

‘DEVOTIONS’ FOR ‘YOU’th

**Just what does the Bible say about
‘YOU’th?**

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Just what does the Bible say about 'YOU'th?

Note: All scriptures references are from the Authorized Version of the King James Bible 1611.

Reasons for this book

There are two basic reasons for this book: First, there is a lack of character among youth in the body of Christ simply because much of the material (along with perverted Bibles) that is sold in the 'Christian' market is watered down to produce lukewarm, Laodicean 'Christians.' By the time young men and women are sixteen or seventeen years old they've got very little moral character to stand against the tides of vice, therefore a great many have lost interest in spiritual matters and sound Biblical doctrine and practice. Much of modern ministries emphasize meeting quotas, "winning and influencing people" rather than character building, integrity, honesty, purity, dedication, *standing valiantly* for absolute truth, etc.

And secondly, because this author has been more and more interested in working with youth, there has been no other source of information more interesting to him *than the Bible itself* to learn more about YOUTH. There are a great number of youth ministries, websites, and blogs to "gag a maggot" (as they say) for youth groups but he is yet to find a book that deals solely with youth and *the passages in the Bible where youth are mentioned*. For that reason, this book was been written. The material in this book is not intended to deal with certain aspects of modern-day ministries. We are more interested in the work of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Bible in the hearts of young folk that the fruit would be what the Lord intended – good moral character traits. We're not interested in producing average young Christians. We're out for the 'cut above' stuff to produce SOLDIERS for Christ sake.

**Did you know that
'YOU'th
are mentioned in the GREATEST BOOK
ever written?
Yes 'YOU'th are in the Bible.**

Have you ever read in the Newspaper about someone you know? Maybe you've had the thought of somebody reading about you, that is, if it was for the good and right? You are not to live by compliment nor by criticism but there are commendations and criticisms concerning youth throughout the entire Bible along with the names of certain people. How 'bout this! Do you know that there are young men and women throughout history that have done great things that are even mentioned in history books? Oh! By the

way, I thought you'd like to know that there is one history Book that tells of all kinds of youth that did great things – the Bible. It talks about real flesh and blood young folk just like you that did some rather interesting things for God. We'll touch on some of these folk throughout this book.

Think about this! Do you realize that if you are saved your name IS written in the Lamb's **book of life** (Phil. 4:3)? That is FANTASTIC! That is a tremendous 'start.' Wouldn't it be really something if your own personal name was listed along side those such as Joseph, Moses, David, Solomon and Daniel of Hebrews chapter eleven who accomplished great feats? Well, CONGRATULATIONS! YOU *are* in the Bible, somewhere. Your name such as George, Carl, Cindy, Bob, etc., may not be that exact same name written in the book of life. It might be another name but nonetheless it most certainly IS there. That is *REALLY* something! Also, whatever circumstance you find yourself in real life the same kind of situation has already occurred in the Bible and represents you. There is nothing new under the sun. You *are* represented somewhere in the Bible for good or for bad.

So this book is dedicated especially to 'YOU'th whether to expose your sins, humble you, bring you to repentance, give you some instruction, cause you to reestablish your walk with the Lord, to know more of the abundant life that is available, to be a source of encouragement, challenge you and especially help you serve the greatest man WHO ever lived and the best "Friend" you'll ever have (Who at one time was a young man just like you), THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. HE is the pattern, purpose and goal for your life. Look at the following verses (Exodus 33:13; Psalm 119:25). Then listen to what the apostle Paul said, "**That I may know him**, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;" (Philippians 3:10).

Believe it or not, God wants 'YOU'th. So let Him have you, ALL of you.

These "devotions" should be seen in light of "devotion"

These "devotions" are only a springboard to help you in your devotion to God. The Bible explains the true nature of what true devotion to God really is.

Many sports stars were devoted completely to their sport to become the best in their field. We're talking double sessions, (morning and evening training), eating habits, sleeping habits and special training for the purpose of forming good habits. Good habits, that is, which are in the bounds of scripture, are to form good moral character. In other words true devotion isn't just "punching in" at eight o'clock in the morning and then "punching out" at five o'clock in the evening. We're talking 'round the clock' training, discipline, dedication, DEVOTION.

Many youth have not grasped the fact that true devotion to God does not consist of simply "doing some things;" reading the Bible, praying, and attending church, (which are not to be neglected), and then say to God, "Time out!"

Also, real devotion does not consist of a special individual act or exercise of any kind; soul winning, preaching, passing out tracts, etc., and then say, "Well, I've done my good deed for the day. Now it's time for me to backslide." Or, "I've done what you wanted me to do, now I'm going to do what I want to do," and leave God out. As a matter

of fact that is where the Lord Jesus Christ is in many churches today, on the outside knocking wanting to come in, (Revelation 3:20).

And thirdly, true devotion does not necessarily consist of a private or public commitment of your life to God. That is to be regarded as special acts - pledges or promises. The motive might not be right before God.

There are a great many people that have done great “Christian” deeds and didn’t even know God – **“For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.”** (Acts 17:23). There are “moral” people that even think they are doing God service but are yet to come to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now the true meaning of devotion is simply that heart condition, or state of mind, where your whole spirit, soul and body are *continually* offered to God –

“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

That means, as a young man/ woman you’re to practice offering up all that you have, your whole life, being and possessions are to be a *continual* offering to God and devoting your will to God’s will in the following matters –

1. Time
2. Place
3. Employments
4. Thoughts
5. **Motive**
6. Affections

“Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear.” (Psalm 119:38)

Only God truly knows of your devotion to Him when you are doing other things besides reading your Bible, passing out tracts or going to church. If your MOTIVE is not devoted to please God in all that you think, say and do, then you are living the life of a hypocrite. A departure from this state is heart-apostasy. **“The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself”** (Proverbs 14:14). In the end, good, moral character is hindered.

Therefore, these devotions are simply to prompt you in your devotion/ consecration to the God and Father of our Blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Suggestions How to Use these Devotions

1. ***Purpose:*** This book is especially designed for you young man or young lady to take note of your personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ *IN LIGHT OF WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS* and see THAT as you reflect upon like circumstances in the Bible. In the end the result is for you to better understand two things –

- i. Where you are at spiritually, and –

ii. To see your NEED, and where you ought to be going in your practical daily walk with the Lord.

There is no stagnant plateau in the Christian walk; it's either you are “[growing] in grace, and *in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ*” (2 Pet. 2:18) to learn more about Who God is and His character or you are a “backslider in heart” (Prov. 14:14) Which is it? Well, there is yet a third possibility – you just haven't gotten off the ground since your salvation. Any ‘middle of the road’ attitude makes God sick and wants to spue you out of his mouth (Rev. 3:16). Of course, doctrinally the context of this verse is a Tribulation saint. A saved born-again believer in the Church Age cannot lose his salvation. But for the average, modern-day, saved young man that is ‘half-in’ and half-out’, i.e., partly worldly and ‘partly spiritual’, he is a ‘half-hearted’ believer. The Lord’s attitude in plainer words is ‘You stink to high heaven.’

No coach or trainer is ever satisfied with a ‘middle of the road’ player. He expects *whole heartedness*. If you have played any kind of organized sports in school you know that your coach expected 100% from you. David said, “With my **whole heart** have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments” (Psa. 119:10).

Caleb and Joshua were two a minority of their generation that came out of the wilderness wanderings and into the promised land of Canaan. Listen to what Caleb said at the age of eighty five, “Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: **but I wholly followed the LORD my God**” (Josh. 14:8). He was a ‘cut above.’ THAT is what the Lord wants from you. That will take a daily practice of doing right to help you form good moral character traits; good habits.

2. Personal, Daily Quiet Time – A basic fundamental of the faith for personal growth and good character traits is a daily, continual quiet time. A quiet time simply is a time where you can get alone with God and you listen to Him as He speaks personally to you through His word; where you pray and meditate. That is essential for personal growth and maturity. You’ve got to give God the Holy Spirit room in your heart to give you that ‘boost.’

i. That means you are going to have to set aside a particular time that is reserved for you and God alone. That is what is called “**redeeming the time**” (Eph. 5:16). So give God ‘your’ time. After all, the Lord Jesus Christ took time out to offer up His soul as a sacrifice for you that you would through Him be reconciled to God. So you owe it to Him. Whatever the best time for you is, make it a special time.

ii. In most cases your basic Bible reading should come first. If you have no time left for these devotions in the morning then you ought to make time later in the day for further study.

iii. Try to *discipline yourself* by putting your body under “**and bring it into subjection**” (1 Cor. 9:27) so that your spirit can be honed, sharpened (Prov. 27:17) by God first thing in the morning. You say, “I’ve got so much to do. I can’t get up and spend time with God.” Then you’ll have to change some of your ‘priorities’ and make God your PRIORITY. Many times it’s because you’re loafing around at night that you’re not getting up to meet with God first. Use your God-given energies to focus on this priority.

It was King David that said, “**O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee:** (Psa. 63:1).

It was Martin Luther, the great reformer that said,

“If I fail to spend two hours in prayer each morning, the devil gets the victory through the day. I have so much business I cannot get on without spending three hours daily in prayer.”

iv. Get alone with God regularly, daily, and *continually*. Without daily regular quiet time, your spiritual life can be seriously malnourished just as your body can be malnourished without proper food and water! So make it a good habit *and be consistent as possible, that is, when you feel like it and often when you don't feel like it*. That will build *character*. Of course schedules are meant to be broken and there are going to be some days of unexpected instances. But the exceptions only prove a good rule here. So do your best. It was Dr. Bob Jones Sr. that said, “It is a sin to do less than your best.”

3. ILLUSTRATIONS – Also, in many of the devotions are “**ILLUSTRATIONS**” to further support the main verse along with certain “**FACTS**” along with a practical “**APPLICATION**” and “**HEART SEARCHING.**” These are only suggested heart searchings. These are only food for thought and meditation. They are to prompt further thinking. So **THINK** about what you read. As the Psalmist said, “Let the words of my mouth, **and the meditation of my heart**, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer” (Psalm 19:14).

