

NO GREATER JOY

Newsletter of THE CHURCH AT CANE CREEK, a ministry of the local church. Jan. '96

BAD ATTITUDE

In one of our recent seminars, a mother complained to Debi, "The children frustrate me so much. I tell them to do their school work, and they just piddle around. I tell them to clean up their rooms, and they fuss over who is to clean up what. They are always irritating one another. It frustrates me so much, trying to cause them to maintain a good attitude. They are always complaining and whining about something. I get frustrated and spank them, but it seems to do no good. They just don't seem to care. They pick on each other continuously. I get so frustrated..." Debi interrupted her mournful complaints to answer, "Yes, it is an attitude problem." The weary mother hastily agreed, "That's it! They have bad attitudes." Debi responded, "No, it's you that has the bad attitude." The mother's widening eyes and gaping mouth expressed her dismay as she stood waiting for the forthcoming explanation.

Are you a frustrated parent? Is your brow drawn tight as if pulled by draw strings? If parenting is not enjoyable, be assured, you have a bad attitude. When your children look into your face what do they see? They are not fooled. They know what you feel toward them. Your face is a graph of approval or rejection. Verbal "positive affirmation" is not enough; in fact, it is worse than nothing if there is not genuine delight in your heart. Children can see through a parent who is made of muddy water. If they see disappointment and criticism they will answer in kind. Discontented parents breed discontented children. Your attitude is the root of the family attitude tree. A bitter root cannot



produce sweet fruit.

Parental attitudes are highly contagious, and the children usually come down with a worse case. "More is caught than taught." And children seem more highly susceptible to catching a bad attitude than of being taught to have a good one. They can catch the disease of bad attitude while being passive. On the other hand, they must exert themselves to have a good attitude.

Your children are playing follow-the-leader. They are deaf to your words, but they "hear" your attitude loud and clear. Example has always been more effective than theory. Where parents are constantly modeling the bad attitude; a good attitude is just a theoretical concept to the child. Try as they may, they can't quite fathom the meaning of a good attitude—it has been so long since they have seen one. If you dress your children in tight pinching shoes, don't blame them for having sore feet.

The bad news is that you are responsible for the condition of your children. The good news is that you don't have to be frustrated over attempting to change them. You only need to change yourself. Since their attitudes are reflections of your own, you need only change your attitude, and the reflections will change.

I know you are only expressing your displeasure over their foolishness. You are using your disapproving scowl as a threat to induce them to shame. They are supposed to so crave your approval that they make great sacrifices to win your smile. It is not working is it? Actually, you are working against the very thing you desire to achieve.

There is a natural principle you must understand: Children living under condemnation are not motivated to good works. None of us seek to please someone who is condemning us. You have trained your face to display a nearly constant look of disapproval, disappointment, and frustration. You may nag or gripe them into relenting to your will, but you can never bad-attitude them into a good attitude. Children cannot be intimidated into positive character. To stand off and criticize their performance will not induce them to a rectifying shame. No one has ever been motivated to climb out from under a pile of disapproval to win the praise and affections of his or her accuser.

The law of human nature is such that condemnation and shame cause an alienation that only produces more disobedience. Paul said, "*The motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death (Romans 7:5).*" "*Because the law worketh wrath... (Romans 4:15).*" But if you become so disappointed with their failure that you

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BAD ATTITUDE

continued

assume an air of judicial condemnation, they will unwillingly accept the blame, but **THEY WILL NOT HAVE THE MORAL COURAGE TO CHANGE.** Law and condemnation never produce righteousness. If you are always ready to show them what is wrong, but do not constantly exemplify what is right, they will cower under your judgments while continuing to grow into the likeness of your graceless bitterness.

The parental spirit of displeasure holds the child in "death." A new spirit in the parent will allow the child to serve from a joyous spirit and not from the strengthless bondage of legal depression. In our relationship to God, it is called "newness of spirit." "But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter (Romans 7:5-6)."

