



The Shining Light[®]

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Inside



Ready for school?
Page 3



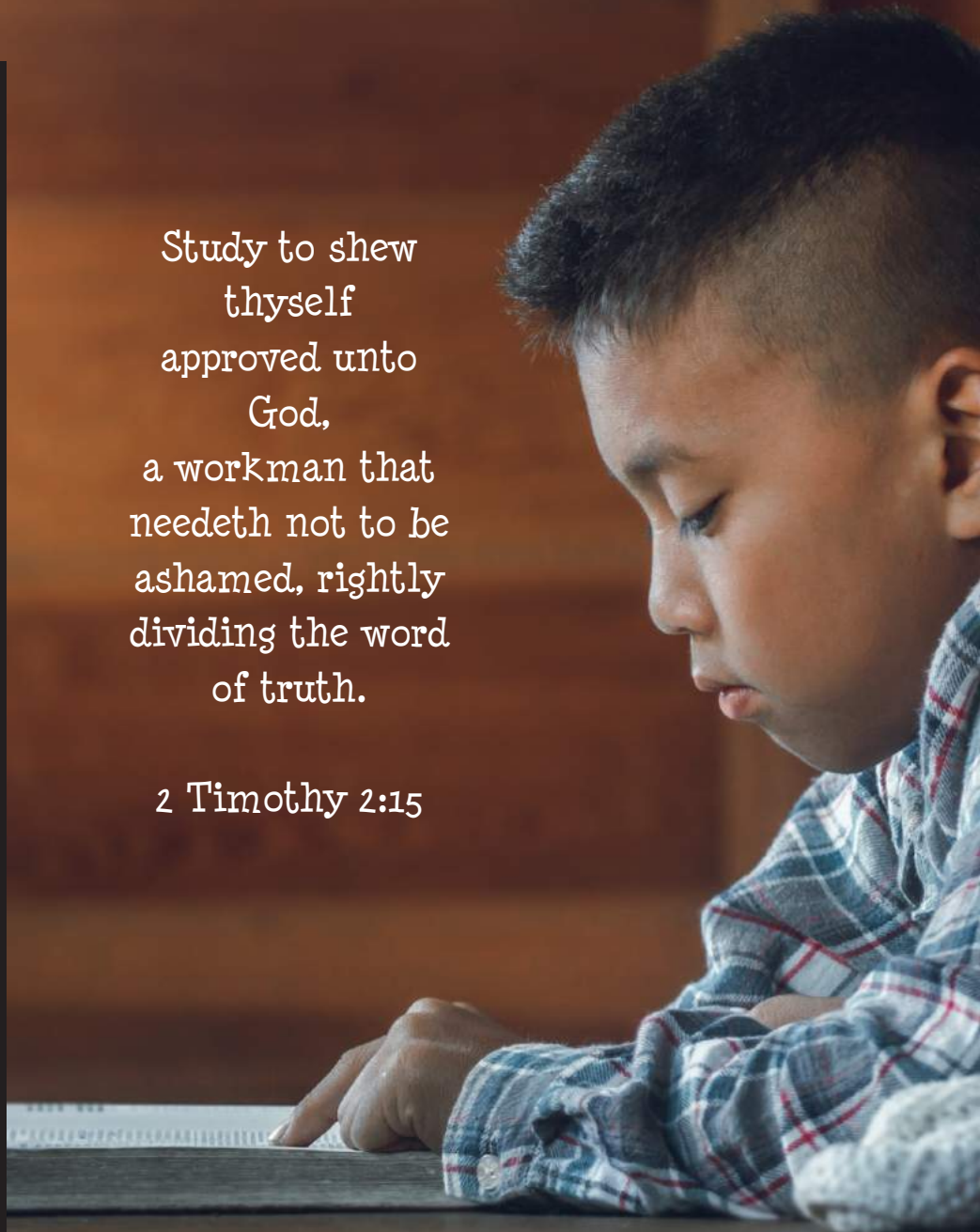
Not Too Late!
Page 4



Teachers
Page 8

Study to shew
thyself
approved unto
God,
a workman that
needeth not to be
ashamed, rightly
dividing the word
of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15



THE SHINING LIGHT

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The Shining Light is operated under the authority of the general ministerial body of the Church of God.

