

A pair of black-rimmed glasses with clear lenses is placed on top of an open book. A red bookmark is visible on the left page. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color, possibly a desk or table. The overall image has a dark, semi-transparent overlay.

Scripture Reading:

God's Purpose and Provision
for Fathers

Introduction

- **The History of Father's Day:**

- The first observance was initiated in Spokane, Washington in 1910. On December 23, 1970, the US Congress passed a joint Father's Day resolution to be observed annually on the 3rd Sunday in June.

- This came about after 6 decades of being championed by Sonoma Dodd.

- Her father was a Civil War veteran who was twice widowed and left with the sole responsibility of care for his 9 children.

- After the death of his 2nd wife in childbirth, daughter Sonora (by then 16) was forever impressed when her father instinctively took command of his new responsibilities of being both father and mother.

God's **PURPOSE** for Fathers

1) NOT to simply produce children

2) NOT to be an absent influence while in the home

3) Instruction and training – Prov 22:6

3) Instruction and training (continued)

4) Instruction by demonstration

God's PROVISION for Fatherhood

Eternal Life (knowing Christ as your personal Savior)

Allowing Christ to make ALL of your decisions and directions
(Lordship)

Growing in your relationship with, and dependence upon Him

CONCLUSION

- The greatest Father's Day gifts:
 - Proverbs 23:24 and III John 4
 - Your gift to yourself, regardless of the outcome:
 - Knowing that you were obedient to God's purpose, and that you used HIS provisions