4. Searching the Scriptures –

- i. Do not rush through these devotions.
- ii. Check out all cross-references to help add to the main text. It is basically a “springboard” to expand and build upon.
- iii. *These devotions are not a substitute for daily Bible reading.* So you can take your time with these devotions.
- iv. Work at your own pace with each devotion. You may spend for each about 10-15 minutes a day over a period of a couple days or even a week if you see the need. Or, you may be able to handle a couple of them in one day. It all depends on the time allotted.
- v. The main thing is getting something from God out of each devotion, not to fill your head only with Bible knowledge, for “**knowledge puffeth up**” (1 Cor. 8:1), but that the character of “Christ be **formed in you**” (Gal. 4:19).

5. Personal Observations – Sitting down and doing your “homework” **Feeding yourself.**

Every parent wishes his/her child to learn how to use a spoon and a fork to feed himself. It has been said, “Tell me, and I will forget. Show me, and I may remember. Involve me, and I will understand.” There is a lot of truth in that.

“Homework”

It is amazing how your teachers at schools or college require you as a student to do your homework, but when it comes to “homework” for Jesus Christ a great many believers are simply lazy. That shouldn't be. The young Christian should have a ‘cutting

edge' attitude concerning making **personal observations** as to what he has read. Therefore get in the habit of doing your homework for Jesus Christ's sake.

What is intended in these devotions is for you to start practicing feeding upon the word of God *yourself*. That is your **homework**. So, included will be writing down *personal observations* concerning each main passage mentioned.

To help you as a guide to make personal observations there are four basic reasons for the scriptures. In 2 Timothy 3:16 we read –

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Each purpose has a special meaning to it –

“**doctrine**” – that is *what is so*, doctrinally, the truth.

“**reproof**” – that is *to reprove* you where you've gone wrong.

“**correction**” – that is to *get you back on the right path*.

“**instruction in righteousness**” – that is *to keep you on the right path*

The following list is simply some suggested questions you may want to ask yourself concerning the text that you've read to help you in your observations –

- a. What *truth* (doctrine) do I find here?
- b. What *reproof* have I received to show me where I've been wrong?
- c. How have I been *corrected* to get me back on track?
- d. How has the Lord *instructed* me here?
- e. What *example* is here for me to follow?
- f. In what way can I *practice* this verse? This is the ultimate end – the fruit, the results, the practice.

All of these questions would basically be the sum to help infuse in you better character traits. Therefore you should *always* have a pencil / pen to write down some things as the Lord enlightens your understanding. The act of writing your thoughts down on paper during and after reflection helps you organize your thoughts just like a teacher would require you to write an essay on a particular subject.

6. Practical Application – “God, what would you have me TO DO?”

i. We tend to remember little what others tell us, but we remember more what we discover ourselves. Simply writing down your thoughts on paper what you believe God would have you *to do will help solidify what God has given you*. So after you've written down some thoughts, lay out what actions should be taken. We're not to be hearers of the word only but doers also.

ii. If the provided space at the end of each devotion is not enough a separate notepad should be used specifically for this 'course.' You are going to reflect upon that which you had written for the rest of your life.

7. *Suggestions* – These devotions can be used at home for family Bible study, or individually for your own children to read, or at Youth Camp meetings, small group studies at church, one-on-one discipleship training, for Sunday School material and also if need be for thoughts to preach on. There are at present 72 devotions total. That’s about a year and five months worth of material if each devotion was to be taught one per week. One of the most effective ways to teach is in a small group with youth and or one-on-one dealing with a young man to train him.

Our desire is that by *some way* 2 Timothy 2:2 would be fulfilled – **And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to FAITHFUL MEN, who shall be able to teach others also.**

Ask God to help you not only learn these devotions well, but also to be able to teach others what you’ve learned. There is no sense in ‘getting’ without ‘giving.’ After you’ve gone through this ‘course,’ or while going through it, you may have opportunities to discuss the material with others.

May God have His way in you to make a real man out of you. After all it was Paul that wrote, “Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **UNTO A PERFECT MAN**, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13). Under any and all circumstances, your heavenly Father, (that is, if you are saved) is interested in one thing more than anything else in your life – and that is *to make a better man out of you*. After all He does have a plan for your life – “For whom he did foreknow, **he also did predestinate TO BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren**” (Romans 8:29).

Statistics

The phrase “**young man**” is mentioned throughout the entire Bible 52 times; “**young men**” – 87 times; “**youth**” – 70 times and “**youths**” only twice.

It may be noted also that whenever these words occur we are not stating that in *every case* we are dealing with *teenagers*. Yet we don’t want to discourage youth and detour them from this Bible study for there are too numerous mentions of youth that most certainly have to do with teenagers.

This book is not exhaustive concerning our subject at hand. It is not the author’s intention to attempt to interpret every passage of the above listed words. Besides, there are other words, synonyms such as “child” “children,” “young maidens,” etc. that would cover a whole other spectrum and study.

Our main ‘focus’ will be on the subject of young men *with some exceptions*. We are not excluding young ladies to delve into this study for proper usage and edification to follow in example of acts of righteousness and virtue. After all, even saved young ladies have the “**hidden man**” in them (1 Pet. 3:4), “**the MAN Christ Jesus**” (1 Tim. 2:5).

So here we begin –

1. Youth and a wicked society. (Genesis 4:23)

¶ And Lamech said unto his wives, Adah and Zillah, Hear my voice; ye wives of Lamech, hearken unto my speech: for I have slain a man to my wounding, **and a young man to my hurt.**

The first time “**young man**” is mentioned in the Bible is not on a good note. He was killed. That should tell you something about youth, especially in the cities of modern 21st century. See devotion No. 2.

It says that Lamech killed a young man. The young man was hanging around the wrong crowd. It was during Cain’s civilization. It was a wicked civilization. People were “religious” and Cain was a religious “wicked” person. He killed his own brother. His religion represents the Whorish religion of the Antichrist of Revelation 17, 18.

But what about Lamech and this young man? Lamech committed man slaughter in self defense. The young “buck” attacked him. He thought he could ‘take on’ the older fellow. He ‘bit off’ more than he could chew. He may have been provoked or even talked into doing something because of peer pressure and wanting to show that he ‘could do it,’ just rough up an older fellow, or something like that. It ended up he lost his own life.

ILLUSTRATION: A young Christian man was talked into going to a high school party. He was told not to attend because too many would be drinking and he might get himself in trouble. Nonetheless he went. Lo and behold there was a fight between two young men who were both drinking. The Christian young man found himself in the midst of a brawl and almost got his nose broken. He was fairly warned. But all too often those kind of warnings don’t seem to sink in these days.

ILLUSTRATION: A young man was always getting in trouble, fighting, having run-ins with the law. He never broke that bad habit and one day it caught up to him. Years had passed and he was found in his apartment shower stabbed to death. He was dealing with the mob. It all started in his *youth*.

FACT: Youth today are getting bolder and bolder in their sins because of peer pressure. There are more youth in jail for man slaughter, theft, robbery, rape, etc. than ever before.

“We now incarcerate four times as many people as we did 20 years ago,” said John Roman, director of the District of Columbia Crime Policy Institute, who has spent years studying crime trends in the city and the US. “Just by sheer size you’ve removed a lot of potential offenders from the street. I don’t think that’s very popular in many circles but it’s very hard to argue with.”

“What is the problem today? There is a widespread belief that antisocial behavior among children and young people has reached a historically unprecedented high. A recent study by Cambridge University identified intense fears in communities across the UK about “the decline in mutual respect and social cohesion, the dominance of anti-social behaviour, materialism and the cult of celebrity”.

“The historian Geoffrey Pearson quotes a 60-year-old named Charlotte Kirkman, who lamented that, “I think morals are getting much worse... There were no such girls in my time as there are now. When I was four or five and twenty my mother would have knocked me down if I had spoken improperly to her”. Kirkman was speaking in 1843, as part of an investigation into the bad behavior of contemporary youth.”

APPLICATION: There is always someone tougher than you around the corner. Don't hang around the wrong crowd. You might just be talked into doing something you will regret the rest of your life, or even die an early death. “**Flee also youthful lusts:** but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” (2 Tim. 2:22)

HEART SEARCHING: Have I been in places that give occasion for the lust of my flesh? Oh God! Help me to stay away from risky situations and bad company.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

2. “My son?! He wouldn't hurt a fly.” (Genesis 8:21)

And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; **for the imagination of man's heart is EVIL FROM HIS YOUTH; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.**

His bones are full of *the sin* of his **youth**, which shall lie down with him in the dust. (Job 20:11)

Upon *my right hand* **RISE THE YOUTH**; they push away my feet, and they raise up against me the ways of their destruction. (Job 30:12)

Therefore the Lord shall have no joy in their **young** men, neither shall have mercy on their fatherless and widows: for every one *is* an hypocrite and an evildoer, and every mouth speaketh folly. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand *is* stretched out still. (Isa. 9:17)

APPLICATION: That is God’s analysis of YOUR heart (Heb. 4:12). Young man, your heart is wicked (Jer.17:9). You need a change of heart. Education, philosophy, traditions of men, the world, science falsely so called, and your friends etc., will NOT change your heart for the better, unless it is by the work of the Holy Spirit. That comes only through a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you are not saved you need to trust Him as your Saviour TODAY. If you are saved, do right, speak right, act right and STAY RIGHT!

HEART SEARCHING: Lord, help me to realize that although my parents, relatives and friends think I’m not so bad, YOU know every and all details where those secret sins are deep down in my heart. Help me never to try to hide them from you but to be open, frank and sincere before you with my personal sins.

“...I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts...” (Rev. 2:23)

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

3. “Comin’ right up!” (Genesis 18:7)
And Abraham ran unto the herd, and fetcht a calf tender and good, **and gave it unto a young man; and he hasted to dress it.**

This young man was well trained in Abraham's house to properly receive guests by hastening to prepare the food for them. His attitude was right. "Comin' right up!" is seen in his attitude and action. He did what he was told. Period! He didn't wait for others to serve him. He served others. That is the right attitude to have as a young man.

A good waiter serves others. A play on words is the word "wait" in the Holy Bible. For example take your Bible and read Psalm 27:14. It says, "**Wait on the LORD:** be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: **wait**, I say, on the LORD."

