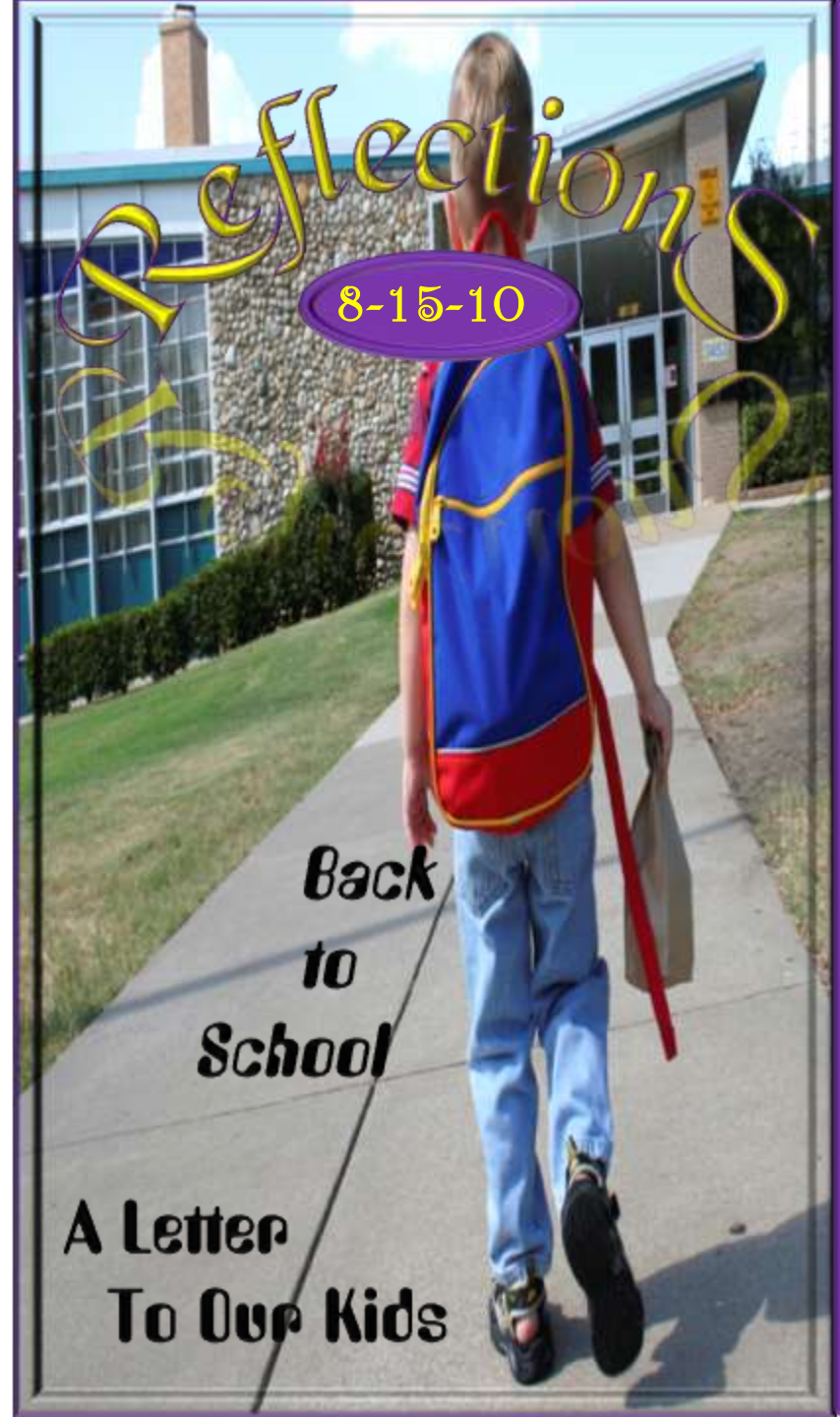


Sermon Notes



# Reflections

8-15-10

**Back  
to  
School**

**A Letter  
To Our Kids**



# Reflections

**Dear Students,**

Well kids, it is almost time to be back in school. Summertime is swiftly passing and the stores are having their back-to-school sales of new clothes, backpacks, supplies and other items of interest for the new school year. In a few short weeks schedules, registration activities, athletic practices, marching band practices, and many other school-related activities will be in full swing. Of course, many of you have mixed emotions about all this. Some of you are looking forward to the new school year while others of you wish summer break was year-round. But, in reality, summertime has just about run out of new and exciting things for you to do. I've even heard some of you use the word "bored" when asked about your remaining summer activities. In spite of one's feelings about returning to school, time does march on and soon the school doors will open and you all will be beckoned to enter yet another school year.

Many of you have made new commitments to the Lord during camps this summer. You have declared your intent to become a child of God in Christ and now it is time to spend time in the Word of God and to apply His Word to your life and the choices you make. The Bible makes clear how essential it is to make the Word of God the governing influence in your life. David states it this way: *With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!*<sup>11</sup> *Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!* (Psalm 119:10-11 NKJ) He commits himself to seek the Lord with his whole heart and to take the Word of God into his heart that he might not sin against Him. To do this requires that God's Word is a daily discipline in our lives. We must read and study His Word to put it into our hearts. Our Youth Directors are here to encourage you in this area of discipleship. Listen carefully to them.

Now, with your fresh commitment to the Lord and His Word, you are headed back to school where God's Word is not commonly found or tolerated. Will you continue to be true to the Lord or will you find your old friends and their approval to be more compelling and too important to risk losing them to be obedient to the Lord? Will you set a new standard for your choices and behaviors or will you just choose to "go along with the crowd"? Will your personal dress code, your moral choices, and your new behavioral expectations, stand strong against the

tide of immoral behavior that too many young folks are indulging in today? The Bible cautions us to...*not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."* (1Corinthians 15:33 NKJ) Will your walk with Jesus impact your friends or will you allow their habits to rub off on you? Remember, what you do, with whom you do it, and why you do the things you do, reflect, not only on you, but on your parents, your friends, and especially on Jesus. You are now a new creation in Christ and the "fruit" you bear must declare His lordship over your life. We must stand against the flow, not merely go with it in our daily lives.

Consider the Pacific Salmon, he feeds out at sea for a few years and grows in size and strength. He then follows the instincts, that God has programmed into his DNA, to return to the place where he was spawned and grew to sufficient size to swim to the sea. His life is then sacrificed for the little "fry" that will make up the foundation of the next generation. His offspring will grow a bit and ultimately swim to the sea to grow and fulfill their life purpose as did their parents. This powerful, magnificent fish overcomes predators, barriers such as falls and rapids, and swims enormous distances to fulfill his destiny to spawn the eggs that will become the next generation. He only floats with the current after he dies. Let's learn from his determination to swim against the flow even in the face of challenges, let's purpose to do the same at school.

Paul the apostle writes to his young protégé Timothy and gives him a challenge to be a good example to the church and in doing so his youth will not be a hindrance to his service. *Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.* (1Timothy 4:12-13 NKJ) Let me remind you, as you return to school this year, concerning what is important for you as a disciple of Jesus. First you must remember that your conduct reflects on Jesus and tells your friends that you are either serious in your desire to follow His Word, or just giving "lip service" so purpose not act or speak in a manner inconsistent with one who has committed their life to Christ. The second thing that you need to keep in mind is this: You can lead others to know Christ by how well your life demonstrates His work in you as you follow His Word. God will be glorified by a disciple who is obedient, so consider this: *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.* (Matthew 5:16 NKJ)

**Yours in Christ,**  
**Pastor Doug**