

One thing I've learned in growing old, No doubt you've noticed too: The kids to whom you gave advice now give advice to you. —(F. G. Kernan)

We have been blessed in the last month or so with the Lord adding four precious souls to the Lord's Body and they have been our young people. Rebecca Johnson, Brian Dodd, Laykin Little, and Taylor Hensley confessed Christ and were baptized into Christ. What a blessing it is to have the young people of our congregation set forth the example to others the importance of becoming a Christian.

Immediately following Taylor's baptism last Wednesday evening as I was leaving the auditorium for the night and a little bright eyed red haired girl ran up to me and said, "Joe, I want to be bapatzied." I know many of you are thinking this preacher just spelled "baptized" wrong, but I tried to spell it like she stated it. I was excited for her as she expressed the desire to be buried in the waters of baptism. I was excited that she had witnessed someone being added to the Lord's Body and even in her young mind she realized and knew that was something she needed to do. We sat on the bench at the back of the church and talked for a minute. I ask her if she understood what sin was and the consequences of sin. She shook her little head and said, no. I then asked her if she what it meant to have the responsibility of being a Christian and she said, no. I could sense she was very excited at the happenings of the evening and so we continued in conversation. I asked her to talk to her dad and mom about God's plan of salvation and then gave that plan to her verbally. I realize the girl is young, only eight years of age, but I also thought she needed to hear the correct response. As a father of an eight year old myself, I wanted to reiterate what I had asked her to ask her parents. So I said what did I ask you to ask your parents? She said (and I quote), "I don't remember" So I said, "Ask them about the PLAN OF SALVATION." I then ask her to repeat that to me and she did, "I'm gonna ask mom and dad about the PLANET OF SALVATION." Holding back laughter so I didn't embarrass her I told that was perfect and knew her mom and dad could and would decipher what she was saying.

Friends, over the last couple of days I have had time to think about her statement. I know that children don't always comprehend what we as adults are trying to convey, but this little girl on that Wednesday night wanted nothing more than to be baptized and feel the wonderful feeling she had just witnessed. The PLANET of salvation was real to her and she wanted to know more about it. While there is no planet of salvation and I realize that it was a mispronunciation by an eight year old little girl, there is the great importance of someone searching for Christ. Do we search for the love of Christ in each day? Do we desire to serve God by telling others of His love and how He has changed our lives?

As I talked to this bright eyed, red haired girl of right years on this planet, it became clear that she was in search of something far greater than just this place we call earth. She was searching for a place where God is, where Christ's love reigns supreme; A place of safety and reassurance. A planet, if you will, of salvation. Jesus said of Himself in John 14:6 that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Jesus is salvation. He always has been and always will be. The question we all need to ask ourselves is: Are we searching for Him?

In Christ,

Joe Rhodes