Don't Give Up

When you have a job to do

Don't ever say "I can't."

Diligent workers are few

Who take to heart the ant.

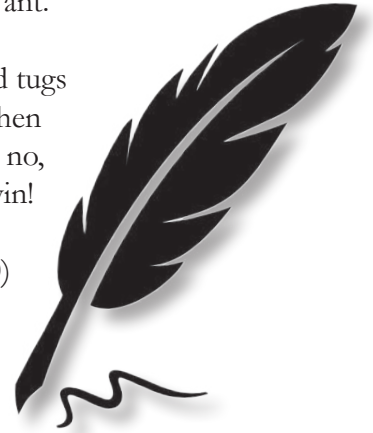
She labors and pulls and tugs

At loads so big, and then

She never gives in, oh no,

The ant will always win!

Julia Strizu (Age 10)



What Is True Love?

Bro. Elias Benion (Age 12)

Greetings, dear reader. I would like to talk a little bit about love. There is a verse that says, “Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not, love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up.”

Have you ever given an extreme amount of love, work, and attention to someone and in return they shove you away? Real love does not expect anything as a reward. True love keeps on loving even when it knows it's going to hurt every time. Jesus Christ continued to love us even when we sinned against Him! We need to seek to understand before we seek to be understood! People don't care what you know until they know that you care. Dear reader, I hope I have encouraged you to reach out to someone even if they "slap you in the face."

1 John 4:18a: “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear.”

Are You Ready for School?

School is underway! Excitement is in the air as students and teachers arrive for the first day. The classrooms have been set up. Charts and calendars adorn the walls waiting to instruct and help eager minds. Bulletin boards with their messages of encouragement and motivation line the halls and classrooms. Books filled with lessons to be learned stand at attention on the shelves. Lockers and desks have been assigned. Teachers greet their students with a smile and a silent prayer for wisdom to be able to guide each one in the path of righteousness. Everything is ready in anticipation of a wonderful year. Are the students ready? Did they bring the supplies they will need for a good year?

Let's take a look at what is needed.

First on the list is a willing heart and a ready mind. These are needed for a student to be molded and shaped for use in the Master's service.

The Bible is a very necessary item on our list. It will light the way through many dark places throughout the year. It will give strength, reproof, and guidance as needed all through the school year. By clinging to its promises, victories will be won by teachers and students alike.

Pencils are needed. Each of us is writing a book by the life that we live. What we do today fills another page. Be careful what you write today by watching your actions, words, and thoughts. Don't write today what you don't want read at the judgment.

Erasers will be needed by all. No matter how hard we try, mistakes will happen. Be quick to use your eraser to erase your mistake, correct it, and go on. Be just as quick to erase from the pages of your memory the mistakes of others. Grant them and yourself the privilege of going on.

Pencil sharpeners will get used regularly. We all know that the more we write, the duller our pencil becomes. We all need someone to come along and sharpen our lead so we can write clearly and distinctly.

Rulers should be in everyone's desks. We need constant measuring. We must measure our actions, words, and the motives behind them. We need the ruler to remind us that we need to be taught to measure our days that we may know how to conduct ourselves.

Don't forget the scissors. We all have things about us that need to be cut off.

Lastly, make sure to pack some glue. You'll need it to bind you to the ones around you. Only by being "glued" together will you gain all the victories and learn all the lessons that the Lord has for you this year!

Are you ready for school?

Sis. Sara Friesen

NOT TOO LATE!

Sis. Sara Friesen



As the last students headed out the door, the teacher began to gather the books she would need to take home to prepare for the next day. Pausing for a moment, she let her mind wander back over the day. She felt again the joy she had experienced when Luann had grasped the concept of multiplying fractions. She whispered a heartfelt, “Thank you Lord,” when she recalled how Edward had steered the noon game from one of tension to one of pleasure by his example. She felt her face flush again as she recalled her inward frustrations and struggles trying to explain the lesson to the Algebra 2 class. She had studied it over and over the night before. She had worked the problems until sleep had fogged her brain and blurred all the numbers into a jumble. She had been certain she understood it well enough to teach this morning. It hadn’t gone so well. Disappointment and frustration welled up in her again. These students needed her to understand the lessons. They needed her to be able to help them understand it. After all, she was the teacher. She certainly didn’t want any of them to have battles and struggles like this later in life. She wanted each of them to get the best education possible.

