

¶¶ for Parents

January 9, 2006

The Key to Academic Success: Reading

In the last ¶¶ for Parents of 2004, I made an impassioned plea for parents to give books as Christmas gifts for our students. Although I didn't repeat the admonition in 2005, here's hoping that the advice stuck, and that your children have lots of new books to enjoy in 2006!

Today you get a bonus article. This past summer I ran across an article in *Reader's Digest* on the importance of reading for school success. While it may seem a self-evident proposition, it frequently amazes me that parents will often try extraordinary means of improving their child's academic success without resorting to the obvious solution of additional reading.

This particular article is valuable because it doesn't just advocate random reading; rather, it provides some specific tips for parents to make their child's reading experiences more valuable. I happen to agree with all of them, and heartily commend this article to Cornerstone parents as useful for all of our children. I actually bought out the full remaining stock of reprints that *Reader's Digest* had on hand, so only the oldest child in each family will be bringing a copy home, attached to today's *Monday Memo*.

If reading were not critically important for all the other good academic reasons that we can easily think of, it would be well for us to remember that it was through the medium of the written word that God entrusted His revelations to us in the Holy Scriptures. It is well known that the impact of the Reformation was intensified because of the invention of movable type printing, which made wide distribution of the Bible possible.

The exact phrase "it is written" appears seventy times in the Old and New Testaments, and the word "written" hundreds of times in other phrases. It is meet and necessary that God's people be reading people.

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:31