

A WORLD FOR THE YOUNG

The world in which we live is interested in young people. The world wants their money, their interest, and their attention. The world and Satan will do anything to get to the young and the Christian. The world will appeal to their lust and pleasures. But God wants you more. God wants you to obey and serve him. God's promises are greater, and what the world can offer is not comparable to God's rewards for his faithful servants. *"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 Tim. 4:12)

At any age, life at its best is life lived for God. God's wisdom for the young is found in the Bible. The book of Proverbs is especially good for God's teaching to the young. *"My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:"* (Pro. 1:8). Respect the teaching and instruction of your parents. Children who do not listen to their parents bring misery to themselves and to their parents. *"My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not"* (Pro. 1:10). Resist the company of sinners, and be careful of the company you keep. It is still true: evil companions corrupt good manners. *"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners"* (1 Cor. 15:33). Much harm can be done in the life of a young person who makes a bad decision to associate with those who practice evil.

My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.
(Pro 2:1-5)

Through receiving God's word and treasuring his commandments you will receive wisdom and understanding.

We need to recognize the true value of God's commandments and keep them. *"My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart"* (Pro. 4:20-21).

Obedience to God is a lesson young people need to learn early in life. This will help you resist temptation and evil and the things the world will put in front of you.

“The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother. Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death” (Pro. 10:1-2). We need to refrain from wickedness. Wickedness will be a sorrow to your parents, and wickedness profits nothing and produces much misery.

“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise” (Pro. 20:1). Refuse strong wine and strong drink. Alcohol and drugs are working havoc among our youth. One of the worst choices made by the young is to turn to tobacco, alcohol, or other drugs. We need to refuse that which destroys internally, externally, and eternally.

“A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold” (Pro. 22:1). We need to realize the value of a good name and reputation. Your honesty and integrity will give you a good name. Do nothing to destroy that good name. A good reputation can be lost very easily, and it takes a long time to get it back.

“He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls” (Pro. 25:28). We need to rule our own spirits. Young and old, please hear and heed: if we don’t control our spirit, our temper, our thoughts or our actions, it will lead to our ruin.

In conclusion, all of us, whether young or old, must remember that our actions and thoughts will face the judgment.

Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them; (Ecc. 11:9 - 12:1)

Adapted from a sermon by MIKE KIRBY
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APOLOGIA

QUESTION: In Hebrews 4:14-15, the Bible states that Jesus was tempted in all points like as we are yet without sin. How can this be possible with so many temptations today such as the vices of the Internet, sinful

movies, and violent music, which did not even exist during Jesus' life here on earth?

ANSWER: According to I John 2:15-17, all sins that we commit fall into one of these three categories: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. (1 John 2:15-17)

In Matthew 4:1-11, the devil tempted Jesus in all three of these categories. In verse three, when Jesus was very hungry, the devil tempted Jesus to make the stones into bread (lust of the flesh). In verse six, the devil tempted Jesus to cast Himself down to prove that He would not be hurt and that angels would minister unto Him (pride of life). In verse nine, the devil showed Jesus a view of all of the kingdoms of the earth and offered them to Him (lust of the eyes). However, in each case, Jesus resisted the temptation and did not sin.

Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him. (Matt. 4:1-11)

While the temptations we face are not the exact same temptations that Jesus faced, they still fall into one of these three categories. Therefore, Jesus perfectly understands the temptations that we experience in this

life.

What about the sin of not doing good? James 4:17 says “...to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth not, to him it is sin.” So, was Jesus tempted not to do good? In Matthew 26:36-46, Jesus understanding that the time of His crucifixion was near, prayed three times “...let this cup pass from Me, nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.” However, Jesus overcame this temptation to “not do good” and did the Father’s will by dying on the cross for our sins.

Therefore, Jesus remains the perfect intercessor to the Father for us because He perfectly understands our temptations to commit sin as well as our temptation to “not do good.”

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb. 4:14-16)

MARK CARPENTER
Woodland, AL

GOSPEL MEETINGS

DATES

December
2 – 4

PLACE

Fayetteville Road
Fairburn, GA

SPEAKER

Bill Prince, Jr.
(Oxford, AL)

The Bridge

An old man going a long, high way,
Came, at the evening cold and gray,
To a chasm vast and wide and steep,
With water rolling cold and deep.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream had no fears for him,
But he turned, when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting your strength with building here,
Your journey will end with the ending day,
You never again will pass this way,
You've crossed the chasm deep and wide,
Why build you this bridge at eventide?"
The builder lifted his old gray head,
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today,
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
The chasm that was as naught to me,
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be,
He, too, must cross in twilight dim,
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."

By: Will Allen Dromgoole

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. To whom did God say, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples shall be separated from your body."?
2. What was the first evidence of God's enhancement of Samson's strength?
3. What two miracles took place while Elijah was staying with the widow?
4. Paul explained to the Galatians that after his conversion, he did not go immediately to Jerusalem to confer with the disciples. In fact, it was three years before he went to see whom?
5. What did the writer of Hebrews say followers of Christ should not give up?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. God told Moses that when he took a census of the people, he should also do what? COLLECT MONEY FROM THE ADULTS SO THAT NO PLAGUE WILL COME UPON THEM (Exo. 30:12-13)

2. What did Joshua say to illustrate the favor God had shown towards the Israelite soldiers? “ONE OF YOU CHASES A THOUSAND” (Josh. 23:10)
3. In Esther, why was King Ahasuerus infuriated? BECAUSE HIS WIFE DISOBEYED HIM (Est. 1:12)
4. When the Pharisees and Herodians tried to trick Jesus by asking him about paying taxes to Caesar, what did Jesus tell them to bring him? A DENARIUS (Mark 12:15)
5. What two reasons were given for the Gentiles of Ephesus being formerly without God or hope? THEY WERE ALIENS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL, AND THEY WERE STRANGERS FROM THE COVENANT OF PROMISE (Eph. 2:12)