

struction to our children, together with other stated and occasional opportunities which might be the greatest use and most lasting blessing. We would not wish for any to be confined to a set form or stinted method of instructing; but make such remarks, explanations, and enlargements as may seem proper, in connexion with all other means; and as the best of all, as soon as your children can read intelligibly, put the Holy Scriptures into their hands, especially such parts as are the most easy to understand, nor fear the terrible effect which some represent of the Scripture being made so familiar to youths as to breed contempt. It was not the consequence of the blessed Books being put into the hands of Timothy, who Paul says had known them from a child; indeed those fears appear to favor more of Popery than of Christianity in its simplicity.

Dear Brethren, we wish you to weigh and try the subject at large by the infallible standard of eternal truth—a few extracts we will make with remarks on the same:—The first from Genesis, 15, 17, 19, “and the Lord said shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do—for I know, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord to do justice and judgment, that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.” Here we note, Brethren, that the piety and family religion of Abraham bring him into the council chamber of the most high. According to the saying of the Holy Ghost, “the secrets of the Lord is with them that fear him,” and again, “the Lord God will do nothing; but he reveals his secrets to his servants the prophets.” Thus God’s secret designs against Sodom and Gomorah must not be executed until Abraham is led in to the secret and made acquainted with God’s design and brings forward all the reasons he may offer against it, and is made fully sensible of the righteousness of the awful dispensation of Jehovah toward those impenitent sinners; because he will command his household after him. Thus while he taught the word and way of the Lord he bound with authority those precepts he taught—if after all his councils and admonitions Ishmael is a mocker, he and his mother, at the command of God, must leave his house, for he is jealous of God’s honour and Isaac’s education in the fear of the Lord. Eli’s good advice or gentle admonition to his sons without binding with authority what God had commanded, proved fruitless.