

# SUVISESHA DHWANI

Suvishesha Dhvani Reg. No. RN 29475/78

05 July 2008 Volume 4

## IS THE CHURCH GOVERNED BY A LOCAL TRUST?

K.V. Issac

Though many may not agree with the view that the Brethren Assemblies are under the powerful grip of the various organisations. But that is the truth. Many of the preachers preach that our local assemblies should have a trust, a committee etc. But church of God has a trust. There is no human ..... The Church was a mystery which was revealed in the New Testament period through Apostle Paul. It is not invented or designed by the Apostles or Prophets. Patriarchs like Noah, Abraham enjoyed the grace of God. But when we think of those periods we know that the grace of God was enjoyed only by a selected group. In that group the gentiles were not included. But God has made a provision for the gentiles through His only begotten Son Jesus Christ. (Eph. 1:4) But this was not revealed to the people of the Old Testament period. (Eph. 3:5) Those prophets who prophesied about it understood that they have nothing to do with it. The rule of the church is not according to the law. The election is quite different.

How can we understand it. As the Israelites were passing through the desert the tabernacle was in their midst xxx the Lord God was in centre. After their entrance to Canaan the Lord asked them to set the tabernacle at Siloh, we may wonder why the Lord has selected Siloh (Joh 18: 1,2) All the Israelites had to come there. Why did the Lord choose Ephraim. When we turn attention to 1 Chronicles 5:1,2 we see that Joseph got the birthright of Reuben. And when Jacob blessed the children of Joseph his right hand was on Ephraim's head. (Gen.48:14) God kept his promise by choosing Joshua to lead Israel after the death of Moses. He belonged to the tribe of Ephraim. (Num 13:8) God gave one more chance to Ephraim after the death of King David. King Solomon was not able to please as his father pleased Him. So the nation was divided into two after Solomon. Jeroboam who became the King as so belonged to Ephraim tribe. This Ephraim became ruler twice on the basis of birthright King Saul also became the king in this consid-

eration. But the Lord God forsook Siloh because of their sin. then Jerusalem was chosen as the city of the king (Ps. 78:68,69) But because of the sin of Judah Jerusalem too was forsaken (Mt. 23:37, Lk.13:34; 19:41)

With the rule of King Zedekiah the rule of monarchy came to end. Then see the rule of priesthood.

Church is the body of Christ. The members of the church are redeemed by the blood of Christ. Jesus Christ gave us eternal life from eternal condemnation. This is by His will, He begot us with His word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of His creatures (James 1:18). He promised "I will never leave you or forsake you". (Heb.13:5), (Jn 6:37). With all these guarantees he established the New Testamental church. There is no human leadership in the church. Christ is the head. There is no suggestion of trust for Church. God had set some in the church, first apostles, secondly prophets, thirdly teachers, governments etc. (1 Cor 12:28), He appoints prophets, apostles etc.... Ep 4:11.

In Acts 20:28 we see that we are purchased with his own blood and Holy Spirit made us overseers. This is the trust revealed by God. That means a total control by God himself. But the members of the church are human beings. So God appointed men to feed them. Our Lord's words to Apostle Peter is very important. The good shepherd told Peter "feed my lambs, feed my sheep" feed my sheep. This is the real appointment. There is no evidence in the Bible for election and voting. But now a days many trust bodies are formed. In many places only family members are elected. The shepherds are very less. The trust members are satisfied by annual conventions. The sheep get food only once in a year. Is it as per the word? The elders and teachers are doing the apostolic ministry according to the scripture. How many local assemblies are preaching this? Jacob told Laban that shepherds are with sheep (Gen 31:39, 40).

(contd.. .....to page 2)

## ARE YOU IDLING AWAY YOUR TIME

In Matthew 20: 1-16 we see an owner of a vineyard. He asks a few people at the eleventh hour of the day "Why stand ye here all the day idle?" (v.6). From this question we can understand that this owner of the vineyard is a man who knows the value of the time and who is conscious of giving the reward for the work. He went out in the early morning and called each and everyone whom he saw and sent them to the vineyard after fixing the wage. Finally he saw this group in the market who were idling away their time. So he sent them too to his vineyard. Since he has no time to waste he does not want others to waste their time. He knows that time and tide will not wait for any.

