

and had taken a Scholarship besides, but had not learned to honor and obey your parents you would be a poor scholar in Christ's school. And though you might be called very bright and clever you could not be called good and wise.

I hope none of your parents would ever tell you to do anything wicked. That is too bad to be thought of. And unless such a very strange thing were to happen you are to obey your parents, and at school and Sunday school your teachers, promptly and cheerfully. That is a first thing—never to be forgotten—never to be neglected. That is a chief thing, better than learning the longest lessons or taking the best prizes; for to be an obedient child is to be a treasure to yourself and to all your friends.

The second thing our text teaches is *why* you are to obey and honor your parents. And two reasons are given.

First, one great reason, "It is right." This is a good reason. It is a strong reason. It is the first and last and best reason for everything. "It is right." What can I say more than that? Can I add anything to that? Nothing. It is right, and anything else would be wrong and everything else is wrong. As some things are nice and some are nasty, and that is a good reason, without any more talk, why you like the nice and leave the nasty, so some things are right and some are wrong. And when we are told that obedience to parents is *right* that should be enough. We must do what is right. I wish we could all see what a beautiful reason this is, not only for this commandment, but for all God's commandments. They are right. If we know that a thing is right that should satisfy us. There should be no more talk—no more dispute. If it is right, let our hearts say "that is enough."

But a second reason is given. It is profitable. Good will come of it. You will live long and be blessed on the earth. It is always good to do what is right though it may seem to bring evil on us. We are not to be good merely for prizes and barley sugar. A slave boy when about to be sold was asked by a gentleman, "If I buy you will you be good?" And he returned this noble answer, "I intend to be good whether you buy me or not." So we should do the right because it is right. Still even a good boy or girl is encouraged by a prize or a promise of

something good. And our text encourages with a promise—Prosperity—"it shall be well with thee"—and long life—"thou shall live long on the earth." I know you want to be happy, to be loved, to be prosperous. But nothing that I can say will come up with the words of my text, "that it may be well with thee." This means all good. A true successful life. This is the promise and the prize of obeying and honoring your parents. God means it. He will fulfil it. A dutiful child not only does right; but he shall be blessed. It shall be well with him. And an undutiful child does wrong and shall suffer for it. It shall *not* be well with him. His undutifulness shall bring down on his head and heart evil on the earth.

Perhaps some of you larger boys are saying that it is only the law I am preaching. That is a great mistake. It is both law and gospel. The command, "honor thy father and mother," occurs twice in Matthew's Gospel, twice in Mark, and once in Luke. And it was Jesus who thus repeated it. In our text under the teaching of the Holy Spirit, and also in Col. iii: 20, the Apostle Paul enforces it.

Authority meets us everywhere—law reigns everywhere. Are children only to be without law and parents and parents and teachers without authority? Look at the sun. He rises and sets by law. And he is never disobedient—never late—never either sulky or slow. The mighty ocean, whether he gently kisses the shore with the ripple of his rising tide, or foams in fury against opposing rocks, hears and obeys the command, "Hitherto and no further." The rose buds spread out their beauty and diffuse their fragrance by law. And it has been beautifully observed that it is obedience to law that secures harmony, peace and usefulness everywhere. Disobedience in the sun would bring on the crash of doom to the whole solar system. The torrent that leaves its channel and sweeps across the country carries with it ruin and dismay; but the obedient stream soothes and cheers us with its happy song as it flows on in blessing to the whole valley. How much do the tame and gentle animals such as the horse, the cow, the sheep, and the faithful dog contribute to the comfort of man. Out of his native jungle the tiger must be chained or caged, and he frets savagely at the restraint, while the horse feeds peacefully in his stall, and the house dog