

Tuesday, January 17, 2023 ▫ Read Psalm 78:1–8

Questions from the Scripture text: To what are to give our ears and incline them (v1)? What will we be told (v2)? Where have we heard this (v3)? Whom will we tell (v4)? What will we tell? What has God established and where (v5)? What did He command our fathers to do? To whom else would this be communicated (v6)? What are the three parts of the application of this teaching (v7)? What had previous generations not done (v8)?

What is the Lord's prescription for making each generation of His church better than the previous? Psalm 78:1–8 looks forward to the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these eight verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the Lord employs fathers as the teachers of their children; to show them God's character, relations, and works; that the children might be doctrinally driven to faith, worship, and obedience.**

From this Scripture, we learned God's plan for the reformation and preservation of His church: one generation teaching another generation of generation-teachers—all of whom put that teaching into practice.

Of course, teaching begins with your ears. You can't teach what you haven't studied. In our flesh and our folly, we would like to skip to faith, worship, and obedience. But, the Lord's plan for us and assignment to us begins with our minds. Listen and learn. We cannot teach the next generation until we have learned from the previous one.

What are we to learn in order to teach? The Lord's testimonies and laws. His teachings and His commands. *The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God and what duty God requires of man.*

vv1–4 teach us that telling to the next generation the praises of the good, great, saving God is an obligation not an option. v4 refers to failure to do so as "hiding" the "praises of the LORD and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done."

vv5–7 tell us that God Himself established this "right" that covenant children possess, that they would receive instruction in the Word of God from one generation to the next. It is His appointed means by which successive generations would be brought to "hope in God and not forget the works of God but keep His commandments" (v7).

But the people of Israel up to the point of the Psalm's writing had not been faithful to their purpose (v8). They had neither known what they ought nor conveyed that knowledge to their children.

There are three primary responses to this knowledge:

Faith. "That they may set their hope in God." One generation doesn't just teach data to the other. They put their hope in God, training the next generation, as well, by the example of their faith.

Worship. "And not forget the works of God." Worship is the first response of faith. We fall at His feet saying, "My Lord and my God." We don't forget His works, but rather acknowledge and praise Him. Realizing and remembering Who He is provokes a response of adoration.

Obedience. "But keep His commandments." Obedience is worship translated into action in the life. Having acknowledged the Lord as God, we give up our right to ourselves and live according to whatever He says.

In what situations are you listening to God's Word? In what situations are you teaching God's Word? What place does worship have in each of your days? In each of your weeks? What difference does it make daily that you are living a life of obedience?

Sample prayer: Lord, You have displayed Your glorious strength in Your wonderful works—particularly in the saving work of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Since we are often forgetful of You, come now and help us by Your Holy Spirit to set our hope in You. Help us not to forget Your works, but to adore You for them. Help us to worship in the offering of the spiritual sacrifices of prayer, and praise, and hearing preaching. Feed and strengthen us at Your table, that we might be enabled to offer our bodies as living sacrifices this week. In particular, grant that our children would hear now Your praise, Your strength, and Your wonderful works. And so implant Your Word in us all that they might one day tell the same to a generation to come, we ask in Jesus's Name, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP78B "O Come, My People" or TPH550 "Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. **PLEASE BE AWARE** of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Psalms 78 to 1 through 8, these are God's words.

The contemplation of asap. Give your whom my people to my law and climb your ears. To the words of my mouth, i will open my mouth in a parable. I will order dark sayings of old. Which we have heard and known and our fathers have told us We will not hide them from their children.

Telling to the generation to come the praises of Yahweh. And his strength. And his wonderful works that he has done. Four, he established a testimony in jacob. And appointed a law in israel. Which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children. That the generation to come might know

them.

The children who would be born? That they may arise and declare them to their children. That they may set their hope in god. And not forget the works of god, but keep his commitments. And may not be like their fathers. Stubborn rebellious generation. A generation that did not set its heart to write.

And his spirit was not faithful. To god.

So far the reading of god's inspired and inherent worked.

From this scripture, we learn god's plan for The Reformation and preservation of his church. This is the way that. He makes wonder generation better than the one that proceeded it. Yeah, you see the end there? That they may not be like their fathers stubborn and rebellious generation that did not set its heart, right?

His spirit was not faithful to god. Um, In god's great mercy and inscrutable wisdom. His plan for making children better than their fathers were. Is to use their fathers. To teach them the words of god. The fathers and the children, both belong to god by covenant. We are his people.