"So teach us to number our days" (Ps 90:12). This prayer of Moses reminds us that we must be aware of the brevity of our life and our responsibility to do the things that are entrusted to us. God is so gracious to redeem us from eternal damnation and also to give His peace to us. But He has asked us to propagate the good news to the whole world. Dear friends, will you please accept this reality and receive Christ in to your heart. Do you realize the fact that "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" James 4: 14. But we the believers should understand a very important thing in our life. It is He who loved us first and He has chosen us not on our merits. He has bestowed us on this great ministry of evangelization not counting on our eligibility or efficiency.

But He was so gracious to entrust it with us. So if we will not give due importance to it then we may find it difficult to stand before Him.

In 1 Tim 5:13 the Holy Spirit speaks of women who are idle. "And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle, but tattlers also and busy bodies, speaking things which they ought not" "For some are already turned to aside after Satan" v.15. Men flock also can fall in this sin. So beware! So dear brethren, do not idle away your time, do not interfere in others life and spread meaningless fables and scandals. If you are one of them, then repent and turn to the Lord. Let it be a warning to those saints who simply invest their time, talent and wealth on the worldly things. Do not forget the fact that we are not supposed to love the world. "Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher: all is vanity."

"Can thine heart endure, or can thine hands be strong, in the days that I shall deal with thee? I the Lord have spoken it, and will do it." (Eze. 22:14). Do not forget the fact that the master of the vineyard is at hand. He will ask us of our stewardship. The master gave the wages to those whom he called according to his word. Some of them grumbled and murmured at him. Dear brother, it should not happen to you and me. Let us decide not to idle away our time. Let us work hard in the vineyard because each and every moment of our life is so precious. When He will come He will give us the reward. Shall we earnestly wait for the return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

(obliged)

## THE PERSECUTION INCREASES IN INDIA

Recently the Gospel team workers were beaten up very badly in Uttar Pradesh. Br. Amith Swaroop, Br. David Thomas, Br. Varghese Abraham and Br.P.K. Yohannan were in the team. Br.P.K. Yohannan is still on treatment for the bruise of back bone. Please remember these brothers in your personal prayers. Our sincere encouragement and support are inevitable at this time. In an ancient church in Madhya Pradesh known as the Masihi Mandhir on 24<sup>th</sup> February 125 religious fanatics entered and started struggle. Those who tried to escape were cruelly beaten. Two days before at a place called Cosmy, when the cottage meeting was going on, believers were attacked. Pastor P. Vijayan of Nissamabad in Andhra Pradesh was beaten by Gangaram a ration shop keeper. His friends also joined him and finally threatened the pastor that he will be killed for any more conversions. And pastor was admitted in the hospital. The police did not take any serious actions on complaint. This happened on last February 17<sup>th</sup>. At Rishad in New Delhi the Bajrangdal marched towards three of the churches and threatened the believers. They damaged two of their vehicles. Remember! This happened in New Delhi. In Kerala also things are getting worse.

At Attingal, in Thiruvananthapuram Dist. In a village called Vavarambalam, India. Every Home Crusade workers Paul Ganesan, his wife and other three sisters were attacked. Their tracts and Bibles were torn and thrown. Their photos were taken in mobile phone camera and threatened to death if they are seen there any more. The devil is acting against the Gospel at his full swing. What we can do at this time? Pray without ceasing. When oppositions were very strong in the first century, the church prayed in oneness. (Acts.4:24-25) Why do the nation rage, and the people plot a vain thing? It is very essential that the children of God must pray in one accord. Are we utilising our opportunities properly? In Punjab the YMEF Team met so many believers there. Nobody is there to teach them the Word of God and to start Assemblies. So many came to the Lord in various parts of M.P. But nobody is willing to go there. Everywhere we hear the appeal 'Come and help us', the harvest is more and the workers are few. We read in the News Paper that one farmer committed suicide when he saw that his crop was decaying. Even if the opposition is very strong, some doors are widely opened. The workers should go to the field. Let us plead to the Master. May the Lord help us.

E.J. Paily

### ( Is the church governed .....contd. from page 1)

The proclamation of the birth of Jesus was done by the angels to the shepherds who were with the sheep. Apostle Paul says "three years day and night with tears I taught you" (Acts 20:31) (2 Cor 6:3-10) (to be meditated with prayer). Is the shepherd with the sheep? Many elders are seen only for marriages, fairwell meetings or at funeral services. The elder should love everybody. But where is love? Where is care? Men should be controlled by God not by man. The elder should be able to control his family. Otherwise he can not feed the church. He should take care like a mother. Apostle Paul says he was ready to sacrifice his life (1 This 2:8). This is the true church leadership. This type of governing will not happen by human leadership. So the trust should be appointed by God only.

