



PASTOR'S LESSON TO LIVE BY
"NEW" and "ALWAYS"

When we consider and talk about school reopening, most of us who are older search our memories back to our days in the class room. It doesn't take but a moment of searching until even the smells associated with that first day back are fondly remembered.

New Books - New Book satchels filled with New Notebooks
New Pencils and Erasers - New Students - New Teachers - New Classes

But, let us also bring to the forefront our memories of what many see as the downside of a **New** School Year.

New Fears - New Anxieties - New Enemies
New Broken Hearts - New Angry moments - New just plain Bad Experiences

Well, we took it all in stride, the good with the bad, hoping that at the end of the school year, the good would win out.

I have heard many my age, from our "ancient school days era", make the remark - "**Kids have it easy today!**" I suppose, that out of all the remarks I hear concerning our children today, that one statement really bothers me the most. For one thing, the statement is no where near being true. Our children today do not have it easy. They are faced with more of the pain and harsh reality of life than we ever were. They don't simply witness a fist fight or wrestling match during recess, where all involved are sent to the Principal's Office, punished - and then sent back to class. **NO!** They are faced with **BOMB THREATS - MASS SHOOTINGS - STABBINGS - RIOTS - DRUG DEALERS ON SCHOOL YARDS - SOCIAL MEDIA BULLYING - RAPES - BEATINGS - MURDERS - FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES COMMITTING SUICIDE - VENOMOUS PROTEST FILLED WITH EVIL INTENT.** That's the school world our students live in today.

Is there an answer to the dilemma? Yes, and that answer is already active in our classrooms. The school systems in our county as well as surrounding counties have been blessed with **Remarkable Answers.** I call the **answer** the "**Always Teachers.**" **Always** giving, mostly from their own pockets - **Always** Caring - **Always** learning - **Always** blamed - **Always** comforting - **Always** available - **Always** underpaid. Here's you a big one. "**Always with your Child**" during the majority of their waking hours. These "**First Responders**", to the Minds and Hearts of our most vulnerable, should **Always** be in our prayers - **Always** given our support - **Always** appreciated for the good they do and **Always** encouraged to stand for what is best for our children.

Do not judge our teachers by the unions they are forced to join. Judge them by the love and concern they have for your child. Judge them by their principles and character through which you want to be judged as a parent. Remember "**New**" and "**Always**" is never easy.

Our prayers are with and for our teachers and the children who are entrusted to their care.

Your Pastor Loves You