

I Would Not Be Here **Without My Parents!**

by Robert Hatfield

A few weeks ago, a special day was enjoyed by all children as they were able to honor their mothers on Mother's Day. Soon a special day for fathers will be observed. Surely it is the case that no one physically would be here without his or her parents. But consider this: how many God-fearing Christians today could say, "I would not be here (that is, in the church, a faithful Christian) without my parents!"?

The apostle Paul looked at Timothy's life and noticed a Christian genealogy. This was no coincidence. Timothy's grandmother, Lois, and mother, Eunice, exemplified an *unfeigned faith* (2 Tim. 1:5), that is, a sincere faith, without hypocrisy. Lois and Eunice were active in studying and teaching God's word in the home. Paul encouraged Timothy, "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned ... And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures..." (2 Tim. 3:14-15). The implication is that Timothy became a Christian as a result of the Scriptural training he received at home. In the home, Timothy learned about the Christ, developed his faith, and studied what was needed to make him "wise unto salvation" (2 Tim. 3:15). There is no doubt but what the foundation of Timothy's faith was a result of the training he received by his mother and grandmother.

Is it the case that parents who study with their children are simply "pushing their faith" onto their children? This writer has heard those who advocate such an absurd doctrine. Timothy's faith was his own. The Bible says Timothy was "assured of" the things he had learned, which means he firmly believed the holy scriptures (2 Tim. 3:14). To train and instruct in the faith is not sin, for God has commanded such (Pro. 22:6; Eph. 6:4)!

While this writer is not a parent, he is thankful to have a mother who has been dedicated to training in the way of the Lord, and he is thankful to have a father who constantly encourages him toward righteousness. Additionally, this writer is thankful for all parents who are dedicated to teaching God's word at every given opportunity (Deu. 6:6-9) — beginning at home and allowing for that training to be continued in the Bible class and at worship services.

Christians who have been raised in the Lord — who now are faithful servants of the Lord — are truly grateful for what their parents have done for them. Paul said these pious parents are to be valued and cherished. "Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)" (Eph. 6:2).

[www. *East Hill Church* .org](http://www.EastHillChurch.org)

From *The East Hill News*
Published by the East Hill Church of Christ
P.O. Box 329 • Pulaski, TN 38478
(931) ~ 363-2777