



Thy Word Have I Hid In My Heart

I would like to ask you to think back to the last time you were tempted to do something you knew was wrong. If you did not yield to the temptation, what caused you to stop and ponder your ways? Perhaps it was something your pastor said in a sermon, or something you read in your morning devotion. Or maybe it was God's Word that you had committed to memory at some time earlier in your life. I know in my own life the verses that come back to me most often are the ones I learned in my youth. It is much harder for me to memorize today than when I was younger. Memorization is an excellent mental discipline for children. It sharpens their minds and helps to prepare them for the study of more complicated subjects.

As parents and teachers we should be thankful to have the privilege of helping our children with their memory work because we need our minds sharpened as well! We are also blessed at Cherokee Christian to have an emphasis on scripture memory and the great truths of scripture through the Building Blocks of the Faith. Scripture memory has become a lost discipline in our modern world. Through the influx of the media age and our busy schedules, we could easily lose the very foundation that gives us a Biblical worldview.

There are many reasons to make scripture memory a priority. The

first reason is that it is a matter of obedience. Colossians 3:16 admonishes us to "let the word of God richly dwell within us, with all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in our hearts to God." Secondly, memorizing scripture is a sin-preventative. David sums it up best when he says "thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee" Psalm 119:11. Our children need constant reminders of God's loving faithfulness and his requirements as they face the temptations that exist in our fast paced, all-about-me world. In that same chapter, David reminds us that memorizing scripture is an incentive to purity. In Ps.119:9, David says that a young man can keep his way pure by meditating and delighting in God's law. He emphasizes that he delights in learning God's law and that he shall not forget it.

Memorizing scripture will also give our children confidence as they are questioned about their faith. 1 Peter 3:15 tells us to always be ready to make a defense to everyone who asks us about the hope that is within us. This is to be done gently and reverently. The premier education that students receive at CCS is different and superior to others because we integrate scripture into all curricular areas. This will enable them to apply scripture to each

discipline taught and answer those that challenge them with theories that are not Biblical.

Lastly, Bible memory, and the obedience it engenders, brings stability and prosperity. "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success" - Joshua 1:8. Picture if you will your child growing from a small seedling into a strong tree firmly planted by streams of water which yields fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. That is the picture that Psalm 1: 1-3 gives of a person that delights in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on it day and night. The promise is that in whatever he does, he will prosper.

As a teacher I admonish my students to not cram Scripture memory into their minds the night before or the morning of the test, but to be careful and go over the verses each night until they are firmly planted in their mind. In our class we go over the verses each day to help students keep God's Word ever before them. Keeping the verses on the fridge close to where parents and students can go over them each day is a good idea. I also highly recommend a website that has available many of the truths we teach set to



music written by a friend of mine,
Judy Rogers (www.judyrogers.com).
When memorization is incorporated
into music, the right brain, as well as

the left brain hemispheres are used,
making recall even better in later years.
May we continue to be diligent to
find fun and creative ways to help our

children delight and treasure God's
Word.

~ *Debbie Lester*

Cherokee Christian Schools • www.cherokeechristian.org



Cherokee Christian Schools, Inc. • 3075 Trickum Road • Woodstock, GA 30188 • 678-494-KING

©2008 • CHEROKEE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Cherokee Christian Schools admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities made available to students of the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational and admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.