

Christian Youth

by W. E. Green

The word, "Christian", first appears in the Bible in Acts 11:26. "The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch". The word appears again in 1 Peter 4:16. "If any man suffer as a Christian . . ." These two references give us the essential meaning of the name and the character of its bearer.

The name, "Christian", means "Christ's One" or one who belongs to Christ. This is essentially what is to be associated with the reference in Acts 11:26. In 1 Peter 4:16 the word, "Christian", appears to suggest a particular quality of character which is possessed by those who belong to Christ. It, therefore, follows that the "Christ's One" is the one with a special type of identity which is reflected in character and behaviour.

This special identification of Christian youth is no less conspicuous today than it was when the name of Christ was first despised by so many. Indeed, some tried to stamp it out. In spite of this fact, the followers of Christ grew and multiplied in the face of persecution until they became identified by the nickname, "Christian".

The quality of character of the early Christians made them conspicuous among their fellows. Thus, Christian youth might well expect to possess the same traits if they would bear the purity of the name, "Christian".

In bearing this name, Christian youth are often confused with many social, moral and religious problems which exist in our changing world. These problems test the purity of the name they bear. Our youth face the problems of worldliness, temptation, adjustments with parents, breaking of old habits, and the task of spiritual development. These are not easy problems to face when so many evils try to lure them from the Christian Faith.

The matter of spiritual development is one of concern for most young Christians. Sometimes surface behaviour may indicate otherwise, but essentially youth want to do what is right. Young people want to progress, develop and have a feeling of worth. This desire for spiritual development may be satisfied by those who are prepared to obey God and gracefully receive spiritual discipline.

Spiritual discipline involves the matter of regularity in prayer, Bible reading, church attendance, personal witnessing, resisting temptation, tithing and the committing of ones life and future into God's hands with a determination to follow out whatever plan God designs for ones life.

It is not easy for Christian youth to follow out God's plan, but it is gloriously possible. It does, however, involve "overcoming the world". The reason for much of the Christian youth's difficulty lies not in lack of aggressiveness or willingness to obey, but in lack of understanding what we mean by "overcoming the world" or "worldliness". Today we hear much about the world of science, the world of medicine, the world of space, etc., but worldliness as youth face it is a matter of overcoming the world of morals. This is essentially tied in with one of our initial statements, namely, to be Christian is to possess a particular quality of character. This is chiefly Paul's reason for writing, "Be not overcome of evil but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21).

In the world of morals, Christian youth are subjected to human motives and passions. They are soon called upon to distinguish and choose between the right and the wrong. It is suggested in 1 Peter 5:8, 9 that youth are included in those who are sought by evil designs of the devil. Christian youth are surrounded but not swamped by evil designs. Because of this fact, our youth must sink or survive on the basis of the commitment of their lives to Christ. Only by complete consecration to Christ can youth

rightly use the name, "Christ's One". The morals of youth will then be graded according to their likeness to Christ.

Christian youth have more than a moral struggle for survival. Youth have a service to perform. This service is not only a means of glorifying God, it is a method of helping souls. In this service there is a mold of beauty. A young, vigorous, humble, temperate life in action with God's blessing upon it is on the road to happiness and success. Have we this kind of youth?

Christian Youth and Education

by Charles Owens

The noted philosopher and educator, Alfred Whitehead, has said that a "merely well-informed man is the most useless bore on . . . earth". This statement has important implications, especially for the Christian youth. He should not be interested in "merely" developing himself into a "walking encyclopedia" or adding a string of letters behind his name. For the Christian youth, education should be a process of gaining knowledge and skills that will aid him in fulfilling his Christian calling — to serve others.

The Apostle Paul's admonition to his young friend, Timothy, was "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). Although this instruction was given to a "full-time" worker, it is applicable to any young Christian regardless of how he earns his living. He serves God through his service to others. Therefore, he must strive to develop his natural abilities and acquire new skills that will enable him to meet both the temporal and spiritual needs of those in his community, in his nation and in his world.

Self-improvement certainly is something which everyone needs and something in which everyone can participate, whether formally or informally. For one it may involve the earning of a college degree; for another it may mean long and tedious hours as an apprentice.

For the Christian youth, a conscious effort to prepare himself for service in the future is often the greatest service he can possibly render to God at the present time, but during the progress of education, whether it takes place in a secular or religious college, or in an industrial or commercial shop, the young Christian will be confronted with new ideas and different standards of moral values. It is imperative that he should become grounded in a truly personal experience with God. Only with such a background will he be able to withstand the temptation of material gain on the one hand, and misguided intellectualism on the other.

SOCIETIES ENROLLED IN SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION CONTEST TO DATE

Amherst	Marysville	Royalton-
Black's Harbour	Millstream	Bloomfield
Fredericton	Millville	Saint John
Gordonsville	Moncton	Seal Cove
Grand Harbour	North Head	Sussex
Halifax	Norton	Truro
Houlton	Old Town	Woodstock
Killam's Mills		

INTEREST IS VERY GOOD. ENROLL NOW!