

## 23.2 Recipe for Success<sup>1</sup>

My daughter sent a video of her oldest son, Jax who is seven, reading **Proverbs 22:6** (ESV):

**<sup>6</sup>Train up a child in the way he should go;  
even when he is old he will not depart from it.**

I was pleased and then a little stunned with the backstory. My daughter had been encouraging Jax to try to set a good example for his two younger brothers to help them learn to do right things in their lives. He said, “**There’s a verse for that.**” Then he ran and got his Bible, looked up **Proverbs 22:6**, and read it to her. When she asked how he knew that verse, he said that they had learned it in his Sunday School class the day before.

My daughter is home schooling her boys. She teaches Bible to them each day and their church reinforces her efforts with a strong Bible curriculum. That Children’s Ministry has a goal of raising up future missionaries, so they take teaching the children the scriptures seriously. They understand that knowing and following the scriptures are key to success in life.

**Deuteronomy 11:18-21** (ESV) is a recipe for Israel’s (and our) success. It reads:

**<sup>18</sup>“You shall therefore lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>19</sup>You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. <sup>20</sup>You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, <sup>21</sup>that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth.**

The formula is simple. First, adults are to put God’s word in their hearts. Then, second, they are to teach it repeatedly to their children, all day long.

America’s Founders and Framers were aware of this recipe. They wanted the Bible to be taught in schools all over the country. They knew this would ensure the longevity and success of the nation. We cannot truly be successful if we do not have God and His direction.

Dr. Benjamin Rush was called, “*The Father of Public Schools Under the Constitution.*” He is one of my favorite Founders. He wrote textbooks and helped establish five universities. In 1791, he wrote a paper called, “*A Defense of the Bible as a School Book.*” In it he gave reasons for using the Bible in our schools. In the document he said that:

1. Christianity is the only true and perfect religion and that we will be happy in proportion how much we adopt its principles and precepts (remember that unalienable right of the pursuit of happiness that Thomas Jefferson mentioned in the Declaration of Independence? The Bible was and is necessary to pursue happiness).
2. The best way to learn Christianity is to read the Bible.
3. The Bible contains more knowledge for man than any other book.
4. Knowledge and religious instruction work best when imparted early in life.
5. If the Bible is not read early in life, it is seldom read later.

He went on to say:

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<sup>1</sup> FMI see The Founders’ Bible, pp. 301-303.

**“In contemplating the political institutions of the United States, I lament that we waste so much time and money in punishing crimes, and so little pains to prevent them. We profess to be republicans and yet we neglect the only means of establishing and perpetuating our republican forms of government – That is, the universal education of our youth in the principles of Christianity by means of the Bible, for the Divine Book above all favors that equality among mankind, the respect for just laws, and all those sober and frugal virtues which constitute the soul of republicanism.”**

I hope you know Rush and others of his day were not talking about the Republican Party. That was decades away. He was talking about the republican form of government which our Founders and Framers believed was biblical in its structure. In fact, the soul of republicanism came from the scriptures. We are not a pure democracy, we are a law-based republic which uses democratic method to elect our representatives. The laws of our land must be just and that comes from the Bible, not the backrooms of political chicanery. When we practice just, biblically-based laws, we won't need to spend as much time and money punishing crimes, we will prevent them.

The best time to learn the scriptures is in our youth. The Psalmist asks in **Psalm 119:9** (ESV):

**How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.**

The next best time to learn the scriptures is today. Even if it is late in life for you, get started reading and studying the word of God today. Then, put it into practice.

Keep The Light of Bible Teaching Burning!