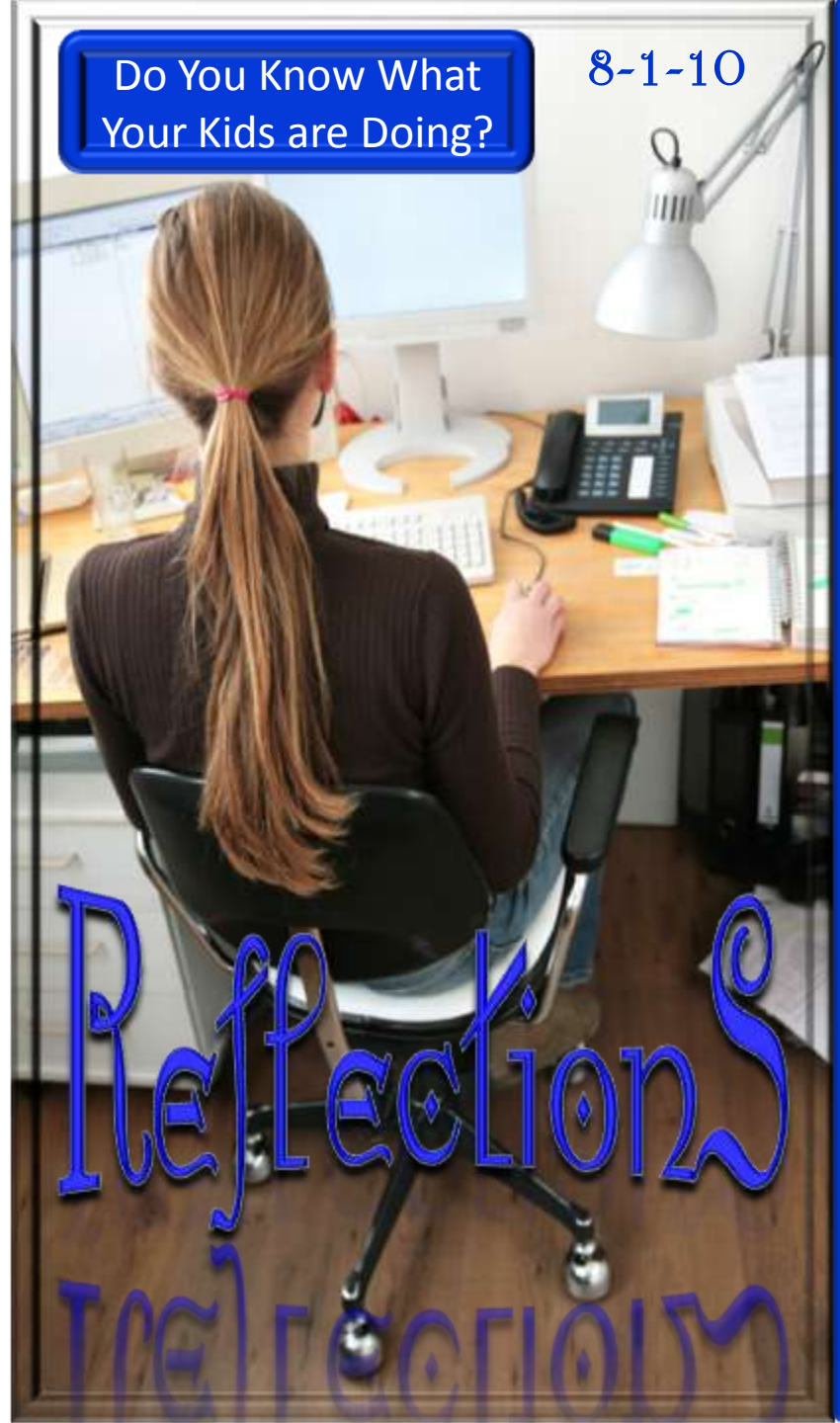


Sermon Notes

Do You Know What
Your Kids are Doing?

8-1-10





Reflections

night.³ *He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. (Psalm 1:1-3 NKJ)*

Let's review that old question with a modern twist. Do you know what your kids are consuming and with whom they are being influenced? Are they following the world's direction or are they being taught, and being held accountable for, the Word of God? Are they equipped to say no to the temptations that they will face at school, in the neighborhood, or in the company of their friends? Have they learned to choose friends that are safe to be around or are they being drawn into the web of deceit and immoral behaviors that so many are enslaved by in their choice of friends? The Bible is quite direct when it tells us to raise our children in God's way. *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: ³ "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth." ⁴ And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:1-4 NKJ)*

The greatest lessons taught are reinforced by our own lives reflecting the life that is lived according to the Word of God. So we need to also test our own choices in these matters of media, choice of friends, the types of activities in which we engage and the manner in which we speak of such things. Can we really expect our kids, and even our friends, to respect words that are not proven in our walk? When the Bible cautions us concerning the company we keep or the behaviors that we should not be involved with, we must not only teach these principles but we must also be good examples of those who are obedient to them.

We live in challenging times. Things that were not part of society a few decades ago are now prominent fixtures in our modern life. When we look at some of these changes, they are significant. Cell phones, the internet, cable and satellite television, legalized abortion, sex education programs promoting immoral behavior becoming the norm in our schools, and movies that exploit the worst in man's behaviors with the "heroes" being the ones who are a little less evil, have all brought with them a fearful toll on the spiritual health of our nation. The biggest question then is: To what degree have we each been contaminated by such a sinful society? Have we rejected God's place in our lives in the same way as we have in our society? Let's purpose to become a new generation of those who follow Jesus as His committed disciples and let's know what our kids, and ourselves, are doing. **Pastor Doug**

When our children were young, there was a question that was asked frequently regarding parental supervision. It went something like this: "It's 10:00 p.m. do you know where your kids are?" The purpose for the question was to bring awareness to people who were not properly monitoring what their kids were doing in the evening hours. In reality, many did not know where their children actually were. They had created a style of life that often left children to their own choices that, in turn, left them vulnerable to the negative influences that plagued the cities and neighborhoods. Today not much has changed as many children still lack proper supervision for how and with whom they spend their time.

The philosophies of the day tend to steer kids into exploring the adult world and its temptations and dangers when they should still be able to be children who are protected from such hazards. Lifestyles that are high-risk are promoted in our schools as desirable. Abortions are available to teen girls without any parental involvement. Drugs are used to entice new consumers into the devastating life of addiction and pornography on the internet opens doors into sexual immorality and predation by those who are deep into such depraved behaviors. So-called social networks encourage dangerous "transparency" of the lives and activities of young and old alike. Lonesome people often share revelations that can imperil them at the hands of predatory users of the internet. The weapons of spiritual warfare have been launched in these days in an attempt to entrap as many people as possible with dire spiritual consequences.

The Bible states that we should be careful with whom we share our lives. *Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits." ³⁴ Awake to righteousness, and do not sin; for some do not have the knowledge of God. (1Corinthians 15:33-34 NKJ)* The book of Proverbs also points out that those with whom we share our lives can and do influence how we think. *Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil. ¹⁵ Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on. (Proverbs 4:14-15 NKJ)* The Psalmist would add: *Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and*