The servant waits on his master; the master does not wait on the servant. The young man who is taught to wait on his parents is taught to wait on God (Gal. 4:1-7). It is wise to wait (to serve) on the Master while one waits (to stay until He returns) on the Master (1 Tim. 6:1-3).

APPLICATION: Don't be lazy but rather serve the Lord with fervor.

Hospitality goes a long way. Oh, by the way, let the Lord 'feel' at home in your heart by serving Him. "Comin' right up!" May He not be found standing on the outside of the door knocking wanting to come in.

How is your attitude? Are you willing to be taught how to serve others as a young man? If you want to teach – be teachable. If you want to "lead" be led. Allow the Lord first place in your heart to lead, guide and direct you.

HEART SEARCHING: Oh God, may my attitude be right before you and may that be known among men. Help me to be teachable and learn from others, that I may have a servant's heart.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

4. Godly young men ought to be trained to battle. (Genesis 14:23, 24)

That I will not *take* from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that *is* thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich:

Save only that which the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men which went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion.

These young men were trained servants of Abram to fight with proper weaponry. Abram knew tactical military maneuvers and taught his own personal, private militia. They went out to battle *to reclaim that which was taken* from Abram.

APPLICATION: God ‘lost’ man when he fell in the Garden. He sent His only begotten Son to pay the price for our sins to reclaim that which was lost by the ransom blood shed on Calvary’s cross.

“(For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) (2 Cor. 10:4)

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*. (Eph. 6:12)

HEART SEARCHING: Because of the fact that I fell in Adam, and since the fact that the image of God has been restored in me through the Lord Jesus Christ, help me to “**work out**” that which you’ve worked in me. Help me to practically *reclaim that which I’ve lost*, “That I may **know him**, [Christ] and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death” (Phil.3:10).

“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out** your own salvation with fear and trembling.”
(Phil. 2:12)

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

5. Bad company and youth (Genesis 19:4)

But before they lay down, the men of the city, *even* the men of Sodom, compassed the house round, both old and **young**, all the people from every quarter:

Nothing is more dangerous than to live where sin reigns: for it corrupts all, even youth. Lot's choice at first sight was enough to convince him that he ought to make the move. The plains looked good. That's was 'hooked' Eve back in Genesis 3:6 – "**...the woman SAW that the tree was GOOD for food...**"

And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it *was* well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, *even* as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. (Gen. 13:10)

Lot made a terrible mistake. He thought that looks was everything. He ended up living in a place that was loaded with homosexuals.

But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly. (Gen 13:13).

APPLICATION: There are six major phases in a man's life that if he doesn't take the proper steps it can be vital and affect his personal relationship with the Lord.

They are – 1.) Family life 2.) Friends 3.) Education 4.) Work / "Career" 5.) Marriage 6.) Place of living after marriage.

All of these 'steps' should be centered around the word of God, the will of God, fellowship with God and Jesus Christ and your local church. These are places where a young boy fails. First he rebels at home, secondly he's with bad company (1 Cor. 15:33), then secular education squeezes out any room for the words of God to have an affect on him, then he gets a job that keeps him from church, or money speaks louder to him than the words of God (1 Tim. 6:10), then he chooses the wrong girl and suffers for that, and finally he chooses a place to live that is nowhere near a Bible-believing, evangelistic church.

Lot lost out when he chose the wrong place to live. He got out from the place of blessing. It all ended up in incest, the reaping of Moab and Ammon – Moslem countries, and losing his wife. Sad ending!

HEART SEARCHING: Lord, help me to prepare now and know what it is to walk with you and stay in the place of blessing. Help me to choose the right friends and stay with wise people.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____

d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____

e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

6. Young men and their ‘mentor.’ (Genesis 22:3)

And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his **young men** with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

The combination of an older ‘mentor’ with young men makes good for true training. We saw in a previous devotion (No. 4) that Abraham had young men go out to battle with him. Now we have young men going with Abraham for a task they know nothing about. Even Isaac didn’t know he would be the one to be offered up.

The two young men were told to wait for Abraham until he returned to them (v. 5). They were faithful in waiting for their master, “So Abraham returned unto his young men, **and they rose up and went together** to Beersheba; and Abraham dwelt at Beersheba.” (v. 19)

APPLICATION: There are a number of things you may not understand, but the *fellowship nonetheless is a key to true training*. There are a number of things that you don’t understand right away after you read portions of the Bible, but the fact that time had been spent together (you and the Book and God) makes the difference in your walk. In due time the Holy Spirit draws the fruit out of all labour. “**In all labour there is profit...** (Prov. 14:23).

HEART SEARCHING: Am I willing to be around older men to learn, observe, and take note? Do I have a sincere desire to be around trainers and teachers? Are the pleasures of this life drawing me away from true discipleship? Do sports, hobbies, idle time delight me more than Biblical duties? Although there are many things that I don’t understand about being around wise leaders, the fact that I’m with them, I’ll later understand their example in life and their words of wisdom.

Personal Observations:

a. What truth do I find here? _____

b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____

c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____

d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____

e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

7. How a young man came across to be religious to get Daddy's girl or Curiosity kills the cat. (Genesis 34:19)

“And Dinah the daughter of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land.”

“And the young man deferred not to do the thing, because he had delight in Jacob's daughter: and he was more honourable than all the house of his father.”

Dinah, of Jacob's family would represent a saved young lady today. The unsaved young man Shechem, agreed after having laid with her to do as the “saved” parents required. This is a flat out WRONG agreement just to get you young folks married off.

Young persons, especially females, are never so safe and well off as under the care of sound parenting. Their own ignorance, and the flattery and artifices of designing, wicked people, who are ever laying snares for them, expose their children to great danger. They are their own enemies if they desire to go abroad, especially alone, among strangers to true Biblical Christianity. Those parents are very wrong who do not hinder their children from needlessly exposing themselves to danger. Indulged children, like Dinah, often become a grief and shame to their families. Her pretence was, to see the daughters of the land, to see how they dressed, and how they danced, and what was fashionable among them; she went to see, yet that was not all, she went also, TO BE SEEN. “Look at me. I'm in fashion too.” “Why do I have to believe like my relatives only?” “I can be accepted by others also.” Her curiosity “got the best of her.” She went to get acquaintance with the Canaanites, and to learn their ways. She became the worst of it. See what came of Dinah's loafing around. The beginning of sin is as the letting forth of water.

Behold, how **great a matter** a little fire kindleth!

APPLICATION: Parents should carefully train and warn their children to avoid all occasions of sin and approaches to it.

Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: (Acts 19:19).

It is quite interesting how the Bible speaks of curious arts. Of course this most likely is dealing with witchcraft, but anything that gets a boy's or girl's curiosity just to learn how the world does things will eventually be a trap, just as it was for Dinah.

HEART SEARCHING: Are the things of this world making me more curious so as to lure me away into various traps? “Curiosity kills the cat!”

Oh God! Help me to look “**right on**” (Prov. 4:25) and not to turn to the right or to the left. May my eye be single (Matt. 6:22) desirous to serve you.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

8. Young “Joe” interpreted a king’s dream. (Genesis 41:12)

“And there was there with us a young man, an Hebrew, servant to the captain of the guard; and we told him, and he interpreted to us our dreams; to each man according to his dream he did interpret.”

Joseph was a young man that was sold by his brothers and was taken to Egypt. That did not stop him from living the life God wanted. He was able to interpret the dreams, not only of the two men but also the dream of king Pharaoh. Joseph knew that **“interpretations belong to God”** (Gen. 40:8).

APPLICATION: Today God speaks through the revelation of the Holy Bible. He wasn’t stupid so as to think as a great many young men have been taught to believe that you need extra-Biblical material to interpret the Bible. The words of God can explain themselves. God is most certainly able to stand ‘on His own two feet.’

APPLICATION: You may be living in Egypt – (type of the world) but Egypt doesn’t have to be in your heart. It is possible to live in Egypt but have a right heart before God as Joseph did; likewise it is possible to be taken out of Egypt but have a heart full of Egypt and be worldly. “Love not the world.”

Are you, young man studying the scriptures to allow God to interpret what he has said? Are you getting understanding from Him? The condition of the heart is more important than location for you to be used of God. Which do you want?

APPLICATON: Oh God, help me to get the Egypt out of my heart.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

9. Youth and the family “business.” (Genesis 46:34)

That ye shall say, Thy servants' trade hath been about cattle from our youth even until now, both we, and also our fathers: that ye may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination unto the Egyptians.

Families are more likely to stay together when there is a family business. A father-son relationship is strengthened much more when the children learn from their parents a trade.

The first teachers to be recognized by any child that grows up and becomes “successful” ought to be able to say that his first and best teachers were his PARENTS! So sad that the government has created a system so that parents are supposedly not qualified to teach their children, or are considered ‘just parents’ and not TEACHERS. That way the system has already won the hearts of youth so that they are already brainwashed against their own parents as ‘qualified’ teachers just because they don’t have a ‘degree.’

APPLICATION: Hands-on training from a parent keeps ties together. What a privilege it is when a parent can sit down with a child and teach them ‘the ropes.’

HEART SEARCHING: What can I learn from my father/mother that can be useful in the world for my Lord and His glory? Am I willing to spend time with my father / mother?

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____

b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____

c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____

d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____

e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

10. Young men trained in the service under Moses (Exodus 24:5)

And he sent **young men** of the children of Israel, which offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the LORD.

“And very probably, as the seventy elders were such as were selected from the senior and graver part of the people, so these were choice young men, that were separated from others for this service, without any regard to birthright.” (John Gill, Commentary)

APPLICATION: There are some young men that manifest spiritual gifts at an early age. Charles Haddon Spurgeon was already preaching to a congregation as a teenager. Bob Jones Sr. was already ministering at an early age. Samuel, of the Old Testament was called to work and serve Eli at an early age. God CAN work with youth and wants to. He is no respecter of persons. If He worked with and through them He can work through young people today.