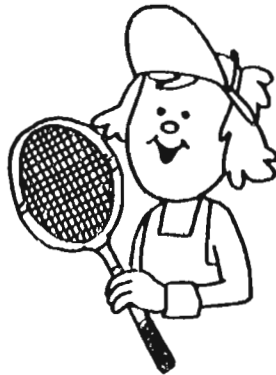
Mother, if every time you looked at your husband you saw dissatisfaction and disappointment, if he sighed with defeat over what a lousy wife you are, would you feel inspired to make improvements? Absolutely not! You would withdraw. If you are spunky in spirit, you might fight back and give him further reason for rejection, but if you are broken in spirit you would quietly withdraw. You would then seek friendship and approval elsewhere.

Your children will begin to develop positive character only in an atmosphere of forgiveness and acceptance. The first step to recovery and the ground on which it continues is the parent's smile. In our book, *To Train Up A Child*, we have a chapter called *Tying Strings*. Parent, you need to tie strings of fellowship through your smiles, strings of trust through a display of trust, strings of respect through mutual respect, strings of kindness, grace, and forgiveness. You can not disapprove your children into heart compliance, but you can example them in, smile them in, care them in,

patience them in, and woo them in with a heart that exemplifies Christ-like character.

If "the joy of the Lord is our strength" surely the joy of the parents is the strength of a child. If fellowship with God provokes His children to holiness, what will be the result of a child's fellowship with his parents? The best training is done under the supervision of a smile. There is a time for discipline, rebuke, spanking, and even controlled anger, but such should be temporary signposts on a path of communion that you walk with your children. If they see your delight and appreciation, they will have the courage to try to maintain that sweetness.

Parent, relax. Lay back. Slow down. Enjoy the trip. If you can't train your children to meet your high standards, lower the standards until they can reach them. We are not



talking about the law of God. We are talking about muddy feet, carrying out the garbage, picking up dirty clothes, doing school work, etc.. Put the bar low enough so that with the effort they are willing to give, they can clear the hurdle and finish each day a winner. Raise the bar a little at a time so they can improve, but will always be a winner. If you set the standard, not beyond their abilities, but beyond their willing efforts, you will cause them to cease trying. They will be like the kid in public school who is already behind two years. He cares so much, to keep from being further hurt, he pretends not to care at all. He is just killing time until he gets old enough to quit.

Find a place to confess your sins, and then go smile at your children. ☼

Tot's Talk

By Rebekah Pearl

I overheard two little tots
Discussing in great length
Just why their mamas spank them.
It made me pause and think.

"My mommy spansk me when she's mad,"
I heard a young voice say,
"It makes her angry when I'm bad
And when I disobey."

Pride was in the youngster's voice;
"Rebellion!" was his cry.
I glanced then at the other boy
And heard his meek reply:

"My mommy spansk me when she's glad
To train me to be good
So I'll grow up to be like Dad
And do the things I should."

'Tis not the rod that molds the heart
And sweeps the soul of sin.
'Tis holiness in Mom and Dad,
That's where it all begins.

NOTICE:

If you are interested in reaching the Chinese people for Christ, there is a faithful ministry which prints Bibles in Chinese. Lock Haven Baptist Church has a faith printing ministry which periodically prints Chinese New Testaments. At the present, they are printing 53,000 N.T.s to be distributed during the Atlanta games. I am not associated with this ministry, but they come highly recommended. Your contributions are tax deductible. Their address is: Lock Haven Scripture Press, 14246 Boggy Creek Rd., Orlando, Florida 32824. Their phone number is: 407-857 0461.

TRAINING AT THREE MONTHS

One of the young mothers in the church tells how she trained her three-month-old daughter to cry and whine to be picked up and held. Upon seeing the parents start to drift into another room, the baby cried out. The father said, "Get little Suzzie, she wants to be with us." Mother picked up Suzzie and she spread her beautiful smile in delight. Well, that's the real life story of how Suzzie was trained to whine. She initiated an act, whining, to which the mother responded, picked her up; and that was the first day of a lifelong habit.

She will refine her technique, employing more threats and spreading more misery. She will eventually fall on the floor, kicking her feet and screaming. The mother will be embarrassed in public, frustrated and angry at home, and will eventually have such contention and strife between her and her demanding daughter that she will write a letter to me wanting to know how to deal with an angry, undisciplined, and unthankful teenager.