This is church age. Apostolic age is over. In nominal churches priests and pastors are ordained. This will create a confusion in the minds of many believers. But remember that Christ bought us by His own blood. So He is the supreme authority for all appointments and ordination. But apostles are not here now. So who

will do the job? This is a genuine doubt which comes in our minds. The reason behind this doubt is that we are not studying the scripture. Only very few assemblies have systematic regular Bible studies. We are living in High-Tech age. People are very busy. No time for anything. But only by studying word, Holy spirit is able to reveal the heavenly truth. Many think that elders will form in the church by evolution, even though all believe in creation. Here we have to listen to the words of Lord. "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations by baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things what soever I have commanded you and lo I am with you always, unto the end of the world. Amen. (Mat 28:18-20).

These words we should study and meditate. People are ready to preach and teach. But word of God teaches that preach-obey-teach - practice. This is the order. Learning is the perfect example of a good elder. If they donot have this quality, they are useless. Anything we do without practice, it is a fraud.

None of the Evangelist, Elders or Teachers take up the position by themselves in the church. But God elects them and give them as a gift of Christ. The Holy spirit appoints them in the church. The believers are helped by the Holy Spirit to distinguish them. The Holy Spirit testifies them. And those who study the word of God gets confirmation about it. Without regular Bible study one cannot make use of his talents. Some of the believers in the state of Easu, when the time is over they come and ask for atleast one blessing. So sad it is! Easus's dealing in future without any blessing was sorrowful to the parents. In the same way without understanding the gifts and without the guidance of the Holy Spirit any ministry in the church will not be a blessing. On the other hand it will evolve obstacle for others. When a new church is started, the servants of Lord who worked there should teach the word of God there. They should identify and encourage the gifted people. They should approve, pray and submit them in the hands of God. Then the assembly will understand and recognize them. The church ministry should

follow this pattern. But now all these pattern has been changed. Some say that in the modern world everything should change. There are organizations giving 'call'. The Holy Spirit call people from the church. But today people will tell that they got the call for fulltime as their testimony in the church. This is against the Word of God. This is human desire. See Rom.1:11 'For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established'. We should be aware of the spiritual gifts. It means that in every assembly we should have elders, pastors and teachers. Then only the church will grow. 1Cor.1: 4-7 says the importance of above matters. Even to those who are rich in knowledge and spiritual gifts, apostle Paul writes to be aware of everything and prays for them. Eph.1:17-19 says The name of God is to be glorified by the wisdom through the word of God, by the elders and teachers with gifts and not by a human committee. **The different types of organizations are against the word.** Jesus Christ is the sole foundation, which is laid. The technics that Moses learned in Egyptian palace was not used on Israelites. He was controlled by the

Spirit of God. God did not speak to the elders appointed by him as had been by suggestion of Jithro. But when the seventy elders were appointed according to the will of God, He gave a part of the Spirit to them from Moses. (Num.11: 25) (Ex.18: 14-27) If people like Moses asks, God will provide people for ministry. The election through the committee is like the selection of Jithro. God's selection will keep harmony and peace in the assembly. The church ruler is to be the Holy Spirit. See 1 Tim.3:16 "And without controversy great is the mystery of Godliness. God was manifested in the flesh Justified in the spirit Seen by angels Preached among the gentiles Believed on in the world Received up in the glory" Christ will come to receive those who are waiting for Him. This is the mystery of the church. Even then why people are going to the first lessons of the world? According to the Word of God, ruling or taking care of the church should be as per the will of God. He who has an ear, let him hear, what the spirit says to the believers.

# LATEST NEWS IN OUR MIDST

## YMEF NEWS

### Highrange Division.

God willing the Highrange division of the Y.M.E.F will conduct a gospel out – reach in the districts of Sivaganga, Theni and Didikkal.

Sivaganga-June-23, Theni-July14-19, Didikkal-July28-Aug2. Kindly pray and support this ministry. E.S. Reji Sec, M.K. Sunny 04868-221785

### Karnataka Y.M.E.F CAMP

The camp of the Karnataka Y.M.E.F took place at ELIM camp centre, Bangalore in April 380 people took part in it from 17 districts of Karnataka. Special programme was conducted for children and youth. The theme of the camp was I am coming soon. Based on this Bro. Jose Mathew, Joy John and Thomson B Thomas gave inspiring messages. Continue to pray for this ministry. Regi Thomas, Nellyadi.

