

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

"Let no man despise thy youth"—I. Timothy 4-12

WHAT DOES THE WORLD EXPECT OF CHRISTIAN YOUNG PEOPLE?

(Read at Jonesport at the Convention of District No. 3)

People of every tribe and nation have certain standards set before them in their religious, social, and moral life, which date back to customs established hundreds of years ago. Each order or organization on coming into existence chooses for itself a set of rules as a guide to which those looking on expect the members to adhere.

Humanity may be divided into two classes, the Church and the world. This is not done by some decree of man, but by the voice of God saying, "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

Then God says, "Be ye holy; for I am holy". Christian young people, in taking up their cross to follow Jesus, are made a peculiar people, for the world wants nothing to do with Holiness. But does it expect holy living from Christians? Just listen to the comments when one who professes Holiness strays from the way. That will be enough to convince anyone that the world expects a high standard life from you and me.

Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world". Many are honestly seeking illumination in the right way to Christ, peace, and eternal life. Just as the great lens in the light houses along the coast revolve around the light and reflect its beams for miles around as a warning, our lives should revolve about Christ, reflecting His image, and trusting that it may guide some straying soul to safety and God.

Again He says, "I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you". The world expects kindness, gentleness, and charity, under all circumstances however trying. Christ is our example, "Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered he threatened not; but committed himself to Him that judgeth righteously."

The world also expects a life of one standard. So may have a standard for the Church, one for the home, and one for business. But they look for the life which, viewed from any angle, will always show a conscientious striving in word and deed to "do all to the glory of God".

You might ask, "Does the world expect as much from Christian young people, in their manner of living, as from their elders". Yes! Since the way is so plain that "the warfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein". And God is no respecter of persons, giving grace freely to meet the need of both old and young. Then why may not young people live a life as victorious as that of their elders?

But even the most critical of the world would not expect us to live this kind of a life in our own strength. It can only be done by constant watchfulness and secret prayer. We must be much at the Throne of Grace, that we may always be in a position to help souls to God.

"We are the only Bible
The careless world will read.
We are the sinners gospel,
We are the scoffers creed.
We are the Lord's last message,
Given in word and deed."

—Madeline Shepherd.

PAUL'S PERSUASION

The apostle Paul's whole life is marked with the tenacity with which he held to his beliefs. It was not stubbornness—it was strength of character. When he believed in anything, he believed in it so strongly, and put himself so unreservedly into it, that it was next to impossible to shake him. It was both a dangerous and beneficial characteristic—dangerous when it supported error, and beneficial in support of truth. A brief survey of his life will show this. He believed so strongly in the religion of his ancestors that all the wonders of Christ's earthly ministry failed to convince him that He was the long looked-for Messiah, and after Christ's death and final ascension he did his utmost to destroy all those who did believe. He was a positive hindrance to the cause, and was pursuing a course that would have guaranteed his own final destruction. But with all this he was honest. He needed to be convinced—he needed to be persuaded.

One day God met him, and with one blinding flash of lightening revealed to him what his eye had seen and failed to comprehend—what his ears had heard and failed to understand—what his hands had handled and failed to believe in—that Jesus was indeed the Christ. His spiritual eyes, so long void of sight, saw a vision of his own sinful self and the Christ he was persecuting. He needed no further proof. He was persuaded. From that time on he threw himself without reserve into the task of persuading others of the truth. I can imagine the fervency with which he must have testified: "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth". A personal experience of salvation persuaded him.

This persuasion cost Paul a great deal. It cost him his all. It cost him five times "forty stripes save one," beatings and shipwreck, "perils of waters—of robbers; perils by the heathen; perils in the city—in the wilderness—in the sea—among false brethren; weariness and painfulness—hunger and thirst—fastings often—cold and nakedness." But in his own words again, "None of these things move me—for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day". The farther he went the stronger he became in his belief and assertions. He never needed to be re-persuaded. Adherence to the truth, and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit multiplied his natural firmness of character, while the years added strength to his first persuasion. The experience of a life-time gave birth to that wonderful testimony, "I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord".

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Condemn no one. Regard him who is above thee as thy father; him who is thine equal as thy brother; and him who is below thee as thy son.—Persian.

They lose their life who so laboriously do nothing.—Grotius.

SUGGESTIVE BIBLE STUDY FOR YOUR SOCIETY STEWARDSHIP.

Introduction. A steward is one who takes care of and manages the property of another. Man has been made a steward of God's great world. God said, "Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth". Gen. 1:26. But in a stricter sense Christians are God's stewards—"stewards of the manifold grace of God". We are servants whose Master has gone to a far country, leaving us to properly administer His affairs until He shall return. We are saved not only that God may bestow his blessings upon us, but that we may be stewards of those blessings. "It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful". 1 Cor. 4:2.

The Basis of Stewardship

(1) God is the owner of everything. "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof". Psalm 24:1. "For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills". Psalm 50:10. God laid the foundation of the earth. Psalm 102:25. Isa. 8:15. God has entrusted all this to us.

(2) We belong to God. We are His by right of creation, and doubly so because He bought us back from the fall by the precious blood of Christ. 1 Cor. 6:20. 1 Peter 1:18-19. That should show us our obligation, but when we have consecrated our all to Him, how much more are we under obligation to be good stewards. Faithful stewardship is the natural outflow of a consecrated life.

Practical Stewardship

(1) Stewards of Time and Talents. These must be used in God's service. See Matt. 25:14-30. Negligence, not inability, will be punished. The bane of the Church or Society is the Band of the five Ws; We Won't Work Will We.

(2) Stewards of Money. The handling of all money should be to the honor and glory of God, yea, either directly or indirectly to the extension of His Kingdom. See Luke 19:12-26.

We should pay all our debts—put money where it belongs. See Mark 12:13-17. We should pay our debts to God first. The tithe is Holy unto the Lord. Lev. 27:30. "The greatest interest any man ever pays is on money he owes to the Lord". After the tithe or tenth is paid, we are stewards of the remaining nine-tenths, to be used wisely under His direction.

(3) Stewards of Salvation. This means that "we are to be called to the particular Christian work we are doing, and that every thing we possess of every power or ability is committed to the carrying out of that task." Paul was made a steward of the Gentile's salvation. Acts 26:17-18. Christ made the disciples stewards of the Gospel when He told them, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations." Matt. 28:19-20.

Additional Thoughts

Finding God's will is essential to good Stewardship.

We are here not for what we can get, but for what we can do and give.

No man can be a good steward unless he has consecrated his all to God.

We do not own anything, but we can be possessors of Heavenly Riches by the proper use of the things that God has entrusted to us.