HEART SEARCHING: Lord, may I be willing to work along side others and be willing to sacrifice in my service to you. Help me to be entrusted with some ministry as the young men were entrusted by Moses to burn “**offerings unto the Lord.**” Help me to learn how to take responsibilities in ministering, no matter where I'm at: at home, at school, at work, etc.

Personal Observations:

a. What truth do I find here? _____

b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____

c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____

d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____

e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

11. Training youth in your own “church.” (Exodus 33:11)

And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.

Here is the Moses-Joshua training camp example. The same goes for Elijah and Elisha. Paul trained Timothy. A hands-on training of youth is the best kind of training. Joshua was Moses’ servant. “Discipleship” is not just a correspondence course or something you read in a book or got off the internet. It is a living relationship where a trainer trains a student. They spend time together. They see a life, the manifestation in the **volume of the Book** (Heb. 10:7). Yes, **EXAMPLES** are what we need. You want to see a man in action. No footman will get the training and muster up enough boldness unless his commander is up in front *leading the way*. That is exactly what Jesus did. He took them right out on the front lines. He slept **WITH** them. He ate **WITH** them. He **PREACHED** to them, and others. He **DEALT** with them one on one, in small groups, in public, etc. He was *there with them*.

APPLICATION: Am I willing to be trained under somebody’s tutorship? You are to be teachable. Let others teach you and someday you will be able to teach others successfully just like God told Joshua (Joshua 1:8).

Personal Observations:

a. What truth do I find here? _____

b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____

c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____

d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____

e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

12. “Father knows best.” (Numbers 30:3)

¶ **If a woman also vow a vow unto the LORD, and bind herself by a bond, being in her father's house in her youth;**

And her father hear her vow, and her bond wherewith she hath bound her soul, and her father shall hold his peace at her: then all her vows shall stand, and every bond wherewith she hath bound her soul shall stand.

But if her father disallow her in the day that he heareth; not any of her vows, or of her bonds wherewith she hath bound her soul, shall stand: and the LORD shall forgive her, because her father disallowed her.

A young girl may think she is right on some things. As long as she lives under the roof of her parents her father is to have the last say so. She will be much better off by submitting allowing for God to work through her father rather than rebelling and thinking she ought to take things in her own hands. The best preparation for womanhood (Prov. 31) is to start by keeping things kosher at home with the parents. 1 Corinthians 11:1-3 outlines headship order. That is to protect her so that she'll understand that when she is married.

The laws of coverture are designed to protect the woman from harmful situations that she could be beguiled to accept (2 Cor. 11:3). Adam did not nullify Eve's deception in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:6); therefore, he was held accountable (1 Tim. 2:13-15).

The logical mind of a husband can nullify the emotional vows of his wife or daughter when he believes the vow was a result of deception or trickery. (Hoffman)

These are the statutes, which the LORD commanded Moses, between a man and his wife, between the father and his daughter, being yet in her youth in her father's house. (Numbers 30:16)

Young lady, God has provided you protection under your father's watch care (providing his is proper and right). Any intention of getting out from under that other than for scriptural purposes (marriage, for example), your 'insurance policy' is annulled and you become open 'game.' [a cliché hunters use for game that can be shot]. Don't risk virtue for vice. It's 'grips' have taken many of sweet young girls down a sour road; rebellion, wrong marriages, drugs, alcohol and delinquency and even worse.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

13. God's judgment upon youth. (Deuteronomy 32:25)

The sword without, and terror within, shall destroy both the young man and the virgin, the suckling also with the man of gray hairs.

This is fair warning to youth today that think that God is only a God of love. This verse is dealing with God's judgment upon Israel for her disobedience to Him. Therefore God reveals His attitude toward sin. God never tolerates sin. God even judges youth. None of any age or sex was spared, even those unarmed; not the young man, for his strength and promising usefulness. If God is provoked to deal with youth He will cut them down. He has and still does today. God allows many ways by which young men are destroyed – war, famine, diseases, etc.

**none of any age or sex were spared, even those unarmed; not the young man, for his strength and promising usefulness;
none of any age or sex were spared, even those unarmed; not the young man, for his strength and promising usefulness;**

Personal Observations:

a. What truth do I find here? _____

b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____

c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____

d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____

e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

14. Youth and victims of war. (Joshua 6:21)

And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword.

Joshua 6:23 And the **young men** that were spies went in, and brought out Rahab, and her father, and her mother, and her brethren, and all that she had; and they brought out all her kindred, and left them without the camp of Israel.

Again we see the judgment of God, this time upon the wicked city of Jericho. Even the youths were to be killed. War is God’s judgment on sin here. Hell is God’s judgment upon sin hereafter.

There are many different kinds of wars today; war on drugs and alcohol, car accidents, gangs and killings, etc.

APPLICATION: Whatever war you are fighting make sure you are on the Lord’s side. It is one thing to get killed, or even martyred, but it is altogether something else if you were to be killed and go straight to hell. Make sure you are saved and serving the Lord Jesus Christ before you breathe your last breath.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

15. Youth and weak faith. (Judges 8:20)

And he said unto Jether his firstborn, Up, and slay them. But the youth drew not his sword: for he feared, because he was yet a youth.

Many a youth today are simply afraid to wield their sword (the Bible). This young man was afraid to execute his father’s orders. Therefore ‘daddy’ had to do the executing.

Yes, there are times of need of growth. The father, Gideon wanted his own son to have the privilege of slaying two kings. The boy backed down.

“Next time, son. Next time. But don’t forget what the Book says, ‘**...he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.**’ Now watch this. WWWAAAAPP! [Off go the heads of two kings].

“Wow! That was great Dad!”

“Thanks son. I just read in my daily ‘devotion’ Jeremiah 48:10 which says, ‘Cursed *be* he that doeth the work of the LORD deceitfully, and cursed *be* he that keepeth back his sword from blood.’ So I thought I’d ‘share’ that devotion with you today. And besides, I had to ‘step up to the plate’ because these two ‘r__heads’ challenged me by saying, ‘**for as the man is, so is his strength.**’ So I had to show them whose who.”

“Thanks Pa. I needed that.”

APPLICATION: Are you bold as a lion or are you chicken livered when it comes to witnessing for the Lord and standing for the truth? Is the will of God first in your life or do you compromise every time you’re called to do something that might cost you a little bit?

Personal Observations:

a. What truth do I find here? _____

b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____

c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____

d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____

e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

16. Youth and strong inner faith. (Judges 9:54)

Then he called hastily unto the young man his armourbearer, and said unto him, Draw thy sword, and slay me, that men say not of me, A woman slew him. And his young man thrust him through, and he died.

Here a young man is told to slay his leader. The young man fulfilled the command despite what the charge was. He most likely understood Abimelech’s honour “that men say not of me, A woman slew him.” So out came the sword. Tough stuff!

APPLICATION: No matter what the charge, whatever the cost, it is always better to simply trust God. Leave everything else in God’s hands.

Personal Observations:

a. What truth do I find here? _____

b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____

c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____

d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____

e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

17. A young man and the origins of the whorish Roman Catholic Priesthood. (Judges 17:7)

¶ **And there was a young man out of Bethlehemjudah of the family of Judah, who was a Levite, and he sojourned there.**

And Micah consecrated the Levite; and the young man became his priest, and was in the house of Micah. (Judges 17:12)

Here's a young man who became a **“father”** (Matt. 23:9) and a **“priest”** for money (Judg. 17:10). This is the first time a priest is called a father (Matt. 23:29). This apostate priest took a vow of poverty and became a steward over idols, icons, and statues (1 Tim. 4:1-6).

Today, this infamous “oath of poverty” is what the Catholics practice whereby priests “weasel out” *of paying taxes*. Notice that the term “father” is used in a religious setting. That’s where the ‘Cat’holics got if from. It started with an apostate Jew who had a house full of **“gods”** (v. 5). This is the term “father” applied to a religious leader, *although the title is forbidden by Jesus Christ to be given to a religious leader.*

When they were by the house of Micah, they knew the voice of the young man the Levite: and they turned in thither, and said unto him, Who brought thee hither? and what makest thou in this place? and what hast thou here?

And he said unto them, Thus and thus dealeth Micah with me, and hath hired me, and I am his priest. (Judges 18:3, 4)

FACTS: There are a great many religious young men today that even serve in churches wearing their long robes, light candles do the sign of the cross, but are on their way to hell. Religion will never save you. You are to be born again of the Holy Spirit. Salvation is in a Person, the Lord Jesus Christ and not in a religious system of works.

Also, there are a great many saved youth that are for hire by the world, flesh and the devil. They are sold out, useless, but not “sold out” for God.

APPLICATION: Do I have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ or am I just playing games with religion? When am I going to “step up to the plate” and start getting serious for God?

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

18. Keep your hands off her. She’s mine. (Ruth 2:9)

Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them: have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee? and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn.

Because of the fact that she was a Hamite, there may have been opportunity to mistreat, be rude to her, and play wanton tricks to her as is common among young people out in the fields of the harvest or in other places.

APPLICATION: It’s a wonderful thing when young men know how to keep their bodies under. There is quite a contrast between those of Sodom (no. 7) and those that walk with the Lord.

There have been too many cases where the flesh of youth even got the best of them and made a mess of things. Fair warnings are throughout the Bible –

Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: *It is good for a man not to touch a woman.* (1 Cor. 7:1)

For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that **ye should abstain from fornication:**

That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour (1 Thess. 4:3, 4).

Young men likewise exhort to be **sober** minded. (Titus 2:6)

HEART SEARCHING: Help me Lord to have a sober mind and keep me from foolish talking, and **jesting**, “which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.” (Eph. 5:4)

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

19. ‘Papa called’ or ‘mama called’ boys don’t ‘cut the mustard.’ (1 Samuel 2:17)

Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.

The sons of Eli, who were not even ‘saved’ (v. 12) were the ringleaders who set bad examples (vss. 12-17), which other priests followed, and therefore the sin is ascribed to them; and which was sadly aggravated by taking what was not their own, and by taking it in a forcible manner, and before the Lord had his part in the offering, and all this done in the tabernacle, in the presence of God; which plainly showed that they had not the fear of God before their eyes, nor any sense of his omniscience and omnipresence, any more than of his holiness and justice.