**Wayanadu:** The Wayanadu Unit of the Y.M.E.F conducted a gospel out reach on June 16<sup>th</sup> at Thannickal. Another outreach is planned at Veliyambam in July. Please pray for the ministry-P.V Saji Tel.9446947043

### Commendation

**Mavelikkara:** for P.N.Gangadharan and family is in active fellowship with the Mavelikkara Brethren Assembly. His desire to work for his saviour is revealed through his active participation in the ministry. Then he committed himself for the ministry. His call is approved by the assembly and he is hereby introduced for prayerful support. N.P. Gangadharan, Plavilayil House, Varenickal P.O, Mavelikkara, Alappuzha-690107.

**Thrissur:** Br. K.D. Johnson is in active fellowship with the Christian Brethren Assembly. His call to the Lord's work is clear to the assembly, So we commend him for the prayer of the saints.

K.D. Johnson, Kavalakkadan house, Aramkallu Pattikkadu P.O., Thrissur, Kerala 680652. M.A. Joy.

### Different Ministries

**Attappadi:** The Agali Town Brethren Assembly in association with the Malabar Ministries conducted open air meetings at 12 places on May 27<sup>th</sup>. They also conducted a gospel camp from Jun 19-21. Br. Jacob Mathew, Paul Mathew, K.A. Peterkutty, K. John Varghese took part in the ministry.

**Pathanamthitta:** The important ministries of the Gospel Hall, in the month of July. Hospital Ministry.

1. Every first Thursday- Sisters visit the various hospitals in Pathanamthitta.
2. Every Thursday men visit the hospitals in Pathanamthitta.
3. Fasting and prayer 5th July 2008.
4. Meditation and prayer 19th July 2008. Portion 1 Pet. 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

### For prayer and Thanksgiving

We were earnestly praying for our dear brothers and sisters. Some have recovered and are attending the assembly meetings. Let us glorify the Lord and thank Him.

**Kumbanadu:** Br. V.M. George & George Jacob both are comfortable and are attending the assembly. Let us thank the Lord.

**Kalamassery:** Br. Cherian Chandy who was in hospital after an accident is recovering at home. Continue to pray for him.

**Thrissur :** Bro. Rodney Paul is admitted in RCC for the treatment of Blood Cancer. Please do pray for him.

### In the vineyard

**Meerut :** Meerut is a part of U.P. where we used to conduct Open-air meetings and Outreaches. But these

days, because of the oppositions from the fanatics we cannot go out into the field. Please do pray that we may be able to go out to meet the untold millions.

### Assembly News

**Kodakara :** This place is a part of Trichur district. The assembly at Kodakara is conducting lot of ministries. On 22nd June 2008 they conducted the baptism of 2 new believers. Please continue to pray for the ministries of this assembly.

**Arattukuzhy :** This place belongs to Trivandrum district. The ministry of this assembly is progressing. Bro. Appu David was working there. He moved to a new place called Kulachel. He, along with a few other brothers started a work there and a new assembly was formed during the month of May 08. So presently he is working at Kulachel and Bro. Stevenson is working at Arattukuzhi. Please uphold both of these assemblies in your prayers.

**Eirattupetta :** A part of Kottayam district near to Palai. A new assembly in the New Testament pattern was formed at this place couple of years back. Bro. Johny Michael along with others are working there. God has blessed this assembly by giving fruits. On 25th May 5 new believers accepted baptism and joined the assembly. Please do pray for this assembly.

### (Discipline .....contd. from page 4)

of the flesh; yet note the further statement, "that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus" (verse 5). For all such serious cases, the Divine injunction is, "Put away from among yourselves that wicked person" (verse 13). As "a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump," so the retention among us of unjudged definite evil, will tend to corrupt the whole local church; therefore we are admonished, "Purge out the old leaven" (verses 6 and 7)

Apart from all the foregoing, there are TRESPASSES ONE AGAINST ANOTHER, Not calling for settlement by the Church, unless all else fails. Read Matthew 18: 15-17. If a brother shall trespass against me, then I must go and tell him his fault, privately, seeking to gain my brother, not to scold him and give him a piece of my mind. And a good thing is to pray before paying the visit. If unsuccessful, then I am to take one or two more with me, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. Please note how the attempt is made to keep the unsavoury thing in as small a circle as possible, that nothing may get abroad, as brotherly love would suggest. Only when the second attempt is fruitless is it time to appeal to the Church, in the person of its elders. Should the offender stubbornly refuse the last appeal, then for the present he must be reckoned not as a Christian (though he may be one) but as 'a heathen man and a publican'; and no assembly of saints allows a heathen or a publican at the Lord's Table.

