantage; that will be quite elementary work, enjoyable and simple, and none are too young for Set 1. The second class will require a certain amount of work and knowledge. If any fall through from my class they will go down into the second one, but the second one will be quite easy. The work will be a little EACH week, and this will be continually increasing, but not a great deal at once. Those who can progress more quickly will be in my class, and let me urge parents to emphasize upon those who are in that set the seriousness of solid work, that there may be the progress in this important study. For a child to do any piece of work badly or carelessly is not to do it at all. The mind is warped. Let all work be done well. A child will often take five times the amount of minutes for a tiny piece of work through never doing it well at first. He acts just as a man continually rolling anything up part of the way to a hill top, and then letting it roll back, keeping on rolling it up again, but never rolling it over the top. There are many adults who learn something like this, as well as younger ones. A little reminder may be helpful in this connection, but we must continue and notice furthermore in 2 Tim. 3, the AFTER value of this study, albeit not without faith. Oh let us emphasize, dear friends, those last words "Through faith which is in Christ Jesus". I do not

want to see merely a gathering of saved children, THROUGH FAITH which is in Christ Jesus. One longs to see saved families in these days in which we live. I may mention, in this connection, that, if the Lord will, I hope to occupy part of Thursday's meetings, - as there are some of the parents who are not here this evening whom I want to see before next term starts, - with the subject of Families of Scripture, and I would earnestly invite any who are here to come again then. But to return to this verse, "From a child (from a baby) thou hast known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make thee wise". Here is an after value, "unto salvation"- not merely a present salvation, for Timothy still views the salvation as FUTURE in this passage. What does it mean? It includes being with the Lord in the future. Do you see that when once begun there is the continual training in the Scripture? None can ever say, I have gone beyond that. It leads on and on and on, and in that wondrous day there will be the reward for the faithful service of those who have put the Scripture into practice. So you see the after-effects, - "Make wise UNTO SALVATION". Do you want that your children should be wise? - You cannot have wisdom without the Scriptures. You may get cleverness without, cleverness of a kind, - you may secure knowledge of kind, but wisdom is inseparable from the Truth, for, remember, that the fear to the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. And let me once more emphasize you cannot rightly have the Scriptures without FAITH which is in Christ Jesus, the One Saviour for the lost: - and such are the "best of men"- as men say- by nature. Oh that every meeting may point to Christ! I need not pause to speak of the after effects when Timothy was Paul's assistant and helper. I dare say as I mentioned already you would like to see children growing up to be useful. Dear friends, if you begin to think of training them up to be useful when they are 13 or 14 years of age, you have started altogether too late. There are many parents who want their children to serve the Lord, but they are afraid lest they should bring about this study of the Sacred Scriptures, too young, and they wake up afterwards to find that they have been misled by that most specious snare of Satan "putting off".

A word or two now in connection with the Bible School proposed arrangements for next term. By the grace of God, for nothing is by merit, we are able to thankfully say that God has enabled us to go through various plans that this work may more fully go forward to the Lord's glory, and I want you to realize your responsibility in this connection. I cannot fully explain all the arrangements

in ten minutes, or a quarter of an hour, it is impossible, I wish more of the parents would come and see the Bible School in its working..... A parent's responsibility is greater than can easily be estimated..... Is it too much to ask you to see to the regularity of the home-work? That some little time is spent EVERY day on the homework, that no talking be allowed between children, if more than one is in a room during the studies..... Let the children have an appointed time, and let nothing come in the way of it..... I do desire that there may be results to the Glory of God, results in the day of Jesus Christ..... It is important that children should take up ALL the studies, WHENEVER possible, and usually it IS possible.

We return at the end of our subject to that which we had at the beginning. The object is the glory of God, that Christ may be exalted, in the hearts, and then in the lives of both children and parents, saved by that precious blood shed for guilty sinners, and then own His Lordship and control until He shall come, for Whom His redeemed wait, as they patiently study and earnestly serve.

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**Further addresses available:**

Scriptural literature for Believers, Gottlieb-Daimler-Str.1, 74343 Sachsenheim, GERMANY