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From Where I Sit . . .

“Role Models For Our Children”

It's tough being a young person today where every sector of life appears to be vying for your loyalty. The world is fully dedicated to affecting the choices of our youth – So many temptations! Such early exposure to very graphic parts of life.

As a parent it's more than a little frightening to see the parade of influences by individuals who would like to become your child's role model — their heroes. It makes our job all the more urgent and even difficult as we attempt to be role models ourselves and model “Good Behavior” before them.

Brethren, we are involved in a war today, and the battleground is not just in Iraq or Afghanistan. The battleground is in our homes – And what's at stake is not only our land, our property, our freedoms. It's more important than that. What's at stake are our children. And believe me—It is a war! It's an important war, and in this country, it appears we may be losing the battle. Too many of our children are turning from the faith. It's as if as soon as they leave home and go to college they leave the church. It is true all over this country. Children in record numbers are turning from God and from the church.

Romans 1:28-32 closely parallels what is going on today in America. Let's look at the passage. *“Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. 29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; 31 they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.”*

Do you realize we live in a culture that approves of turning its back on God? From congress, the high courts – to tv shows – news commentators – to popular movies – it's okay to make fun of religion because it's not important. It's not relevant. It worked for Mom and Dad, but it's not for me. Our children are being taught that our values which we believe come from God's word are not relevant to their lives and the times in which they live.

The things which have the most influence on their lives often are: Lyrics and Music as well as Music Videos; MTV; Internet and Chat Rooms; Peers and Peer Pressure; Teachers; Movies; Teen Magazines; Fashion Trends; and the list goes on. It's a rare day when you meet young people who will tell you that God, the Bible, their Sunday class teacher are the most powerful influences in their lives. Out of respect some might include Mom and Dad in the list.

Well, can I tell you this, Moms and Dads, you are at the front lines. This is a war, and we are called to be a part of it. We must begin Modeling, first of all with our words, with our lives, and with the use of our time, the kind of values and behavior that we hope our children will adopt. They must see consistency between words spoken and lives lived. They must see the “joy of the Lord” manifested in the home. According to **Deuteronomy 6: 6-7**, God saw the importance of an open line of communication between parents and children. You need to talk to you children. Be involved in their lives. Tell them about God, and tell them about the Bible. What God has done for you? You need to share it with your children. Today, I want to give you your marching orders to tackle this important task of saving the children.

. . . Terry Broome