



October 26, 2008

Yarf ...

is the nickname given for a Jack Russell terrier that I brought home in the hopes that we would have a good experience with a dog. For the most part that worked out fine but there were problems that eventually led us to remove Yarf from the home. It was a very sad event and one that was not of her making. The original owners were described as neglectful in key areas that were critical to the animals adjustment and well being. A complete lack of socialization during the first two months or so of her life created a deficit in her ability to be trained and adapt to being around humans. It was sad to have to part with her but it taught me a lot of lessons that are applicable in the world today. I have met and talked to a number of individuals who did not have any exposure to spiritual things as a child and there are others who are denying their children a knowledge of the Bible, God and other things. It is no wonder that there are so many younger folks that have no solid concept of who or what God is and will embrace anything that sounds good. Children who are not taught about God may not develop a sense of spiritual things which becomes a lifelong deficit. Solomon stated, ***“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” (Prov 22.6)***. I have seen children give blank looks when the idea of God and religion are brought up. They do not understand or recognize the importance of such issues. There are others who have not been exposed to spiritual things that are very uncomfortable around others who do things such as praying. It is not the fault of the children that this situation exists. The parents have the responsibility to teach their children. The quality of what is taught will have a lasting impact on their lives. Unfortunately some parents are not interested in God and fail to see the need for such information. This is not a new situation. The Children of Israel were warned of being lax in this area. Moses told the people that they needed to meet this obligation as a means of perpetuating their nation and remembering all the good that God had done for them. ***“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy***

children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” (Deut 6.6-7). This of course means that the parents need to mind their own spiritual affairs first of all. All of this points to the fact that being spiritual is a family matter that begins with the parents and will ultimately affect the way the children view and interact with the world around them. In the absence of such knowledge there is no fear of God and where there is no fear any form of evil can take root and further poison the minds of mankind. The scriptures are referred to as a lamp, or light, that is able to direct our paths (**Psm 119.105**). Christ is the light of the world through his appearance and revelation of the Gospel so that we might be saved (**John 1.4-5**). Without the word of God we would never know that we are lost and doomed to face judgment unprepared. We would not know that God desires to reconcile with us and has provided the means to do that through the sacrifice of his son. Yarf was an animal who was subjected to the neglect of humans and lacked the ability to adapt positively because of that neglect. Those who perhaps lack exposure to God’s word have the ability to seek the Lord should they desire to do so. God does not want us to be lost but will destroy us if we choose to neglect the warnings.

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