### SUNDRY CASES OF DISCIPLINE

1. Persons who cause divisions and offences (occasions of stumbling) contrary to the doctrine which we have learned; are to be avoided (Rom 16:17).
2. We are to withdraw ourselves from every brother that walks disorderly, and not after the apostolic teaching; also to withdraw from them who don't work and are lazy and are busybodies, refusing to be

## WITH THE LORD

**Indore :** Rachel Kurian (78) wife of Evg. V.N.Kurian went to be with the Lord on 9th May 2008.



The funeral ceremony took place on 12th May 08. Many believers attended the

funeral service. The funeral service was conducted under the auspices of the Indore Brethren assembly and the remains of the body was buried in the cemetery. Please do pray for the bereaved family.

admonished; yea, we are forbidden to have company with them, that they may be ashamed (2Thess 3:6-14).

3. Then we have unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, teaching things they should not, giving heed to Jewish fables and commandments of men. The mouths of all such must be stopped (Titus 1: 10-14).

4. Them in the Church that sin (persist in sin) must be rebuked before all, that others may fear. Probably referring to some who have often been reproved by elders and still take no notice (1Tim 5:20).

### SOME DISCIPLINE NOT FOR THE CHURCH

There are matters that never come before the Church, and which have no place in its discipline. We refer to personal sins between the believer and God, but which cannot be permitted to pass without discipline at His hand. "Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He received" (Heb 12:5-11). Grievous as the experience of the rod is, nevertheless 'afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby,'

### A WORD OF WARNING

We must not overlook a certain solemn fact, namely, if a church fails by indifference to exercise discipline, where needed; or should it shield an offender because of giving offence to influential parties; doth not the Lord take notice? Will He not take action sooner or later? Will He not withhold His blessing and prosperity from the Church, for His holy Name's sake?

(obliged)

## Discipline in the Church

Franklin Ferguson

We may lay it down as a principle that the elders (meaning the same as overseers and bishops) deal with all matters calling for discipline. The result of their judgment is brought before the Church for their information and acquiescence; the judgment then becomes the action not only of the elders but of the whole Church. Even "nature itself would teach us" (1Cor.11:14) that it is unseemly to discuss matters of discipline before the whole Church, largely composed of inexperienced people.

Let us consider some sample cases, calling for differing treatment. There is **THE CASE OF GALATIANS 6:1**

'If a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself lest thou also be tempted' To 'restore' is to put in order again, especially of what is broken; to refit, repair. The word 'fault' in this verse, means a misfall, mishap; a falling aside from duty, with special reference to the weakness of the person, rather than the sin. Now he needs

raising up again; in some measure he has 'gone to pieces,' and his conduct requires "repairing." Who are to do the work? – "ye which are spiritual." How? – "in the spirit of meekness." What should be the uppermost thought in the mind? It might have been me! A visit and kindly talk; an application of the world to the one at fault; as water to the feet (JOHN 13:14), and done in meekness, will doubtless restore the soul of the weak one. Confessing his failure and all present seeking grace for the future no discipline may be needful.

### WE COME TO SERIOUS CASES,

calling for extreme measures. Read 1Cor. 5:4-13. Here is a case of immorality, and cannot be tolerated. It is a scandal and filthiness and must be put away. "Holiness becometh Thine house, O Lord, for ever" (Psalm 93:5). Yet the mercy of God, which is as high as the heaven is above the earth (Psalm 103:11), forbids the thought of permanent exclusion; but has in view repentance, restoration of soul, with ultimate reception back to fellowship (2Cor. 2:6). There is pointed out in 1Cor. 5:11, six sins of a serious

nature; namely, fornication, covetousness, idolatry, railing, drunkenness and extortion. With such we are told not to keep company, neither are we to eat with them. They are unfit, meantime, to sit with us at the Lord's Table, or at our own table. This does not imply the refusing of food, if needed; for 'if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink' (Rom 12:20); but we are to withhold any expression of fellowship with the one under discipline.

