



# The Reflector

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## Young People: Our Precious Asset

By BUDDY PARKER

[Editor's Note: Buddy Parker is a member of the congregation at Pinson, Alabama. He preaches publicly from time to time. We thank him for this good article. It is worthy of our consideration.]

They seem to come in cycles, like waves every few years, some years being better than others; yet it is now our occasion at the Pinson, Alabama congregation to have an outstanding group of young Christians. Their ages range from roughly mid-teens to early twenties, about a dozen or so, and if the title youth-director were scriptural, one would not be necessary, for the gospel is their guidance counselor; inspired writers, their mentors. It is not feasible to mention them by name, though many inside and out of the congregation know them and their works.

Many characters in the Bible, such as David, Jonathan, Daniel and Joseph were youths who were obedient to the Lord; and even though their ages were not given, Mary, the mother of Christ, and Esther, among others, must have been young maidens of sterling qualities to have been chosen for God's work. Furthermore, it is said that "...Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, in favour with God and man." (Luke 2:52). This article's purpose is not to eulogize *our* youth, for there are many such like them over the entire world, but it is practical to demonstrate the parallel of their virtues to the guidelines contained in the

Bible.

First, note that Paul stated to the young man Timothy: "Let no man despise thy youth: but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." (1 Timothy 4:12). Yes, there are those in our group who teach classes, and many young men have made talks, even full-length sermons. Yes, they leads songs, serve at the Lord's table and conduct prayers. The difference lies, however, in the fact they desire these duties without complaint. In short, a love for the truth and a desire to defend the word are manifest in their word

attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine" (1 Timothy 4:13). These youths not only take it upon themselves to sit up front in the building, often a sure sign of faithfulness, but they take notes during sermons, ask questions and study the word concerning "gray areas" which confront this vulnerable age group. Interestingly enough, they have encouraged the older members and have taken a real interest in the spiritual welfare of others. The writer of this article has been uplifted on more than one occasion, often when encouragement was most needed, by his young friends.

***"Continue to live a life that reflects your calling as a Christian. Young people seem to have a talent of spotting a counterfeit. Above all else, pray for them, each one of them, in your congregation and everywhere so that the state of the church may be healthy for years to come."***

and conduct. Now, consider how important it is to encourage these Christians for early attempts at participation in the worship service.

This diligence goes beyond the perimeters of the worship services. Often they have discussed the Bible at length with friends and co-workers. The young men and women are examples to the rest of us with their faith in an age which encourages disbelief and a society of increasingly loose morals.

Paul also told Timothy to "...give

Now, because their hearts are tender, and their consciences pliable, we who are of strength must protect and direct them with spiritual leadership of our own. It is the honored duty and privilege of the rest of us - *all of us* -- to guide their zeal so that the flame of enthusiasm may not be quenched. In turn, our spirits will be renewed. Be there when they need you. Continue to live a life that reflects your calling as a Christian. Young people seem to

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# Sermon Outline

## HINDERING THE TRUTH

Gal. 5:7-26

### Introduction:

- A. How often could the question of verse 7 be asked?
  - 1. Of churches?
  - 2. Of individuals?
- B. Galatians bothered by three timeless *hindrances* to obeying the truth?

### Discussion:

- I. **The Undermining Hindrance Of Doctrinal Error. (vv. 7-12).**
  - A. False doctrine is like leaven - works undercover. (v. 9; Cf. 2:4-5; 2 Pet. 2:1)
  - B. Few churches destroyed by error that begins in pulpit.
    - 1. It often starts as privately expressed views.
    - 2. It often starts in the pew - later installed in pulpits. (2 Tim. 4:4).
    - 3. Cf. Institutionalism, marriage question, premillennialism.
- II. **The Discouraging Hindrance Of Constant Needless Controversy. (v. 15).**
  - A. Necessary to contend for the faith. (2:5,11-14; Jude 3).
  - B. Unnecessary to "bite and devour one another".
  - C. Unnecessary to turn every question into a major "issue".
    - 1. Such a thing as being obsessed with disputes. (1 Tim. 6:4).
    - 2. Such a thing as useless wrangling ("constant friction" - Moffatt). (1 Tim. 6:5).
    - 3. Such a thing as foolish disputes or unlearned questions. (2 Tim. 2:23; Tit. 3:9).
    - 4. Such a thing as not allowing for individual growth and discernment. (Rom. 14).
    - 5. Such a thing as childish strife. (cf. 1 Cor. 3:1-4).
- III. **The Destructive Hindrance of Carnal (Fleshly) Mindedness. (v. 16-26).**
  - A. Fleshly sensuality. ("Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness").
  - B. Fleshly cults: ("idolatry, soecry [witchcraft]").
  - C. Fleshly dispositions. ("hatred" through "envy").
  - D. Fleshly pleasures. ("drunkenness" and "revelry").
  - E. Fleshly attachments - respectable wordliness - here and now. (cf. Matt. 13:22).

### Conclusion:

- A. Who or what hinders you from obeying the truth?
- B. How well are you running?

## Young People

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have a talent of spotting a counterfeit. Above all else, pray for them, each one of them, in your congregation and everywhere so that the state of the church may be healthy for years to come.

