**A Spiritual Plan for Children**

**Eternity-affecting Scriptures**

*I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps [M]y word, he will never see death. (John 8:51; NIV)*

*. . . I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes . . . (Rom. 1:16(a); NASB)*

**Additional Scriptures:** John 5:24; John 17:17; Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 1:18; Heb. 4:12

God wants us to demonstrate our love toward Him by honoring and obeying His commandments (John 14:15, 24). Fortunately, He understands the impossibility of our being perfect, i.e., of never disobeying any of His commands (Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:8).

Scripture is clear that we can still have a hope of eternity while never achieving perfection, i.e., we will never fulfill God’s expectations in every aspect of our lives. And yet, even though our humanity encumbers our ability to be perfect, we are not afforded the option of adopting a “cafeteria style” approach to our obedience to God’s precepts/commands.

The manner in which we respond to God’s Word will directly influence where we spend eternity. “Eternity-affecting” Scriptures are those passages which speak to God’s “non-negotiables” for salvation. By definition, obedience to “eternity-affecting” Scriptures is essential to salvation. They are “salvation-impacting.”

We need to pay particular attention to those passages. While it will only be through God’s grace and mercy that anyone is privileged to spend eternity with Him, failure to comply with those eternity-affecting Scriptures will assure us that heaven will not be the eternal resting place of our soul.

For example, God’s grace will not cover the disobedience of or indifference to those commandments which instruct us regarding reconciliation with Him (2 Cor. 5:17-21). Similarly, there are certain behaviors which are unacceptable for a child of God and which, if continued, can result in an eternal separation from Him (Rom. 1:18-2:16; Rom. 8:5-14; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal. 5:16-21; Eph. 5:1-5).

It is “eternity-affecting,” it is “salvation-impacting” for children to clearly understand that God has certain expectations of us if we want to spend eternity with Him, His Son and His Spirit. A parent’s role in implementing a spiritual plan is to ensure that you have an understanding of just which of God’s commands fit this category and that you convey that understanding to your children.

The following is an attempt to identify key Scriptures which children should comprehend and embrace. In an effort to avoid redundancy, passages repeated in multiple locations have been omitted, e.g., parallel passages in the “gospels.” Neither are all passages cited that are related to a given “eternity-affecting” issue or concept. Finally, because it represents God’s new covenant with man, only passages from the New Testament are included.

My prayer is that these will be helpful in the spiritual development of your child(ren), resulting in an enduring relationship with their Savior.

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**Matthew 🡺** 5:20; 6:33(a); 7:13-14, 19, 21; 10:28, 32-33, 38-39, 42; 11:28-30;   
 12:31-32, 36-37, 50; 13:41-43; 15:9; 16:18, 24-27; 18:3; 19:16-26 20:26-28;  
 22:36-40; 23:23; 25:31-46; 28:1-8, 13-20

**Mark 🡺** 8:34-38; 9:42-48; 12:28-31; 16:15-16

**Luke 🡺** 3:7-14; 4:4, 8, 12; 9:62; 10:25-28; 12:8-9; 13:3 14:12-14, 33; 24:46-47

**John 🡺** 1:1-5, 12-17; 3:3-5, 16, 35-36; 4:23-24; 5:28-29; 6:35, 40, 48-58; 8:24, 31-32, 51;   
 11:25-26; 14:1-3, 6, 15, 23; 15:1-11; 20:30-31

**Acts 🡺** 2:37-42; 3:19; 4:12; 8:26-39; 10:42-48 16:30(b)-33; 17:30; 18:8; 20:32;  
 22:16; 24:15-16

**Romans 🡺** 1:16-17, 18-32; 2:1-16; 3:21-26; 5:6-21; 6:1-23; 8:1-17, 35-39; 10:8-17;  
 12:1-2; 14:7-12

**1 Corinthians 🡺** 1:30; 3:11; 6:9-11; 8:12; 11:23-32; 12:12-14; 13:1-13; 15:1-4, 22-28, 49-58

**2 Corinthians 🡺** 5:10, 14-21; 7:1, 9-11

**Galatians 🡺** 1:8-9; 3:26-27; 5:16-25; 6:7-9

**Ephesians 🡺** 1:7, 13-14, 22-23; 2:4-10; 4:1-6, 30; 5:5, 17; 6:1-2, 10-17

**Philippians 🡺** 1:9-11, 27; 2:8-11, 15-16(a); 3:7-14, 20-21; 4:6-9

**Colossians 🡺** 1:9-14, 19-23; 2:8-14; 3:1-17

**1 Thessalonians 🡺** 3:11-13; 5:8-10, 19, 21-24

**2 Thessalonians 🡺** 1:8; 2:7-17

**1 Timothy 🡺** 4:6-10, 16; 6:10-16

**2 Timothy 🡺** 2:10-13, 15; 3:14-17

**Titus 🡺** 2:11-14; 3:4-7

**Philemon 🡺** 1:6

**Hebrews 🡺** 1:3; 2:1-3(a), 9-18; 3:12-14, 18-19; 4:5-6; 5:9; 6:4-6; 7:25; 8:6-13;   
 9:11-14, 27-28; 10:19-31; 11:6; 12:1-3, 5(b)-14; 12:28-29

**James 🡺** 1:2-4, 12-15, 21, 26-27; 2:12-13; 3:6; 4:4-10; 5:19-20

**1 Peter 🡺** 1:3-9, 13-19; 2:1-3, 9-12; 3:12, 21; 4:13-19; 5:4

**2 Peter 🡺** 1:2-11; 2:1-10(a), 20-22; 3:10-18

**1 John 🡺** 1:5-10; 2:15-17, 23-25, 28-29; 3:1-10, 16-17; 4:1-3, 7-8, 16-18; 5:1, 4-5, 10-13, 20

**2 John 🡺** verse 9

**3 John 🡺** verses 5-6, 11

**Jude 🡺** verses 4, 11-13, 17-25

**Revelation 🡺** 2:4-5; 3:5, 15-16, 19-21; 14:12-13; 17:14; 19:9; 20:11-15; 21:6-8, 10, 23, 27

22:14, 17-19