Men abhorred the offering - As the people saw that the priests had no piety, and that they acted as if there was no God; they despised God’s service, and became infidels.

A national priesthood, when the foundation is right, may be a great blessing; but if the priesthood becomes corrupt, though the foundation itself stand sure, the corruption of the national manners will be the unavoidable consequence.

APPLICATION: Many young men whose father may be a preacher have done more harm than good to their local church; fornication, worldly music, parties, laziness, apathetic attitude are often found among a ministers’ children.

These “papa” called and “mama” called boys were also running around fornicating with the women (v. 22). The end result – **“the LORD would slay them.”** (v. 25).

Children whose father is a minister ought to take heed and pay special attention to not getting too much into their own hands – privileges, power, etc., to make an abuse of it. Modesty or **“moderation”** is the best policy. (Phil. 4:5).

Many a time the parents may be saved but the children are rebellious. God judges those who cause the people to abhor the work of God (Jer. 23:36; Mal. 1:6-2:10; 2 Cor. 2:17). Apostasy in Christian colleges leads to apathy in the churches and this leads to anarchy in the country (Lev. 26:42) (Hoffman)

HEART SEARCHING: Are you the son of a minister of the word of God? Then you're to follow his faith (Heb. 13:17).

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

20. Little "Sam" ministered unto the Lord. (1 Samuel 3:10, 11)
And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; *there was no open vision.*
And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

He was dedicated to the Lord and trained by his mother Hannah. When the time came for him to be called, especially at an early age he heard that call and served the Lord all the rest of his life. Verse 10 would be the character of young Samuel. When God spake Samuel listened. That is a precious gem today.

APPLICATION: Young man/woman, are you letting God speak to you today. The only way for you to know the Lord is to know what God has written (1 Sam. 3:21). When you know what God says, you receive insight into the beliefs and thinking of the Lord.

HEART SEARCHING: Am I allowing God's word to speak to me? Or is peer pressure the voice I hear most of all?

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____

b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____

c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____

d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____

e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

21. The devil knows that youth are the future of any country. (1 Samuel 8:16)
And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest **young men**, and your asses, and put *them* to his work.

Here you have a case where the nation Israel wanted a king like the rest of the nations. Israel as a whole became rebellious. So God gave them what they wanted. Samuel told them what kind of king they would have – not a good one. In type he spoke of the antichrist that would do all the negative things that happen today when a wicked ruler reigns over a country.

Our verse (1 Sam. 8:16) tells us that he would **“TAKE...your goodliest young men...”**

APPLICATION: Today there are many systems of government that have convinced its people that honor should be given to the system rather than to God. Youth are being destroyed left and right because they have been forced by pressure to give allegiance to men, a system, an educational ‘quota,’ etc.

Pharaoh tried to convince God’s chosen people to leave the youth into *his* hands while the parents go three days in the wilderness to serve the Lord (Exod. 10:8-10). *He knew that the future was in the hands of youth.* If he could brainwash them, he would have them **WORKING FOR HIM**, against their own parents - divide and conquer. That is what Samuel meant, **“he will TAKE...your goodliest young men...”** That is exactly what is happening today. Youth are being divided from their parents. The enemy attack is right in the home to break it up, confuse it and destroy it.

HEART SEARCHING: My first love should be to God and His word. My allegiance should be to Him first. I should honor my parents and respect them and have a right spirit toward them.

Is the telephone, SMS, e-mails, TV, mass media, sports, my education, a love for money or hobbies conquering and dividing me from a sound, Biblical walk before the Lord?

Lord help me to recognize any influence that tries to pull me away from obeying the word of God. Concerning sound Christian family ties help me to be true to you, true to sound Christian fellowship, making friends and at the same time staying right before you.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

22. A “failure” who stood head and shoulders above the crowd.” (1 Samuel 9:2)

Saul was a “**choice...goodly**” (i.e. handsome) tall young man but he turned out to be a “FLOP.”

And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.

The case of Saul is a rather popular story in the Old Testament. Yeah, he was big, tall, and “**goodly.**” But he overstepped his bounds on many occasions. He intruded into the priest’s office (1 Sam. 13:8-10). He didn’t smite ALL of Amalek (1 Sam. 15:1-3, 9, 19, 22, 26). He envied David and tried to kill him on a number of occasions (1 Sam. 19:9-12). He also went to a witch for revelation and answers from God (1 Sam. 28:5-8) because God would no longer give him direction. Then he ended up taking his own life.

FACT: A great many good looking young men or women have ruined their lives simply because they thought that their inner life was not as important as the outside looks. That’s Hollywood’s approach.

Virtue and good character are not built by doing just what *you* want to do. They are built by doing what God wants you to do no matter the task or whether you like it or not.

APPLICATION: The inward is more important than the outward. “**Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised**” (Proverbs 31:30). Paul said, “I have **fought a good** fight, I have **finished my course**, I have **kept the faith:**” (2 Tim. 4:7). Saul didn’t keep anything. He probably lost his own soul too.

HEART SEARCHING: “Mirror mirror on the wall. Who is the prettiest of them all?” “Well it certainly ain’t you bud. ‘All flesh *is* grass, and all the **goodliness** thereof *is* as the flower of the field:” (Isa. 40:6).

It’s not so much as important how I start as it is *how I end*. I should finish what God has given me to do no matter how difficult the task. That will help build character in my life and be more conformed to the image of God’s Son.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

23. “You”th and followship or submission at crucial moments. (1 Samuel 14:1)

¶ Now it came to pass upon a day, that Jonathan the son of Saul said unto the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over to the Philistines' garrison, that is on the other side. But he told not his father.

Young men in the Bible were also armourbearers. Jonathan’s armourbearer had a good attitude, a good spirit about him in the midst of battle and strife between the Israel and the Philistines. Jonathan was about to do a great feat, to take on the enemy although the two would be against greater odds. Nonetheless, the young armourbearer was submissive to the task –

And Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come, and let us go over unto the garrison of these uncircumcised: it may be that the LORD will work for us: for there is no restraint to the LORD to save by many or by few.

And his armourbearer said unto him, Do all that is in thine heart: turn thee; behold, I am with thee according to thy heart. (1 Samuel 14:6, 7)

There was no conscientious objecting, nor backing out because of fear of the enemy. There are too many youth backing out of responsibilities and don’t want to face the

enemy and listen to their superiors in the Lord. Good character starts with submissive listening.

APPLICATION: Likewise, **ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder.** Yea, all *of you* be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. (1 Peter 5:5)

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

24. A boy called to do a man's job. (1 Samuel 17:33)
And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. (1 Samuel 17:42)

And when Saul saw David go forth against the Philistine, he said unto Abner, the captain of the host, Abner, whose son is this youth? And Abner said, As thy soul liveth, O king, I cannot tell. (1 Samuel 17:55)

Here is a classic chapter concerning David, a young man going against a man of war, Goliath. It is rather embarrassing to know that in Saul's army were grown men that were all afraid of Goliath's challenge. David alone stood recognizing the cause, **"Is there not a cause?"** (v. 29). David was the one that tried to encourage Saul's troops (v. 32) despite all attempts to discourage him out of the challenge (vss. 28, 30, 33).

APPLICATION: There is a bankruptcy of manhood in the body of Christ today. Cowardice is the mark of Laodicea. Where are the men, real courageous men that will stand to the task at hand? It is a sad day when grown men are acting like scared women. What God needs today are men, women and youth that will take courage at all cost, that

are valiant for truth's sake. David's moral courage is what raised him above the scared grown men in the camp of Israel. Even Goliath would be more honored having some false pagan god but courageous enough to call someone out to battle with him. But the men in Israel's camp whose God is the Lord of Hosts were dumbfounded. David's moral courage made him a real champion for Christ.

"Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, *that is* cunning in playing, and a **mighty valiant man, and a man of war**, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD *is* with him" (1 Sam. 16:18)

The best way to make men out of boys is to challenge them to tasks that require courage, boldness, and tenacity in the face of "Goliaths." They'll grow up much quicker.

ILLUSTRATION: Young boys know what it is to put on football equipment and tackle an opponent, or throw somebody else on a mat while wrestling, or flip an oncoming attacker in karate or 'check' somebody playing ice-hockey. That takes a considerable amount of courage. But, *moral courage* is altogether different, and makes a difference for eternity's sake.

HEART SEARCHING: Am I taking on the challenges of life now, or am I running from responsibilities? Am I now faithful to the things that God wants from me or am I procrastinating my service to him, wasting time, and not using the gifts that He has given me for His sake?

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

25. Young soldiers in David's army. (1 Samuel 25:5)
And David sent out ten young men, and David said unto the young men, Get you up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and greet him in my name:

The entire chapter is dealing with *young men* whom David sent to a Nabal, a wicked man who mistreated them.

May it be noted here that many of David's men in his army consisted of *young men*. That makes sense for in our previous devotion David himself was a young man that fought and stood and won against Goliath. So he's had first hand experience of what a young man is capable of doing. That is something to make note of. Young men were trained to be MEN and do the job of MEN.

ILLUSTRATION: Put an army hat on a young man and watch how he'll respond. Put a football helmet on a young boy and watch how he'll respond. Give a boy a toy sword and see how he acts. They begin to think like those images of army men, football players and sword fighters. It's in them to take on a challenge.

APPLICATION: By the work of the Holy Spirit in a believer God is always challenging, drawing out the new man created in righteousness and true holiness (Eph. 4:24), to manhood. When you think like a man you'll act like one and you'll become that **For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:** (Proverbs 23:7). **But we have the mind of Christ.** (1 Cor. 2:16)

HEART SEARCHING: Do my actions show that I am a man or a mouse. Do I fight battles for my Lord or am I a coward?

Lord, help me to see more of the man Christ Jesus in the scriptures and follow after Him and those that follow Him. Help me to go where you send me as those young men went following David's orders (1 Sam. 25:27).

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

26. Honesty – the salvation of the king's enemy. (1 Samuel 30:13)

And David said unto him, To whom belondest thou? and whence art thou? And he said, I am a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite; and my master left me, because three days ago I fell sick.