At less than three-months-old this little girl had discovered the power of emotional manipulation. For several days she refined her technique of control. She discovered how to use the mother's guilt against her. She is so sweet, such a delight—as long as she is getting her way. Most parents will tolerate this behavior until the child is a two-year-old terror, and then they will decide that maybe she is about old enough to start getting a spanking for her fits. The first good spanking will produce the greatest tantrum yet, and the parents will decide that their child just has a double dose of that "sinful nature" they heard the preacher talking about. When the little girl is taken to the professionals, they will tag her with the Attention Deficit Disorder lie.

But the story didn't end there.



This wise mother decided to retrain her three-month-old baby. She laid her down knowing she would cry. The mother calmly ignored the crying. When Suzzie stopped crying and became cheerful, Mother picked her up and played with her. When Suzzie was placed in the crib and again cried, the mother again ignored her until she became cheerful. Through a several day process of never paying her any attention when she cried, Suzzie stopped crying to get her way. Now, four-month-old Suzzie never cries to get her way. Why go to the trouble if it doesn't work? She is trained to maintain a good attitude. This training has extended to every area of Suzzie's life.

I hear a frustrated mother of five and six-year-olds saying, "Yea, but wait till they get older!" Suzzie's mother has older children who are well trained, being cheerful and obedient in all things. She started being faithful about two years ago, and it has paid off. I heard this mother say, "It's so fun training my children; I enjoy them so much!"

A few days later, a fifteen-year-old girl was visiting this family when the mother said, "Pick up Suzzie and hold her a while." The teenager responded, "Why? She isn't crying." The mother explained, "I never pick her up when she is crying because she will then be trained to always cry to get her way. Rather, I reward her good behavior." The teenager immediately saw the wisdom of her methods. Maybe when this young girl becomes a mother she will have the wisdom to begin training her newborns and not wait until they are three-months-old. ❀

Missionary Update

Thomas James Slayman is a missionary sent out by our local church. For a 25 year-old unmarried man, T. J. has a tremendous drive to take the gospel where it has not been previously known. God has called and made provision for T. J. to take the good news to the people of Thailand and Laos, particularly Laos. Thirty years ago T. J.'s father wore a flack jacket and carried an M16 to the people in this area of the world. Today T. J. is robed in the breastplate of righteousness and his feet are shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. His only weapon is the old 1611 A.V., which is the sword of the Spirit. He is prepared to do battle with the powers of darkness that have so long chained these needy people for whom Christ died.

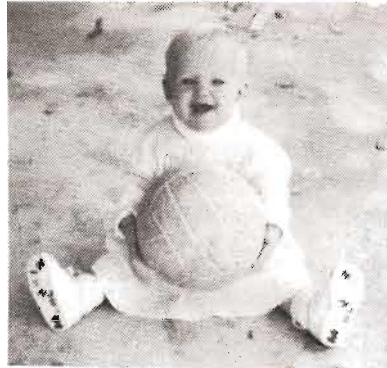
As you receive this newsletter, T. J. has been in Hong Kong for four months ministering and making useful contacts with other missionaries and nationals in Thailand and Laos. We have seen God's marvelous hand of provision. Just recently T. J. learned of another useful opportunity. As he began to pray for the money needed, he sat down and wrote home to the church. He requested that we pray God would send \$1000.00. When his letter arrived, we laid it down beside the \$1000.00 check that had arrived two days earlier from an anonymous contributor. It took a little longer for the letter to arrive from the Hong Kong. Apparently the prayer request and the gift were mailed about the same day. This is not about money. It is about a God who shed blood to make this message available and will answer our prayers of provision if we are willing to go.

My 19 year-old son Gabriel and Joshua Steel, a seventeen-year-old from Aledo Texas, will be joining T. J. in Hong Kong during February and March. T. J. and Gabriel will be traveling into other countries to meet with Christian leaders and deliver gospel literature, while Joshua fills in the gap for T. J. in Hong Kong. ❀

Volley Ball No Bawler

This past fall on the volley ball court another episode in the ongoing saga of child training was played out on a nearby pallet where a mother daily deposited her crying nine-month-old daughter. Every afternoon when we played volley ball the parents would take turns sitting out of the game and entertaining the little griper. This is their first child and they are both good parents. They thought it was their duty to meet their daughter's "emotional" needs. You wouldn't be a good parent to let your poor child sit on the pallet alone and cry—would you?

