Genesis 18:19 Sermon ID – 2120 am – 27 12 09

"ABRAHAM'S FAITHFULNESS"

Introduction

1. A wonderful tribute to have from God!
2. It concerns the practical theme of parenthood.
3. The "secret of the Lord" is here visible

1. PARENTS HAVE GOD-GIVEN AUTHORITY

1) "I know him": God's high opinion of him
APPLICATION: Do we not want God to think this of us?

2) "He will command":
(i) this is the duty of parents: love + authority
(ii) similar texts of scripture:
(iii) failure through neglect: Eli

3) The great secret of good parenting:
(i) authority exercised by love and in love
(ii) the child's will is to be shaped to obedience

4) What responsibility falls on the parent?
(i) to be an example of faithfulness to the child
(ii) to be no hypocrite but visibly consistent
APPLICATION: This largely lost in modern society

2. PARENTS ARE TO PREPARE THEIR CHILDREN

1) "after him…they shall keep the way of the Lord".

2) Tomorrow's church is affected by today's parents

3) "The way of the Lord":
(i) to put God's glory first above all else
(ii) to obey God's Moral Law with great care
(iii) to apply scripture to our decision, especially re, marriage, work, church attendance, etc.

(iv) to look at life in a biblical way
(v) to do what we can to promote the gospel

4) "The child is father to the man" (Wordsworth)
OBSERVE: The period of childhood is short + must be grasped by parents
APPLICATION: It is the way to honour God

3. GOD'S BLESSING RESTS ON FAITHFUL PARENTS

1) This is a most encouraging text:
(i) God here praises Abraham's faith
(ii) Abraham is a model to us today
ILLUSTRATION: The obedience he shows (Cp. 22)

2) Look at the outcome::
(i) Isaac – walked in God's ways after – married wisely – kept to the truth
(ii) Jacob – experience at Bethel – 20 years away from home – at Peniel…
(iii) The Nation of Israel – Christ came
(iv) The Christian faith – to all the world

3) Parents cannot convert their children but they should do all they can to have them converted – the younger the better

4. PRACTICAL ADVICE

1) Family Worship: morning + evening

2) Church Attendance: regularly

3) Memory Work: Bible + Catechism

4) The Lord's Day kept holy

5) Keep out the "little foxes":
(i) cheap music
(ii) harmful programmes

(iii) excessive sport
(iv) bad company

CONCLUSION

1.We want our children in heaven
2.Never despair of them
3.Pray to have Abraham's attitude here.

PSALM

78: 1 – 6

101: 3 – 8

145[2]: 4 – 10