

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

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

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EDITORIAL

CHRISTIAN YOUTH AND MODERN PROBLEMS

I believe that all our readers will agree that our times present to young people who have heard and obeyed the call of Christ, many acute problems in respect to their standards of conduct. We are, individually and socially, confronted with many decisions involving moral issues. The right choice in these matters, is rendered more difficult in our times, because of the appalling lack of strong convictions and definite teachings on the part of many denominations, churches, and individuals, who profess faith in, and love for, the Saviour whom we have chosen to follow. Some have decided to evade these issues altogether, to "leave them alone;" others are vague and indefinite in their stand; while still others take the unscripturally liberal view that many, or all of these things are quite harmless, and even profitable, if accepted and pursued in a moderate way. People with strong, clear convictions for which they stand courageously and consistently, are all too few.

In view of these facts, we have felt led, we trust of the Spirit, to discuss under the above caption, as many of these issues as we feel are vital, and of which we believe the issues are, or can be, clear to all who desire the truth. Some things we need to regard as essential to our obtaining a God-given understanding on all moral and spiritual problems. Let us consider them before proceeding to definite inquiry.

First, we must have an honest and earnest desire to learn what the Word of God declares. The Bible stands, and shall remain, our guide, our infallible guide, in all our choices and decisions as Christians. An attitude of implicit faith and confidence in what God hath said, a proper respect for the authority of the inspired Book, is of absolute necessity to the discovery of the right decisions and the safe way in the problems we meet and seek to solve. We must approach the Holy Word with an attitude of confidence in its counsel, that will settle finally any question in mind, when once we find definite statement of plain teaching concerning the problem, on the pages of this Divinely-inspired Guide. Regardless of what others think or say to the contrary, despite the fact that a large majority (even of professing Christians) may be following a different course, when we discover the "thus saith the Lord," there should be no doubt or hesitancy about the decision. Daniel, and his famous trio of friends, were exiled to a country whose inhabitants were given over to practices condemned in the law of the Lord and were threatened with severe punishment if they refused to conform to the ungodly pursuits and customs of the people. What did they do? They "purposed in their hearts (no matter what the choice of others) that they would not defile themselves" and refused to bow down to the idols (despite the threats of persecution and death). So it should be with us. God's statement should be final with us. His Word should ever be given the preference over the opinions and doctrines of men

that often "make the commandment of God of none effect."

Secondly, we must have a pure and unwavering desire for the will of God. If we approach the consideration of any problem with anything less than a fervent desire and strong intention to do His will and take His way, regardless of the seeming cost, we shall be hindered from doing the right thing and following the safe course. "If any will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God." One reason why many have unnecessary difficulty with certain problems, is that they have approached the matter partly, or altogether, unwilling to take the course God pointed out. When the will and opinions of others, and even our own idea in the matter, take their proper place, and we are willing to choose differently than others, and even contrary to our own ideas and desires, we shall be greatly aided to right decision.

Thirdly, we must have sacred and careful regard for our Christian influence, and what re-action our choice will have upon it. There are issues that cannot be settled apart from this consideration. Paul said: "All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient. All things are lawful, but all things edify not." And again, "If meat make my brother to offend, I'll eat no more meat." He is merely stating that, in his choices and practices he considered how his decisions would affect other people. He did not desire to be a snare to the weak, nor give the enemy opportunity to weaken his influence for God and the work of Christ's kingdom. We cannot choose merely to please others, but we need to seriously and carefully consider our decisions in the light of their influence on the faith and standards of those who watch us. "For meat destroy not the work of God." We are the light of the world. If our lives fail to radiate clearly with spiritual illumination as they should, men will be left in darkness, partial or entire. We are the salt of the earth, if we lose our savour, society shall be further corrupted. So let us exercise the utmost caution lest by our choices and decisions we lose spiritual influence and prestige.

This then is the conclusion of the whole matter. We are faced with problems that must be solved, questions that must be answered, if we are to know where we stand, and there to stand. The indispensable assistance that we must have to discover the proper solutions and gain the true answers, can be gained only as we have proper regard for the authority of God's Word; sanctified desire for the working out of His will; and a high regard for the sacredness of His work.

As we proceed in future issues of the Y. P. Page to discuss some of our modern youth problems with you, we invite your comment and inquiry by letter. Any suggestion you have to offer, or any question you have to present, will be welcomed and given due attention.

May the Lord guide us into the knowledge of His will!

Our editor has requested a report from the different local societies, and as you haven't heard from Moncton for some time, we de-

IT CAN BE DONE

"Somebody said that it couldn't be done,

But he with a chuckle replied,
That maybe it couldn't, but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.
So he buckled right in with a trace of a grin
On his face. If he worried, he hid it,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it!

"Somebody scoffed: 'Oh, you'll never do that,
At least no one ever has done it.'
But he took off his coat and he took off his
hat,

And the first thing he knew he'd begun it;
With the lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,
If any doubt rose he forbid it;
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it!

"There are thousands to tell you it cannot be
done,

There are thousands to prophesy failure;
There are thousands to point out, one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you;
But buckle right in with a bit of a grin,
Just take off your coat and go at it,
Just start in to sing as you tackle the thing
That cannot be done, and you'll do it!"

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cided it was time to write. The spiritual condition of our society is good, and is growing better. Although we have had some things that would tend to discourage us, we were not discouraged, but trusted in the Lord and we are conscious of His presence and help. We have lost several of our young people this last year. Some have moved away and others have joined the army, but we praise God that He has not left us. We have been greatly blessed by the presence of newcomers in our congregation and young people's service.

Our first Friday evening service of the month is our evangelistic service. Usually one of our young people or occasionally an older member gives us a short message from God's word. The next Friday is turned over to the Missionary Society. The third Friday is Bible study night. Brother A. K. McCallum brings us the study and we are now studying from the Book of Galatians. The fourth night is question-box night. Our pastor, Rev. H. M. Kimball, answers questions previously submitted by members who have a verse of scripture or something else which they would like to have explained. Two are appointed to arrange programs for the various nights. Usually we have some special singing, and our service closes with a good testimony meeting.

Some of our young people meet for prayer before the Sunday evening service. These meetings are a source of blessing to all who attend. We thank God for answered prayer, and we believe He is going to answer our petition. We are seeing some things to encourage us to believe for a revival. Praise the Lord.

In connection with our Junior Crusade's work, the leader, Iola Mitton, has a group of about 20 children. Sister Iola, who has been the leader for two years and who is certainly qualified for the work, is doing a good work