The young man was left from the Amalekite army, enemies of David. He was found by David's army and brought to him for questioning. The honesty of the young man saved his life. He was used for intelligence to lead David's army recover that which was lost.

The young man was spared and used of God for David's army. Quite different from another young man who lied when questioned by David (2 Sam. 1:3-16). [See the next devotion.] As a result he was slain.

APPLICATION: It is better to die for truth's sake rather than to lie for personal gain and lose your shirt, or head.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

27. Dishonesty – the death of a young soldier. (2 Samuel 1:5-10)

5 And David said **unto the young man** that told him, How knowest thou that Saul and Jonathan his son be dead?

6 And the **young man** that told him said, As I happened by chance upon mount Gilboa, behold, Saul leaned upon his spear; and, lo, the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him.

7 And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called unto me. And I answered, Here am I.

8 And he said unto me, Who art thou? And I answered him, I am an Amalekite.

9 He said unto me again, Stand, I pray thee, upon me, and slay me: for anguish is come upon me, because my life is yet whole in me.

10 So I stood upon him, and slew him, because I was sure that he could not live after that he was fallen: and I took the crown that was upon his head, and the bracelet that was on his arm, and have brought them hither unto my lord.

The Amalekite lied because he hoped to get rewarded by David for supposedly killing Saul, but an admission in judicial affairs overrules evidence and warrants punishment.

APPLICATION: The fear of man brings a snare. It is never right to do wrong, (lying in this case) for personal gain. In the end you lose.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

28. Young men wielding the sword. (2 Sam. 1:14-16)

14 And David said unto him, How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the LORD'S anointed?

15 And David called **one of the young men**, and said, Go near, and fall upon him. And he smote him that he died.

16 And David said unto him, Thy blood be upon thy head; for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, I have slain the LORD'S anointed. (vss. 14-16)

It was a young man's war. David asked one of his young men to fall upon the young man that lied about what happened with Saul.

APPLICATION: Any young man ought to be able to deal with any other young man concerning the scriptures if he's been trained right. Parents ought to train their own children to earnestly contend for the faith; be soul-winners and teach them to wield the sword of the Spirit. While they are going to school they ought to learn already how to minister by witnessing. If they've got the witness in them, then it ought to be a witness with them. Who said they are to wait 'till they get out of school before they're to witness.

Baloney! If they are saved, they are already PRIESTS, part of a holy priesthood (1 Pet.2:5, 9). If they are able to play a certain role in a ‘play’ in school then they ought to learn how to ‘play the man’ for their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Period! No excuses.

ILLUSTRATION: While sitting around a table during lunch in a restaurant a group of youth were conversing. It just happened to be that one of the young men began gossiping. Another young man sitting across from him stood up and said, “Enough of that.”

The kid had guts!

HEART SEARCHING: Am I more apt to speak of everything else but of the Lord when I talk with my friends? Am I more afraid to deal with sinners than I am to play in a championship game at school? Help me Lord to have a holy boldness. Though you have given me physical strength, help me to be “strong in the Lord and the power of his might.”

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

29. Civil warfare and youth (2 Samuel 2:14-17)

14 And Abner said to Joab, Let the **young men** now arise, and **play** before us. And Joab said, Let them arise.

15 Then there arose and went over by number twelve of Benjamin, which pertained to Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and twelve of the servants of David.

16 And they caught every one his fellow by the head, and thrust his sword in his fellow's side; so they fell down together: wherefore that place was called Helkathhazzurim, which is in Gibeon.

17 And there was a very sore battle that day; and Abner was beaten, and the men of Israel, before the servants of David.

This battle during the civil war was pretty rough “play.” “**Let the young men now arise, and play before us...**” was a challenge to see who was the best skilled in the use

of the sword, and who were the bravest, stoutest, and most courageous; and this was proposed in a way of bravado, and in order to bring on a battle, or to decide the quarrel between them; and this bloody barbarous exercise Abner calls "play." Wow! **"Joab said, let them arise"**; he accepted the challenge. Of course he was not about to be bullied.

Today the referee may say, "Let's go! Let's get it on." Before a boxing match, the announcer may yell, "Let's get ready to Rrrummbelllll!"

ILLUSTRATION: How often you see young men get angered while playing a sport. They're called "hotheads" because of pride. In the NHL a game often turns into fisticuffs. In baseball dugouts are often emptied when both teams come out to fight (Prov. 13:10). Too often Christians just about 'lose their salvation' over a stupid hockey game, or football game or even a game of golf.

Would to God we'd find some youth that would be mad a sin.

APPLICATION: Many times spiritual battles occur from within the church. Heresies pop up, (1 Cor. 11:19), envy manifests itself, and pride causes contention. When you least expect it the devil can pounce. Just make sure you're on the right side and do right during the times of battle. "yet is he not crowned, except he **strive lawfully**" (2 Tim. 2:5).

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

30. Vigilance and youth. (2 Samuel 13:34)

But Absalom fled. And the young man that kept the watch lifted up his eyes, and looked, and, behold, there came much people by the way of the hill side behind him.

Even during times of war young men are set at a post to watch. Watchmen have a great responsibility in the Bible (2 Sam. 18). They watch for oncoming attacks, and various maneuvers of the enemy.

APPLICATION: Young men ought to know the devils devices (2 Cor. 2:11) Any army should know the position of its enemies and its soldiers should be informed about it. Jesus said, **Watch and pray**, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak. (Matthew 26:41)

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: (1 Peter 5:8)

HEART SEARCHING: Oh God help me to be vigilant, sober, on the ‘look out’ even in my youth.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

31. The death of a young hippie. (2 Samuel 14:21)

¶ **And the king said unto Joab, Behold now, I have done this thing: go therefore, bring the young man Absalom again.**

Absalom was a rebellious son of David. He won the hearts of David’s kingdom by flattery and his good looks (1 Sam. 14:25, 26). You could say that he was a real modern-day, rebellious hippie, kind of like those of the difficult period in American history during the 1960’s. The drug traffic and rock music really ‘hit’ America hard.

But in all Israel there was none to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty: from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him.

And when he polled his head, (for it was at every year's end that he polled it: because *the hair* was heavy on him, therefore he polled it:) he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels after the king's weight. (2 Samuel 14:25, 26)

The Bible says that “**stole the hearts of the men of Israel**” (1 Sam. 15:6). How does it all end in the life of a rebellious son? DEATH lurks around the corner –

And the king commanded Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, Deal gently for my sake with the young man, even with Absalom. And all the people heard when the king gave all the captains charge concerning Absalom. (2 Samuel 18:5)

And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that *was* under him went away. (2 Samuel 18:9)

Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he *was* yet alive in the midst of the oak. (2 Samuel 18:14)

And the king said, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Ahimaaz answered, When Joab sent the king's servant, and me thy servant, I saw a great tumult, but I knew not what it was. (2 Samuel 18:29)

And the king said unto Cush, Is the young man Absalom safe? And Cush answered, The enemies of my lord the king, and all that rise against thee to do thee hurt, be as that young man is. (2 Samuel 18:32)

Absalom is as the case of Saul. They both could have made a lot of money “modeling” in today’s business. They could fool any naïve young lady today by their good looks unless she was taught well enough not to make judgment by the outward appearance. Their hearts were not right. Both were rebellious and deceitful. Both died tragic deaths. Absalom got caught, stuck in a tree because of his “hippie head” long hair. He got killed by playing “**darts**” (2 Sam. 18:14). The other ended up messing around with witchcraft and then during a battle took his own life (1 Sam. 31:4).

APPLICATION: The beginning of strife *is as* when one letteth out water: therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with. (Prov. 17:14)

Favour *is* deceitful, and beauty *is* vain: *but* a woman *that* feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. (Proverbs 31:30)

For **rebellion** *is as* the sin of **witchcraft**, and **stubbornness** *is as* iniquity and **idolatry**. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from *being* king. (1 Samuel 15:23)

HEART SEARCHING: God, help me to deal with any form of rebellion in my heart. Give me a servant’s heart to submit to Biblical authority.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____
-

c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____

d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____

e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

32. Learning to fight a good fight at an early age. (2 Samuel 19:7)

Now therefore arise, go forth, and speak comfortably unto thy servants: for I swear by the LORD, if thou go not forth, there will not tarry one with thee this night: and that will be worse unto thee than all the evil that befell thee from thy youth until now.

Although Joab’s speech was unbecoming toward the king he knew of David’s troubles and trials from his youth. On the other hand it may be observed, that a general of an army had great power over princes in those times; and presumed very much on their interest in the army, which led them sometimes not to conduct themselves with that behaviour as became them.

Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man.

For thou art my hope, O Lord GOD: **thou art my trust from my youth.** (Psalm 71:4 5).

Many a time have they afflicted **me from my youth**, may Israel now say:

Many a time have they afflicted me **from my youth**: yet they have not prevailed against me. (Psalm 129:1, 2)

The nation of Israel from its birth, coming out of Egypt has a long history of persecution. David, from his youth had to deal with many battles. You never read about him losing a battle (except the battle with his own flesh (2 Sam. 11) and pride 1 Chron. 21:1). He learned well how to fight a good fight from his youth.

APPLICATION: True Bible believers have to learn how to “take it in the neck.” Fighting a good fight is good training. The best way to learn is by ‘hands-on’ practice. Jesus took his disciples out with him and confronted Pharisees, dealt with healing the sick, answering false accusations, went about doing good in the face of danger. Good preparation and training is the best preparation for the battle field.

HEART SEARCHING: Lord, help me to deal with certain situations wisely and courageously. For the battles may be long and hard, but you can give me the victory.

Personal Observations:

a. What truth do I find here? _____

b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____

c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____

d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____

e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

33. The conniving of 'Jerry' and how he became a stumbling block. (1 Kings 11:28)

And the man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valour: and Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph.