You can't imagine how hard it is to keep your mouth shut sometimes. Well, this was one of those times when I didn't. I finally blurted out, "Why don't you just let her cry? If you don't go to her, she will learn to entertain herself." Several days later I noticed that the child was sitting alone without crying. When a friend started to go to the little girl, the mother warned her off saying, "Don't go to her, when you leave she will start crying." Again I butted in, suggesting that the mother



do precisely that: Every ten minutes go to the cheerful child and pat her on the head. When you walk off she will cry; but she will see that the crying will not prevent you from leaving. Over a two hour period, you will continually reinforce your indifference to her demanding whine.

In just a few days the little girl was content to play alone and to receive periodical attention without crying to manipulate others into servitude. Today she is the most cheerful and happy baby around. Her mother is as proud as a young hen with a double yoke egg. ❄

This newsletter is a product of **The Church At Cane Creek**. It is written by Michael and Debi Pearl, authors of *To Train Up A Child*. We will soon be receiving shipment of our fourth printing. Our Newsletter mailing list grows by hundreds every month. We are now sending out thousands with each mailing. The sales of the books have been supporting the cost of the news letter.

The books and news letters are a ministry to the Christian family. The Pearls do not receive any royalties or remuneration from this ministry.

You can help us. If you do not wish to continue receiving this news letter, please let us know; we will delete your name from the mailing list. To those who wish to continue receiving it, the news letter will continue to be free. But if you would like to share in this ministry, \$5.00 would cover the cost of twelve issues. All gifts are tax deductible.

Rebekah Pearl Update

Our daughter Rebekah is in the final stages of preparation for her departure to the Kumboi people of Papua New Guinea. Her departure time is June of '96, just five months away.

We have seen the miraculous hand of God in guiding her steps. Over 60% of her needed financial support has been promised and is coming in every month. Some homeschool families have become involved and made it a project to share in this work, praying and sending a monthly support. It is encouraging to hear that young people are praying for her and following her movements. We have received gifts of a few dollars from small children who

want to be a part. In the prison where I minister, one of the inmates sends ten to twenty dollars every month. The church in the prison sends about \$25.00 every month. Two different printers have volunteered to bear all the expenses of printing and shipping any literature that she needs printed. Others have volunteered with other forms of support.

I don't mean to sound as if all God needs is money to get the job done. This is not the case. "God's work done God's way never lacks God's supply." It is just a joy to see so

many different ones sharing in the blessing and the reward of reaching a primitive tribe with the gospel. We are not struggling to do a job. We are joyous to participate in the eternal glory of Almighty God. I want to see some of your sons and daughters go to the unreached. Teach your children to pray for missionaries by name and need.

There is room for another bark hut on top of those mountains—one with four bedrooms for a big family who would like to teach tribal people to read the Bible that Rebekah will be translating. Have you heard God speaking? Would you like to justify the large amount of air and food you have consumed during your indulgent life? God is not looking for people with gifts, just people willing to give of themselves. ❄

There is a Vision

It begins with a vision. The vision I came just two months ago, the last day of a missions conference in Marion, Texas. We sat at a dinner table under a flapping tent discussing that large box of stained and aging letters, which had so burdened our hearts. Five years ago a missionary rented space in the major news papers of Turkey. Thousands of these Moslims responded to the gospel message and requested the Bible correspondence course. That box displayed in the mission's conference contained three-thousand letters from individuals in several different language groups requesting their third Bible course. The missionary was unable to complete what he had started. For five years the letters have gone unanswered. Three thousand Moslims had received gospel portions telling them who God was and explaining that we are all sinners, but they waited in vain for the good news of Jesus.

It's too late now for most of those three-thousand Moslems. Missionaries are not welcomed in Turkey. Correspondence is a way of going beyond political barriers. But the task was overwhelming for one family. The cost of mailing is not great, but it would be about \$2.00 for each response. The printing of Bible courses would add more expense. Multiply that times 3,000 each month, and then add the time it would take to read each returned Bible lesson, make corrections or suggestions, and perhaps answer questions. You can see that one man would sink in despair.

