

## Youth and The Church of Tomorrow

By Harvey J. S. Blaney

**NOTE:**

The following article, written by Professor Harvey Blaney of Eastern Nazarene College, Wollaston, Mass., is the first of a series of six which will be written by the former editors of the Y. P. Page. We want to thank these men for giving us their time and their effort. Be sure to read all six of the articles!

—Editor

It is a pleasure to address the young people again after a lapse of twenty years when I was a regular contributor to this page. Life keeps moving ahead, and you too will soon find still younger folks taking your places and pushing you on to new responsibilities. But to Christian people in particular life can be an adventure, keeping one on tiptoe with expectancy and zest for living. The leadings of the Lord will cause the "exceeding abundant" to come to pass.

Before long the responsibilities of the church will be yours, and now is the time to prepare yourselves. The church will succeed to the extent that you learn to live well and serve faithfully. That preparation should be



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intellectual. The people of the church should be as wise as the people of the world in the development of natural human endowments. High school, college, and specialized training are available, and you as Christian young people should take full advantage of such opportunities. You should not be one whit behind others of your generation. "Ignorant godliness is to be pitied, but educated godlessness is to be feared." The church of tomorrow should go to the mentally alert young people of today.

There must also be religious preparation. Study the church, its doctrines and organization. Be active in your church; learn to work and worship with all age groups; be active in all phases of your denominational program. Develop a vision of what your church can accomplish for the kingdom of God. The church of tomorrow should go to the actively alert young people of today.

Educated, ambitious people can be a hindrance to the church if they are not spiritual. While still young, form habits of Bible reading, of private and public prayer, of personal testimony, and of cultivating the fruit of the

Spirit—"love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." And as a safeguard to all else, take care to know at all times that the Christ who one day captivated your affections is still the object of your highest loyalty, and that the Holy Spirit who once came in sanctifying power is still abiding in His fulness. The church of tomorrow should go to the spiritually alert young people of today. By the grace of God you can make it so.

With people thus prepared, the church has a glorious future. Its tomorrows should be full of conquest, achievement, enlargement and blessing. It "looketh forth as the morning, fair as the noon, bright as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners."

The glory will be His, but as laborers together with Him, you can join in the battles and share in the rewards.

### HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED?

When the other fellow acts that way, he is "ugly"; when you do, it's "nerves."

When the other fellow is set in his ways, he's "obstinate"; when you are, it is just "firmness."

When the other fellow doesn't like your friend, he's "prejudiced"; when you don't like his, you simply are showing that you are a good judge of human nature.

When the other fellow takes time to do things, he is "dead slow"; when you do it you are "deliberate."

When the other fellow spends a lot, he's a "spendthrift"; when you do, you are "generous."

When the other fellow picks flaws in things, he's "cranky"; when you do, you are "discriminating."

When the other fellow is mild in his manners, he is "weak"; when you are, it is being "gracious."

When the other fellow gets destructive, it is "toughness"; with you it is "forcefulness."

When the other fellow dresses extra well, he's a "dude"; when you do, it is simply "a duty one owes to society."

When the other fellow runs great risks in business, he's "foolhardy"; when you do, you are a "great financier."

When the other fellow says what he thinks, he's "spiteful"; when you do, you are "frank."

When the other fellow won't get caught in a new scheme, he's "backwoodsy"; when you won't you are "conservative."

—Exchange

### CRYPTOGRAM

The following cryptogram is a common scripture verse in the gospel of Matthew. See how long it takes you to find the solution. It should be easy after I give you one hint. The letter "t" in the following cryptogram equals the letter "a."

THX, TCO AI HDTTPP YF MANFC  
VSK; HFFX, TCO VF HDTTPP JACO;  
XCSZX, TCO AI HDTTPP  
YF SRFCFO KCIS VSK.

## A PIVOTAL DOCTRINE

\*By Earle Landers

A great amount of discussion centers around some of the essential doctrines of our church. If we are to assume our rightful place in the church, it is imperative that we know what we believe and why we believe as we do. The ideal situation is to have these doctrines established in our minds while we are young.

As young people, we must be clear in our view of the doctrine of sin. Most theologians agree that sin is a pivotal doctrine. Dr. Richard S. Taylor said: "If we are to end right, we must begin right, and to begin right we must grapple with the question of sin, with its doctrinal significance." What he means is that it is the one doctrine by which all others can be reduced to their simplest form. We conclude then that the doctrine of sin occupies an important and determinative place in the system of Christian theology.

The New Testament has an abundance of information concerning this pivotal doctrine. Various terms are used to reveal the nature of sin. In John 3:4, sin is pictured as lawlessness. "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." John also states that sin means unrighteousness. "All unrighteousness is sin" I John 5:17. The Apostle Paul teaches that sin means selfishness or pride. The man of sin is an extreme example, "who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God . . . so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God" II Thess. 2:3-4. Further support is found in Romans 1:25, "Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever." Paul, in writing to Timothy made reference to this aspect of sin. "Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil." I. Tim. 3:6. In II Cor. 4:4, spiritual blindness is pointed out as sin. "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

Man is forbidden to fellowship with the works of darkness. In order to have fellowship with our Creator, we must turn from the ways of darkness. Paul exhorts us thus: "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." Eph. 5:11. Looking further at the terminology of the New Testament, we discover that James expresses another aspect of sin—wilfulness. "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

We view the devastating effects of sin in this modern age, but what are we doing to curb this evil? Let us study diligently the teaching of the Bible on this pivotal doctrine and endeavor to warn others of its nature and end.

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### TIMELY ADVICE

Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour. —Ecclesiastes 10:1