Verse 1, you have The lord. Uh, speaking through asap. But then in verse 2, Uh, the focus is more on. Asap's voice, under the lord, by the lord. And the lord has taken a people to himself that we might First know him himself. The praises of the lord second.

No, the strength of him. So, him himself in relation to us. This strength verse 4. And then third. The expression of his character and the expression of his relation to us. In his actions. So in the third place is wonderful works that he has done. And so here are three parts of what man is to believe.

Concerning god. You have, of course. Uh, memorized and your shorter catechisms, what do the scriptures principally teach And the scripture is principally. Teach what man is to believe concerning god and what duty? God requires a man But, Doing the duty that god requires of us flows. Always from believing the truth about god, that god teaches us.

So, We are not going to. Reform from our stubbornness and our rebelliousness. And our incorrectly set hearts and are unfaithfulness. Verse 8, we are not going to keep his commandments. Verse 7, unless By faith. We set our hope in god. And remember the works of god verse 7. So you see the Theological way that god gives his righteousness.

But not just to be counted for us in christ, but applied to us by his spirit from christ. And so it is utterly necessary. That we would learn. To praise the lord and his strength. And his wonderful works. That we would make study of with the mind. And be gripped by in our hearts.

What god is like in himself? Praise the lord. What he is like, in relation to us his strength toward us And his mercy and his wisdom. All of those other. Uh, Things that mark has interaction with us. Not just what he's like in himself, and His relation to us.

But also how he has expressed those things in what he has done and has wonderful works. That he has done. This is the great job. Of a parent, a father or a mother. Is first. To listen to God to teach us these things about himself. And then to teach our children, And yes, our children are to incline their ears to us.

But, As you listen to your dad, or your mom, teach you what God is like, and how he relates to us, the great things that he has done. You're especially to recognize that your mom or dad are god's instrument. For his own teaching you. Just like a parent is not allowed to give whatever discipline he wants or whatever instruction you wants.

Right. Do not provoke your children's wrath. But you are to nurture them, bring them up in the discipline of the lord, the instruction of the lord. So also a child who is thinking rightly We'll see their dad or their mom as god's instrument. And we'll be listening especially for what the scripture says.

And as mom and dad speak from the scriptures and consistently with the scriptures, Then you realize this is god. Teaching me through my dad through my mom. What he is like. What relationship with him is like to be upheld by almighty power. And the great works. He has done especially the great work.

Of coming. In the person. Of our lord jesus christ. And living that righteous life. And dying that atoning death. And rising again with power. And ascending and sitting on the throne of glory. From which he gives all of the virtue of. Not just his divine person, but all that he has done with his human nature.

As our priest and our sacrifice. And applying that to me by his holy spirit, this is the great work. That he has done. This is the reason that there are any works at all. This is the reason that there is anything at all other than god, Because he was determined to do this.

From before the world began. And so, as you hear all of the instruction, Um, From. Uh, from god, by means of your parents. You realize in psalm 78? That this is all his design for bringing me. To faith in him for bringing me to respond to him with worship.

In the worship times. And for bringing me to respond to him with obedience. In my life. And the rest of the psalm is going to Um, Is going to hold forth to us. Uh, the greatness of god's patience but the dreadfulness. Of stubbornness and rebellion. And therefore the great needfulness.

Of disinstruction from the lord. That as he teaches us about himself, and as he trains our hearts and minds to respond to him. Uh, there is Much rebellion, that needs to be overcome. And there are grave consequences if it is not overcome. But there is behind it all. Oh god.

Who is? Patient and persistent and powerful. To cleanse us from our unrighteousness. Of which he has forgiven us in christ. Then, let's pray. Our father in heaven, we pray that you would Help us to. Receive instruction from you. That we would be grateful whenever you gather us. To yourself, whether

Individual isolated moments with your word. Alone just you and your spirit helping us. Or in these times in the family as you have designed this to be. One of the great ways that you teach us and deliver us from our rebellion, Or even the greater way in the assemble in the assembly.

Uh, where you say today, when you hear your, his voice Do not harden your hearts as in the wilderness. As the generation of the wilderness. But oh, lord. If you do not by your spirit blessing, The use of your word employing, the use of your word. If you by your spirit, do not give us soft hearts.

Then we shall not have them because we cannot give them to ourselves. Have mercy on upon us then oh god. And save us by your almighty power. For, we ask

it in jesus name. Amen.