In the mission's conference we were told that there are boxes of responses lying unanswered in the back rooms of different ministries. Who will fill this gap? Where can we find a Christian ministry with

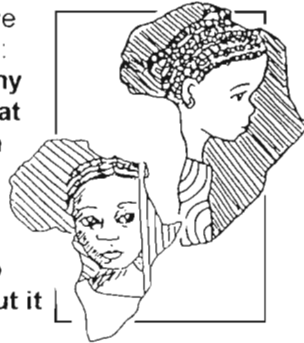
50,000 people sitting behind desks, opening these letters, answering questions and returning the next Bible lesson? It is overwhelming.

We have the promise: **"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall**

accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it (Isaiah 55:11)." God's Word sent to foreign lands will accomplish God's pleasure.

Has the vision fallen on you yet? It descended on us like a deluge from heaven. A million Christian homeschool families in America just waiting for the opportunity to correspond with someone in Turkey, Iran, Africa, Russia, Libya, India, China and one-hundred other countries, many of them closed to missionaries.

In every country of the world there are those who know English. English is taught in most schools around the world. There are young people in these countries who would love the opportunity to communicate with an American in English. They would love to read your Bible courses and look up the answers in the Bible you send them. They would like to see pictures of your family and hear about the way you live. They will send pictures of their family. They will have questions about your God and this Jesus they are reading about. Five years from now there will be 10 families in a foreign city who will have



professed faith in Christ. They will not know of the others in their city who have come to the same faith. You, one of your children, or another missionary will fly to that country, enter that city as a tourist, contact those 10 families, bring them together, and ordain the first Christian church in that city.

As well as being the answer to the needs of those imprisoned in countries hostile to the gospel, this is an answer to the unwanted selfish syndrome of the average homeschool family.

I have been in touch with the missionaries who can assist in providing the correspondence courses and the names and addresses of foreigners. I am not equipped and do not want to be the organizational head of such an undertaking. As the need manifests itself, God will raise up those who can handle that end of it. Until that time, as God provides, The Church At Cane Creek will do all we can to get it under way.

If you speak a foreign language, we will seek to provide you with literature and correspondence in that language.

One family can easily handle about ten names at a time. It will take about a month to cycle each lesson through the mail. You will be responsible to bare the cost of the mailing. As the Lord provides, we will provide the literature, correspondence courses, and Bibles free of charge.

If you would like to participate, send us your name and address along with your response to the Biblical questionnaire on the next page.

Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana:
We are now scheduling Child Training Seminars in your states for May 1-9. We will be in the Ft. Wayne Indiana Curriculum Fair May 10 and 11. If your church or homeschool group would like to schedule a Seminar during this time, please send us your request and phone number.

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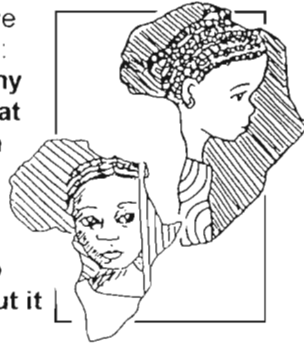
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ORDER FORM

TO TRAIN UP A CHILD

One book: \$3.89 + \$1.60 S/H \$5.49

Two to four books: \$3.89 each + \$2.00 S/H (\$4.50 UPS)

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SAVE 40% ON 8 OR MORE: TO TRAIN UP A CHILD

Eight books: \$2.33 each (\$18.64) + \$4.50 S/H (UPS only) \$23.14

Orders of nine to ninety-nine books: \$2.33 each + UPS shipping cost as indicated below.

SAVE 48 % ON BOX OF 100: TO TRAIN UP A CHILD

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BRUCHKO, paperback, 202 pp. \$8.99 + \$1.60 standard postage when purchased alone.

EE-TAOW, Best missionary video. \$19.95 + \$1.60 standard postage when purchased alone.

LORDS OF THE EARTH, paperback, 368 pages, \$10.00 + \$1.60 standard postage when purchased alone.

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POSTAGE AND PACKAGING

Orders that are a combination of books and/or videos, shipping is as follows:

Up to \$20.00:	\$4.50
From \$20.01 - \$50.00:	\$6.00
From \$50.01 and up:	12%

Make checks payable to:
The Church At Cane Creek
 1000 Pearl Rd., Pleasantville, TN. 37147

Now it is your turn to minister.