### There are CASES OF DOCTRINAL ERROR

Paul cites Hymenaeus, Philetus, and Alexander, who were charged with blasphemy. The first two had taught that the resurrection was past already, and overthrown the faith of some. The third person had greatly withstood Paul's words (preachings). See 1Tim 1:20; 2Tim 4:14-15. These, together with the fornicator of 1Cor 5, received extreme discipline — were delivered unto Satan (as chastiser) for the destruction

(contd...to page 3)

## IN TV CHANNELS

### SATGAMAYA TALK SHOW PROGRAMME

In the People's channel of Kairali's News channel on all Fridays (Malayalam) 4.30 - 5.00 p.m.  
On Mondays: 6.00 - 6.30 a.m. in C.TV (Hindi)

continuation

## JESUS THROUGH SAMARIA

### D.The correction of misunderstandings

The Samaritan lady was uncertain about the place of worship. People are very keen to decorate the worship places. Many think that Jerusalem, Mecca, Antioch and Rome etc. are the most holy worship places of the world. But the Word of God gives no importance to places like this. 'If two or three are gathered together in My name I am there in the midst of them'. This is His word. Cathedral, Church, Hall, House, Pandal or the shade of the tree anything can be a worship place. But the worshippers should be the Children of God. Those who are not born again they are out of worship. And on the other side all born again children of God have to worship God the Father. Anything other than this is an idol worship. Worship is giving thanks to His name with the fruit of the lips. A true worshipper is the one who worships in spirit and truth according to the Word of God. Breaking of bread alone will not fulfil the worship. Nobody can worship Lord without a broken heart and tears. Meditate the unspeakable GIFT which is Christ and his sufferings. For us often as we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. When we take part in the Lord's table we should know the true meaning of Lord's broken body and the mystery of church which is also the body of Christ. If somebody has some deeds which is shameful to the name of our Lord or a hindrance to other believers should not take part in the Lord's table. First of all they have to make solution for that. Songs, Praises, Bible reading and Meditation only helps for worship. The true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth. For the Father is seeking such to worship Him. Since Jesus passed through Samaria we are able to learn this great lesson. The Samaritan lady was satisfied near that well. The Samaritans who came there were satisfied. Let us submit ourselves at the feet of Christ by singing that 'Nobody can satisfy us other than CHRIST.'

Meditate on.....

## If we were taught the Word Of God

In the past great importance was given for the study of Scripture in our homes and assemblies. There was a keen interest and a sense of need for the study of scripture. As a result, there was deep knowledge in the word of God and potential to fight against false teachings. Today we are living in a busy world. Therefore there is no time and interest for the study of scripture after fulfilling various household needs. Bible classes are rare in churches and the number of people who attend bible classes are also comparatively less. Studying the word of God enables us to grow spiritually.

One day in a church when the service was going on, a shabby dressed man came and told his testimony like this. Me and my friends studied in this Sunday school. The teacher who taught us used to take us home after the classes and used to teach us songs and gave us sweets. Not only that

she used to give us a chance to play cards and taught us various tricks in the game. Thus our interest in studying the Word of God vanished. After some time we used to go to a different place and started playing cards. Gradually we stopped going to Sunday school. We fully indulged in playing cards, drinking and gambling. Shortly we bid goodbye to our respective homes. At the end we became wicked and cruel criminals. Two of us were hanged by the government for committing a crime. Three were sentenced for life time imprisonment. Another one is like me. Nobody knows where he is right now. I have only one thing to tell you all. "How nice it would have been if that teacher taught us God's word instead of cards". When he was saying that with a broken heart the teacher who took us to her home went to him place where he was standing and knelt down before him and said "Oh! My God! I am that teacher".

See! If she had done what she was expected it would not have happened. What a pathetic situation! She had wasted great opportunities. She had ruined the lives of children that God gave to her. "Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from him". Therefore don't destroy the rights and rewards. Today in our homes, do we have family worship and bible study in the morning and evening with our children? Do we have anything to give them spiritually? Today we are giving lot of modern items to our kids. That can be one reason many a children do not obey their parents. Think of the life of the prophet Eli. The same should not happen to us. Today many parents are, living in their homes, scared of their children. So dear brethren let us teach our children the Word of God and give them right direction in their life. If we do so, then their life will be fruitful.

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SUVISHESHA DHWANI

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Managing Editor  
SUVISHESHA DHWANI  
Iyrokuzhiyil, Vettoor P.O.  
Pathanamthitta - 689 653  
Kerala, India