

The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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Listen to PROVE ALL THINGS on 730 AM WKRE, Sunday mornings from 8:15 to 8:30

To a Teenage Christian

Dear Friend:

I am writing this because I realize that the teenage years are difficult ones, especially concerning spiritual matters. But just to let you know that others are concerned for your spiritual well-being, I'd like for you to consider a few thoughts.

1. Be careful choosing your friends. They can be a great influence on you. And if you are not careful, your friends can draw you away from the Lord. “Be not deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals” (I Cor. 15:33, ASV). Too many teenage Christians become unfaithful to the Lord because of worldly friends. No friend is worth losing your soul. Work on converting your friends; don't let them convert you.
2. In the area of parental problems, realize that your parents make decisions based on what they think is best. They may not always be right, but they are trying very hard to do the best possible job. You say, “They don't trust me,” but that isn't true. They are trying to raise you properly, as the Lord has commanded them. “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4).

Often it may seem that your parents don't understand your problems, but they really do. They went through the same things you are going through. They are trying to help you avoid making the same mistakes they made.

The best thing you can do is to cooperate with your parents in the decisions they make, even if you disagree with them.

3. Do not give in during times of sexual temptations. These will come. Our society is sex oriented. You cannot help but be affected. Always remember that you are a Christian and must maintain sexual purity in order to please God (Gal. 5:21; I Cor. 6:18). The teenage years can be some of the best years of your life. But too many adults look back on their teenage years with shame, not pride. Be certain that does not happen to you. “Remember now the Creator in the days of thy youth” (Eccl. 12:1).
4. Do all you can spiritually. Study your lesson for Bible class. Pray more often. Sit near the front. Take notes on the sermon. Sing with understanding. Try to teach your friends. You will be glad you did.

Think seriously on these things. They have been written with love and concern for your soul. Thanks for listening.

In hope and love,
(Selected)

He “**Purposed in His Heart**”

by Luther Blackmon

The real secret of Daniel’s success and spiritual strength is really quite simple; it goes back to the time when he was first brought to Babylon. The king ordered that Daniel and certain others of the Jews who were “skillful in all wisdom, cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the King’s palace” should be fed with “a daily provision of the king’s meat and of the wine which he drank” (Daniel 1:4, 5). Here the Bible says, “But Daniel **purposed in his heart** that he would **not defile himself** with the portion of the king’s meat nor the wine which he drank” (Daniel 1:8). He “**purposed in his heart!**”

The hard core of a happy Christian life lies in our willingness and ability to do three things: 1. Find out what is right. 2. Purpose in our hearts to do it. 3. Start doing it immediately, and leave the consequences to God.

Many people know what is right, but lack the conviction to make a firm decision and stick to it. Unlike Daniel, they are so attracted by the “king’s dainties” that they are unable to “purpose in their hearts” with any firm resolve. As a result, their religious lives are patchworks of frustration and failure. Too conscientious to enjoy living in sin, and too weak at heart to do anything much about it, they play around the edge, evidently hoping that the Lord is not going to give them what they deserve at the judgment. But I wouldn’t advise you to depend on that. “Do not be deceived. God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man sows that he will also reap” (Galatians 6:7).

Would You Die for It?

by Greg Gwin

Here is an interesting challenge: Sit down and write a list of all the things you would be willing to die for. Having completed your list of things you’d be willing to die for, you will also have made a list of things you ought to be living for! These are the things that will bring you the greatest happiness and fulfillment in your life.

What kind of things would you put on your list? Christ and His church? Your family? Possibly your country or a very close friend? Would you die for your job? Certainly not! Your job is not that important. Would you die for your hobby or your television set? Of course not!

Now that we have your list all properly arranged, look at it again. It may be that you have not been carefully following the right priorities. For instance, how many people are sacrificing their spiritual service in the Lord’s church and their own families for the sake of their jobs? Too many Christians are guilty of putting their jobs ahead of everything else. What about forsaking the assemblies for a weekend at the lake or camping in the mountains? Do you neglect prayer, Bible study, worship, and teaching for hours before the TV? Are you living for the things you should be willing to die for?

News and Notes:

Reminder: Bible Study – Every Tuesday @ 10 a.m. (Old Testament) and @ 7 p.m. (Romans)

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

James 5:16