You can do what hundreds of others have done. Be a very special friend to someone by giving them a copy of **TO TRAIN UP A CHILD**. By purchasing eight or more books, you can receive a 40% discount. You can purchase eight books for \$18.64 + \$4.50 S/H. That is just \$2.33 each, for a total of \$23.14. If you cannot afford to give the books, you can do what others are doing and sell them at your cost or at retail price.

Missionary Resources

Read **Bruchko** and discover what it is like for a nineteen-year-old boy to walk alone and unprepared into the dense jungles of the Andes mountains in search of a primitive, savage tribe. He first knew he had found them when he felt their arrows tearing his flesh. This man is still alive and still ministering to the Indians of Columbia.

Read **Lords of the Earth** and see what it is like to stand between two warring tribes with a message of love and peace. They thought he was a god when their arrows wouldn't kill him.

Read **Mission Venezuela** and discover the meaning of culture shock

See the video **EE Taow!** and weep as you see live footage of a whole village becoming believers in Jesus—all in one day.

ORDER FORM	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
TO TRAIN UP A CHILD	\$3.89		
BRUCHKO	\$8.99		
EE-TAOW, video	\$19.95		
LORDS OF THE EARTH	\$10.00		
MISSION VENEZUELA	\$6.00		
<i>No credit card or COD orders.</i>	SUB TOTAL		
	SHIPPING		
	TOTAL		

Send order to: **The Church At Cane Creek,**
1000 Pearl Road, Pleasantville, TN. 37147

ADDS

I am compiling information on ADDS. If you have any personal experience or professional knowledge on the subject, I would appreciate the information. I would like to use some of your testimonies in my next book. If you do not want your name made public, please make a note to that effect.

The God-man between

This is a passage taken from an unpublished book written by Michael Pearl. The title of the book is: *By Divine Design*. It will be available in about three months.

From before the foundation of the world, God's Son was elected to become the mediator. A mediator must have the credentials to mediate in the presence of both parties. The Infinite is limited to His infiniteness and cannot intimately know the finite except by some process of self-diminishing, some self-imposed limitation. He must create Himself finite. This He did in the womb of a Jewish virgin.

He who was with God and was God separated himself from the Father, and could yet say, *"If you have seen me, you have seen the Father."* *"Great is the mystery of godliness,"* for while He was separate from the Father in heaven, He professed to have come from and said that He would return to the Father. But at the same time that He was seen among men, the God in heaven called the Son on earth *"The Everlasting Father."* We are told that the worlds were created by the Son of God. And now He has become a flesh

and blood man.

It would seem that if the plight of man was a curse, then the Creator had sentenced Himself to the same. His human body was subject to the same frailties as ours. He grew weary and hungry, required sleep, and would bleed when cut. He was lured, unsuccessfully, by every sin known to man. As a mortal, His only defense was the Spirit and the Word of God, along with wisdom concerning good and evil.

CHAMPION OF RIGHTEOUSNESS:

Where the rest of the human race failed, this man Jesus took up the law and prevailed against all temptation. This one, lone human being stood up under the full weight of temptation until Satan fled in defeat. By succeeding where all others had failed, the championship of righteousness passed to this one son of man.

Through his perfect obedience He earned the right for one of humanity's own to be seated at the right hand of the Father. At last, a man had qualified to hold divine office. Through his knowledge as overcomer, He qualified to assume the position of legal counselor and

advocate. Further, in His body of flesh as an overcomer, He is prepared to assume all liabilities, obligations, and debts of those whom He is to represent.

Read his press releases:

- The Father said of Him: *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."* *Matt. 3:17.*
- He said of himself: *"For I do always those things that please him."* *John 8:29.*
- One who spent three-and-one-half years with Him said: *"We beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."* *John 1:14.*
- An apostle said of Him: He was *"in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."* *Heb. 4:15.*
- Pilate, His enemy, said: *"I find no fault in this man."* *Luke 23:4.* *"Behold the man!"* *John 19:5.*

As we behold the man, we see a man as God intended him to be. He didn't just obey the law, He fulfilled it. The heretofore unreachable law held up its measuring stick. He accepted the challenge and quickly broke all records of righteousness, soaring so far beyond all that the law humbly bowed, retiring in His presence. In Him humanity reached unprecedented heights. The ceiling was raised. The law became an obsolete standard and stood aside for one more righteous.

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