This teacher had always loved learning. As a six-year-old, her parents had moved the family from Mexico to Canada. Not one of them spoke any English, but that didn’t matter. As soon as they were settled in, she was sent off to school. All kinds of fears played through her mind as she trudged the eight blocks to school. Many of those fears became a reality when the school building loomed in sight. It was bigger than any building she had ever seen.

When she finally found the entrance and stepped in, she was in a strange new world. Halls spread out in every direction. There were so many doors! Which one led to her classroom? Who was her teacher? Would they be nice? How would she know what they wanted her to do? With help from a bilingual teacher, she made it through the day.

Years went by. She not only learned English, but soaked up all the knowledge the teachers shared with her. She begged them to send homework home with her so she could keep learning after school let out. Around the time she turned twelve, her family moved back to Mexico. Since the culture around her wasn’t conducive to “big” girls like her going to school, she only attended classes occasionally.

As a 14-year-old a few years later, she moved again, and she was glad it was to the United States. She was able to attend school again! As she finished the eighth grade, she started dreaming about starting high school. She knew she wanted to be a nurse in the neo-natal unit and work with babies. Her teacher had helped her plan a course of study in that direction.

It wasn’t far into her high school education that her heart was crushed. Her dad sat her down and told her she was too old to waste her days sitting in a classroom with her head buried in a book. She cried herself to sleep many nights after that. Her heart ached as she watched her younger siblings head out the door and down the road to school. She felt pangs of envy in the evenings when they sat at the table doing their homework. Why did she have to miss out?

With a shake of her head, she snapped back to the present. Now her dad regretted that decision. Now he encouraged his grandchildren to stay in school and get an education. It wasn't too late for her either. She was still getting an education. It might be late at night after her husband and children had gone to bed, but she was learning. She was going to conquer Algebra 2 just like she had Algebra 1. She was going to do it for the sake of her students and for herself. Grabbing her backpack, she headed out the door with renewed determination. After all, she had homework to get done!

Though some names have been changed, this is the true story of my life. Through many dangers, toils, and snares the Lord has faithfully led me to the Church of God. I am so grateful for the education that you children receive in the Church of God Academy. Cherish it and learn all you can, for there is a great work ahead that requires each of us to give our best.





TEACHERS AND PUPILS

Every successful teacher has pupils.

Look up the scriptures to find whom the following teachers taught!

Gamaliel (Acts 22:3)

Elijah (I Kings 19:19-21)

Jesus (Luke 19:8-9)

Eli (I Samuel 1:20-28)

Jehoida (2 Kings 12:2)

Philip (Acts 8:27-31)

Balaam (Revelation 2:14)

David (2 Chronicles 3:1-3)

Jethro (Exodus 18:15-19)

Moses (Numbers 27:18-20)



What God Teaches

School is very important. Some of you, I know, like school very much; but some of you are not fond of it, and you are very glad when the bell tells you that it is time to go home.

Why is school important? It is important because it is the place where you learn to read and write and count. Would it not be very difficult for you if you could not read an interesting book or write a letter to a friend? Would it not be difficult if you could not count your pocket money? So you really need to be taught, don't you?

There is another kind of teaching that you need. It is God and His ministry who can give you this teaching. He teaches the Bible to His own people in a special way by His Holy Spirit. You must read your Bible and ask God to teach you.

He teaches His people to know that they are sinners who need the only Savior, Jesus Christ. I hope you will pray the same prayer as a Highland girl of long ago did, "Lord, show me myself."

He teaches them to know Himself as the One who forgives sin, and to know His Son as the One who saves from sin. I hope you will also pray, "Lord, show me Thyself."

He teaches them how to live day by day. I hope you will pray, "Shew me Thy ways, O Lord; teach me Thy paths."

He is saying, "Come, ye children, hearken unto Me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord." You must go to Him for teaching.
Ask Him, "Teach me Thy way, O Lord."





TEACHERS

Like a rare gem
Found in the depths of the earth,
You are one of those jewels
Of whom there is a dearth.
Like a prized possession
Always kept safe and secure
Your teachings and lessons
Will be in our hearts for sure.