Jeroboam was the first king of the ten tribes, over whom he reigned twenty-two years. While still young he was promoted by Solomon to be chief superintendent of the bands of forced labourers. Influenced by the words of the prophet Ahijah, he began to form conspiracies with the view of becoming king of the ten tribes; but these having been discovered, he fled to Egypt (1 Ki.11:29-40), where he remained for a length of time. On the death of Solomon, the ten tribes, having revolted, sent to invite him to become their king. The conduct of Rehoboam favoured the designs of Jeroboam, and he was accordingly proclaimed king of Israel (1 Ki. 12:1). He rebuilt and fortified Shechem as the capital of his kingdom. He at once adopted means to perpetuate the division thus made between the two parts of the kingdom, and erected at Dan and Bethel, the two extremities of his kingdom, "golden calves," which he set up as symbols of Jehovah, enjoining the people not any more to go up to worship at Jerusalem, but to bring their offerings to the shrines he had erected. Thus he became distinguished as the man "**who made Israel to sin.**" (1 Ki. 14:16). This policy was followed by all the succeeding kings of Israel.

APPLICATION: Don't be the one the devil uses to become a stumbling block to others.

A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. (Galatians 5:9)

Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but **woe unto him**, through whom they come! (Luke 17:1)

HEART SEARCHING: Help me Lord to distinguish between a division that is a stumbling block for others to fall and a division that is for truth's sake (Lk.12:51).

Personal Observations:

a. What truth do I find here? _____

b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____

c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____

d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____

e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

34. Young “birds of a feather flock together.” (1 Kings 12:8)

“But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the **young men** that were grown up with him, *and* which stood before him:”

1 Kings 12:10 And the **young men** that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou *it* lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little *finger* shall be thicker than my father's loins.

1 Kings 12:14 And spake to them after the counsel of the **young men**, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father *also* chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.

This is a perfect example of young men that thought they knew better whose meeting turned into a disaster. They thought that the new generation ‘had something’ on the older wise men. The “generation gap” is for the birds! Rehoboam’s foolish error was seeking advice from his peers (Eccl. 2:15-19).

APPLICATON: The advice and experiences of the elderly are some of the greatest teachers of life (Prov. 16:31; 20:29).

HEART SEARCHING: Oh God! Please help me to make sure that I get counsel from others older and more experienced than I before I make any serious decisions. Help me to ask my father and / or mother. Help me, if need be to ask my pastor and or elders in the church for advice.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

35. Youth 'conflicts' Obadiah - caught between a rock and a hard place. (1 Kings 18:12)
And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the LORD shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me: but I thy servant fear the LORD **from my youth.**

Here is a case where a man who was trained to fear God from his youth was nonetheless caught between a rock and a hard place. He was afraid that if he reported back to Ahab that he found Elijah and Elijah would not show himself before Ahab, it would be Obadiah's 'neck.' Nonetheless, Elijah kept his word and showed himself before Ahab, thus getting Obadiah 'off the hook.'

APPLICATION: If you've learned to fear God from your youth and you are trusting God, He will make a way for you to escape (1 Cor. 10:13). Trust Him to deliver you. There is always a way of escape from the power of sin and temptation when the Lord is your stay.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____

e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

36. A young man “mighty of valour” (1 Chronicles 12:28)

And Zadok, a **young** man mighty of valour, and of his father's house twenty and two captains.

The word valour means – The qualities of a hero (or heroine); exceptional or heroic courage when facing danger (especially in battle).

We have a rather interesting young man here. When Absalom revolted and David fled from Jerusalem, Zadok and all the Levites bearing the ark accompanied him. When Absalom was dead, Zadok and Abiathar were the persons who persuaded the elders of Judah to invite David to return. Zadok was a “young man” who was of the 10 northern tribes but defected to David. He was ready “**armed to the war, and came to David to Hebron, to turn the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the LORD**” (v. 23). Zadok and Abiathar acted as high priests on several important occasions (1Ch 15:11; 2 Sa 15:24-29,35-36) but when Adonijah endeavoured to secure the throne, Abiathar went with him, and therefore Solomon “**thrust him out from being high priest,**” and Zadok, remaining faithful to David, became high priest alone (1 Ki. 2:27,35; 1 Chron. 29:22).

Zadok's inner attitude was more important. He saw that God's favour was toward Judah and David and submitted to it.

APPLICATION: It is good to have a winning spirit in a losing battle and war. Zadok had the flexibility and understanding that to rebel against David would be disaster. He humbled himself and God's grace gave him favour to be greatly used of God during the reign of David and Solomon.

The Lord has made us kings and priests who have been washed by the blood of the Lamb. As Zadok eventually reigned with David and Solomon – types of Jesus Christ, so will the young man that is faithful and allows the Lord Jesus Christ to reign in his heart now will be faithfully rewarded later and allowed to reign for one thousand years with the Lord Jesus Christ on this earth as a “**joint-heir**” (Rom. 8:16; 2 Tim.2:12)

HEART SEARCHING: Do I recognize those whom God is blessing to be a blessing to them? Jonathan recognized the blessings of God upon David and was a blessing to him. Have I got a spirit of strife, envy, competition?

Love for God, humility, condescension is the key to being raised up before God.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

37. Preparation for a young king, Solomon (1 Chronicles 22:5; 29:1)

And David said, Solomon my son *is* young and tender, and the house *that is* to be builded for the LORD *must be* exceeding magnificent, of fame and of glory throughout all countries: I will *therefore* now make preparation for it. So David prepared abundantly before his death.

Furthermore David the king said unto all the congregation, Solomon my son, whom alone God hath chosen, *is yet* young and tender, and the work *is* great: for the palace *is* not for man, but for the LORD God.

Solomon was heir to the throne. His father David made preparation for the building of the temple. What a great privilege it must have been for a young man that would be heir to the throne and have his father prepare everything for him?

Later when Solomon reigned his kingdom was eventually divided and the whole country was split in two. Solomon himself backslid into apostasy and idol worship. He married foreign women, took horses from Egypt, made affinity with the heathen and lusted for many things (Ecclesiastes). He turned out to be a flop! Busy with building projects and the accumulation of wealth, Solomon found little time for the Lord. Throughout his life he ignored God's command against intermarrying with pagan women. In his middle years, the sin began to bear bitter fruit in his life. The 700 wives and 300 concubines of his royal harem drew his heart away from Israel's God, introducing him to the worship of foreign gods and idols. Angry at Solomon's apostasy, the Lord revealed that He would tear the kingdom from the hand of Solomon's son.

The "preoccupation weapon" worked so well for Satan even on the wisest man in the world that he continues to use that tactic down through the centuries on God's people including YOUTH.

Young man, are you so preoccupied that you've got no time for the Lord? You're stepping into the ring with Satan. Don't get too big for your britches. Solomon bit off more than he could chew and the devil 'beat the fire out of him.'

The **backslider** in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man *shall be satisfied* from himself. (Proverbs 14:14)

APPLICATION: All too often fathers that plowed much for the inheritance of his family but eventually that for which the father laboured is turned to disaster by his son(s).

We have inherited a great many things in Christ (Eph. 1:11-18). There are other things that are inherited by earned reward (Col. 3:24). That means if you desire to receive a reward of the inheritance, affinity with the world is OUT! Marrying with the world is OUT! Going to Egypt for answers is OUT! Putting God second to your own personal, fleshly desires is OUT!

HEART SEARCHING: Am I abusing the privileges bestowed upon me as a son? Am I taking advantage of the things I've inherited?

Lord! Help me not to be as the prodigal that hastily desired his inheritance and ended up wasting it all and had nothing to show for. Haste makes waste (Prov. 19:2).

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____
- _____

Practical application: _____

38. "Jo" was young but 'tough.' (2 Chronicles 34:1-3)

Josiah *was* eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem one and thirty years.

And he did *that which was* right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined *neither* to the right hand, nor to the left.

For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet **young**, he began to seek after the God of David his father: and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images.

How 'bout a sixteen year old boy being used of God to start a revival. Josiah was sober, to say the least. Where is that kind of 'material' today among youth?

David and Josiah did right during their youth (Eccl. 12:1; Lam. 3:27). Young people have zeal, but they need the wisdom and knowledge of the elderly (1 Kings 12:8). Youth groups easily foster carnal and selfish manners without godly leadership that exalts the word of God and the authority of the home. Young people can be greatly used of God, but they are not experienced for positions of leadership (1 Tim. 3:4-5; 4:12). A wise youth honors his parents and humbly submits to the wisdom of the aged (Prov. 16:31; Eph. 6:1-3). (Hoffman)

APPLICATION: As the years of infancy cannot be useful to our fellow-creatures, our earliest youth should be dedicated to God, that we may not waste any of the remaining short space of life. Happy and wise are those who seek the Lord and prepare for usefulness at an early age, when others are pursuing sinful pleasures, contracting bad habits, and forming ruinous connections. Who can express the anguish prevented by early piety, and its blessed effects? Diligent self-examination and watchfulness will convince us of the deceitfulness and wickedness of our own hearts, and the sinfulness of our lives. We are here encouraged to humble ourselves before God, and to seek unto him, as Josiah did. And believers are here taught, not to fear death, but to welcome it, when it takes them away from the evil to come. Nothing hastens the ruin of a people, nor ripens them for it, more than their disregard of the attempts made for their reformation. Be not deceived, God is not mocked.

The current and tide of affections only turns at the command of Him who raises up those that are dead in trespasses and sins. We behold peculiar loveliness, in the grace the Lord bestows on those, who in tender years seek to know and to love the Saviour. Hath Jesus, the Day-spring from on high, visited you? Can you trace your knowledge of this light and life of man, like Josiah, from your youth? Oh the unspeakable happiness of becoming acquainted with Jesus from our earliest years! (Henry)

HEART SEARCHING: Oh God! Help me to seek you while I am young with all my heart. Help me to have the character of the young Josiah (vss. 1-3), the zeal to root out any idolatry (vss. 3-7), to yield my body, the temple of the Holy Spirit to you, to live according to your blessed words (vss. 14-28), and to make known thy word to others (vss. 29-33).

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

39. Esther, a true gem in the midst of paganism (Esther 2:2, 3)

Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, Let there be fair **young** virgins sought for the king:

And let the king appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, that they may gather together all the fair **young** virgins unto Shushan the palace, to the house of the women, unto the custody of Hege the king's chamberlain, keeper of the women; and let their things for purification be given *them*:

Her age is hard to determine, nonetheless Esther was a fair young virgin.