Furthermore, praise their efforts to serve God. *Avoid being critical.* Many times an elderly member here at Pinson will drop a line of encour-

agement to a youth. One cannot imagine the good which come from this simple act of kindness.

Finally, Solomon exhorted: "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth,..." (Ecclesiastes 12:1). So far, our youth have done so at Pinson. As stated earlier, Pinson is not the only congregation blessed with young people. Some may have only one or two, but even a faithful few can make a vast difference. With

our co-operation and encouragement we may face the future with great anticipation and expectation. Their race, of course, has only just started; however, at this stage of their growth we can say to them: well-done.

5175 Cimmaron Circle, Pinson, AL 35126

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Us Soon

# Sermon Outline

## OBEYING THE TRUTH

Gal. 5:7

### Introduction:

- A. First of two-part lesson.
  - 1. Obeying the truth.
  - 2. Hindering the truth.
- B. Galatians once obeyed the truth. (3:1, 5:7)
  - 1. Had a good beginning. (3:2-4).
  - 2. Had turned to "the flesh" -- probably through influence of Judaizers.
    - a. Depended on relationship to Abraham through the flesh.
    - b. Depended on a fleshly sign, circumcision.
    - c. Depended on a fleshly covenant, law of Moses.
- C. Paul reminded them of who they had become in obeying the truth by using five expressions:

### Discussion:

- I. **"You Are All SONS (CHILDREN) OF GOD By Faith In Christ Jesus" (v. 26).**
  - A. Galatians had become "children of God BY FAITH". (vv. 7,26).
    - 1. Faith in the Spiritual promise to Abraham. (vv. 14-18).
    - 2. Rather than relationship to fleshly nation and law given to it.
  - B. God's children have wonderful privileges.
    - 1. Joint heirs with Christ. (Rom. 8:12-17).
    - 2. Right to cry "Father". (Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:6).
    - 3. Right to expect glory to be revealed. (Rom. 8:18,19).
- II. **"You .. Were BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST". (v. 27).**
  - A. Baptism given as reason for being children - "For as many.."
  - B. Baptism puts one into:
    - 1. Christ. (v. 27).
      - a. In whom we have salvation. (Mark 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21).
      - b. In whom we have remission of sins. (Col. 1:14; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16).
    - 2. The church made up of the saved. (1 Cor. 12:13; Acts 2:47).
- III. **"You Are All ONE IN CHRIST JESUS." (v. 28)**
  - A. All those in Christ in one body. (1 Cor. 12:20; Eph. 4:4; 1:22,23).
  - B. All those reconciled to God in one body. (Eph. 2:13-16).
- IV. **"You Are Christ's. (v. 29).**
  - A. He purchased us. (1 Tim. 2:16; Mt. 20:28; Acts 20:28).
  - B. He conditionally redeemed. (1 Pet. 1:18-25).
    - 1. Redeemed have obeyed truth. (v. 22).
    - 2. Redeemed with responsibility. (1 Cor. 6:19-20).
- V. **"You Are Abraham's Seed." (v. 29).**
  - A. Heirs of promise rather than of flesh. (Cf. Gen. 12:3).
  - B. Heirs of Abraham regardless of fleshly ties.
    - 1. To all nations. (6-9).
    - 2. Depends of relationship to Christ, rather than national Israel. (v. 3:15,16).
      - a. Fleshly Israel no longer God's special people.
      - b. Christians are God's special people. (cf. 1 Pet. 2:9,10).

### Conclusion:

- A. So, all five expressions for the same people.
- B. Will you become a child of God by faith by obeying truth?

# A LITTLE STORY

Please read this and make application:

This is a story about 4 people named EVERYBODY, SOMEBODY, ANYBODY AND NOBODY.

There was an important job to be done and EVERYBODY was sure that SOMEBODY would do it. ANYBODY could have done it, but NOBODY did it, SOMEBODY got angry about that, because it was EVERYBODY'S job.

EVERYBODY thought ANYBODY could do it, but NOBODY realized that EVERYBODY wouldn't do it.

It ended up that EVERYBODY blamed SOMEBODY when NOBODY did what ANYBODY could have done!

Via Ellettsville (Indiana) Church Bulletin

## The Pessimist's Creed

What's the use of sunshine? Only blinds your eyes.  
What's the use of knowledge? Only makes you wise.  
What's the use of smiling? Wrinkles up your face.  
What's the use of flowers? Clutter up the place.  
What's the use of eating? Nothing -- only taste.  
What's the use of hustling? Haste is only waste.  
What's the use of music? Just a lot of noise.  
What's the use of loving? Only for the joys.  
What's the use of singing? Only

makes you glad.  
What's the use of goodness when the whole world's bad?  
What's the use of health? You might as well be sick.  
What's the use of anything but kick?

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAYS:  
Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.  
Worship 10:45 a.m.  
Worship 6:00 p.m.  
WEDNESDAYS:  
Bible Classes 7:30 p.m.

## THE SHADY DOZEN

"I heard ..."  
"They say ..."  
"Everybody says ..."  
"Have you heard ...?"  
"Did you hear ...?"  
"Isn't it awful...?"  
"People say ...."  
"Did you ever ...?"  
"Somebody said ...."  
"Would you think...."  
"Don't say I told you ...."  
"Oh, I think it is terrible..."

The Outlook

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