“Esther appears in the Bible as a “woman of deep piety, faith, courage, patriotism, and caution, combined with resolution; a dutiful daughter to her adopted father, docile and obedient to his counsels, and anxious to share the king's favour with him for the good of the Jewish people. There must have been a singular grace and charm in her aspect and manners, since “she obtained favour in the sight of all them that looked upon her” (2:15). That she was raised up as an instrument in the hand of God to avert the destruction of the Jewish people, and to afford them protection and forward their wealth and peace in their captivity, is also manifest from the Scripture account.” (Easton)

“Esther's own character is in the main attractive: dutiful to her adoptive father, and regardful of his counsels though a queen; having faith in the high destiny of her nation, and believing with Mordecai that even “if she held her peace at the crisis deliverance would arise to the Jews from another place,” and that providentially she had “come to the kingdom for such a time as this” (4:14); brave, yet not foolhardy, but fully conscious of her peril, not having received the king's call for 30 days, with pious preparation seeking aid from above in her patriotic venture; “obtaining favor in the sight of all them that looked upon her” (2:15). At the same time Scripture does not hide from us the fact of her not being above the vindictiveness of the age and the country, in her requesting that Haman's ten sons should be hanged, and a second day given the Jews to take vengeance on the enemies who had sought to kill them.” (Fausset)

ILLUSTRATION: Amy Wilson Carmichael (1867-1951) was a missionary in India, who opened an orphanage and founded a mission in Dohnavur. She served in India for 55 years without furlough and wrote many books about the missionary work there. Apart from the sacrificial love Amy gave so many she is also remembered for her writing. Amy wrote over 35 books from the field, many being written after an accident in 1931 that left her bedridden until her death at the age of 83. Once Amy sent a book home for publication that was denied publication and returned with the request for a rosier picture of mission work. The publisher was worried many would feel disdain at the harsh reality

of the mission field she had portrayed. Amy sent the manuscript back without any changes except for title, renaming it “Things as they Are.” On writing to missionary candidates she’s been quoted as saying, “bring to India a strong sense of humor and no sense of smell.” To another candidate she wrote the poignant truth that above all mission work offers one thing and one thing only, “A chance to die.” “You can give without loving but you cannot love without giving.”

HEART SEARCHINGS: Do I have the courage, discipline and patriotism for my Lord and Saviour as Esther did for her Lord and country or Amy Carmichael did for her Lord and Saviour?

Oh God, whatever cross I may have to bear, help me through it to be more like my Saviour.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

40. The need for piety at an early age. (Job 13:26)

For thou writest bitter things against me, and makest me to possess the iniquities of my youth.

During times of great distress we are brought to remember sins of our youth that become more burdensome. Not that we had not received forgiveness of those sins but the fact that they were committed back then have a tendency to gnaw away at conscience when under great stress.

The apostle Paul would mention his past sins, not that he was not forgiven when he was saved but that even past sins have an ‘hangover’ affect in the body of flesh (1 Tim. 1:13).

Remember not the sins of my **youth**, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD. (Psa. 25:7)

APPLICATION: That is why it is of great importance that while there is opportunity that you, young man learn well to devote your life to God and His word so that when you get older you won't regret you used your time wisely.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

41. Wonderful memories of God being your trust. (Psalm 71:5)

For thou art my hope, O Lord GOD: thou art my trust from my youth.

O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works. (Psa. 71:17)

What a privilege it is to have been saved at a young age. The best route to go is to get saved at a young age and live for God your whole life. That is what David did. Although he had his falls, and hard ones at that, he was back on his feet in time and God blessed him.

ILLUSTRATION: As a group of people were traveling by car to New Orleans to preach on the streets they all took turns telling of their salvation experience. In the back seat there was a father, mother and their young boy, the driver and another passenger were up front. As everybody took turns they all waited to hear from the young 7 year-old boy. As the boy testified of his salvation, you would have thought that he was 'dragged through the sewer of life,' as he proclaimed, "Oh God, was I a sinner. I knew I was as wicked as hell. I thought I'd never get saved...etc...but then Jesus came saved my wretched soul from hell..."

After his 'preachin' you would have thought there should have been an invitation to the altar for REPENTANCE. There was a hush in the car.

HEART SEARCHING: Would to God I'd have a clear ringing testimony while in my youth. Oh Lord, help me to be the young man/ young woman you want me to be. Help

me to listen to elders that talk about their salvation experience and walk with the Lord when they were young. Help me to stay true to You and trust You in all of my teenage years and ‘from my youth’ and on.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

42. How does a young man get cleansed from within?

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed *thereto* according to thy word. (Psalm 119:9)

He needs the word of God which sanctifies (Jn. 17:17). Of course, salvation is the first step, by receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. That is the first real, true “cleansing” even for a young man. But even after that there is a daily cleansing that the young man needs because he himself still has to deal with sin in his members that war against the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:17).

The resources for a real cleaning that are available for youth are –

- i. The blood of Christ on Calvary’s cross (1 Jn. 1:7).
- ii. The words of God, the Holy Bible. When you think upon those words they cleanse you (Jn. 17:17).
- iii. When there is a daily application of the blood that is available in Jesus Christ (Heb. 9:14).
- iv. When you judge and confess your sins on a daily basis (1 Cor. 11:31, 32)
- v. When you gather with other saved folks and are exhorted to live for God (Acts 2:26, 27; Heb. 10:25).

There are things such as ‘air pollution,’ and ‘water pollution.’ But there is also such a thing as ‘youth pollution.’ The only way youth can keep their inner life straight and cleansed is by the above mentioned list. The more you spend in the Holy Bible, the better the ‘cleansing’ will be.

ILLUSTRATION: A preacher recalls whenever he did bad as a young boy his mommy used to take some soap and cleanse his mouth out with it. It was a good moral rebuke for the kid as a ‘schoolmaster’ but there is no substitute for obedience to the words of God.

HEART SEARCHING: Oh God! Cleanse me. May my words, thoughts, deeds, and motives be right in thy sight. Help me to make daily use and application of thy word for cleansing power in my life.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

43. Affliction and youth. (Psalm 129:1, 2)

¶ **Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth, may Israel now say:
Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth: yet they have not prevailed against me.**

Many a young folk around the world have suffered in various ways; some because of persecution and wars, others because of abuse. Still others have physical problems.

The Psalmist tells of the persecution that his nations’ suffered throughout the years. Of course the Jewish nation has a very long history of persecution simply because people naturally hate God and his chosen people, Israel. On an individual basis, many a Jews have been harassed from their youth.

How would you like it know that your whole history has been one of persecution? That would be difficult to live with. Nonetheless, the Psalmist also mentions, **“yet they have not prevailed against me.”** What a testimony of God’s preserving power of the nation of Israel. That same God that made Israel a world power and has still preserved the Jew until this very day and is yet to put the nation in *first place* during the 1000 year reign of the Lord Jesus Christ from Jerusalem that same God can and wants to help every individual young man and woman. That same God is in every saved young man and woman and can preserve him / her for messing up their lives.

APPLICATION: “cut the cords” with sin

In verse 4 we read, “**The LORD is righteous: he hath cut asunder the cords of the wicked.**” Every young man and woman ought to know how to “cut the cords” with wrong fellowship, (“evil communications,” 1 Cor. 15:33), “**pictures**” (Num. 33:52) that provoke unto lust, ‘bibles’ that are from Egypt, liquour, and anything and everything that would hinder his / her walk with the Lord.

Let Psalm 19:13, 14; Daniel 3:28 and Romans 6:12, 13 be a part of daily meditation and practice until these verses become a part of your life, rather BE your life.

HEART SEARCHING: Despite what ridicule, “**affliction**” and pressures I may have to experience Lord, help me to “cut the cords” with sin, and bear the afflictions that they may not prevail over me.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

44. ‘Grown up’ while still young. (Psalm 144:12)

That our sons may be as plants **grown up in their youth**; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace:

These youth are said to be “**grown up**” i.e., they’re not only strong and vigorous but also mature *spiritually*. They’ve gotten a good ‘education.’ The “**plants**” spoken of here is most likely the “**children like olive plants...**” (Psa. 128:3). And olive plant produces olive oil. That oil is a type of the Holy Spirit. Ah yes! That is the key to a good ‘education,’ a ‘higher education,’ the one that comes “**from above**” (Jam. 3:17). Young men ought to know that while they are young. If and when they are dwarfed at the beginning of their manhood, then they are crippled later.

Isaiah spoke about Jesus, “For he shall **grow up** before him **as a tender plant**, and as a **root out of a dry ground:**” (Isaiah 53:2). By the time Jesus was twelve years old He could go ‘toe to toe’ with the older people discussing spiritual matters. THAT is

something to shoot for. All too often young men are dwarfed by the routine and cumbersome load of secular school homework and lack of self-discipline. Most of the ‘training’ they get is a couple of hours of church on Sunday and maybe a Christian video or two during the week.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

45. A young man needs Biblical knowledge and discretion. (Proverbs 1:4)
To give subtilty to the simple, to the **young man** knowledge and discretion.

The book of Proverbs is *the* book of *wisdom*, and is a very good book for everybody to read, especially youth. It would be best to read each chapter that corresponds with the date. For instance if today were the 14th of March, then you’d read the fourteenth chapter; tomorrow the fifteenth, and so on. That is a good practice and habit. Then you will have read through the book of Proverbs twelve times in a year. Thus you will know the book of Proverbs much better, for Proverbs 4:7 says, *Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.*

- Knowledge** is the ‘*what*,’ the information stored in the mind.
- Wisdom** is the ‘*how*’ to make use of the knowledge that you’ve gathered.
- Understanding** is the ‘*why*’ or the purpose in doing a thing.
- Discretion** is that which ‘*preserves*’ you (Prov. 2:11).

Note the following passages where you’ll see the combination of these words –
Proverbs 1:1, 2 “**proverbs**” (what) “**wisdom**,” (how) “**understanding**” (why)
Proverbs 2:11 “**discretion**” (preserves) “**understanding**” (why)
Proverbs 3:19, 20 “**wisdom**,” (how) “**understanding**,” (why) “**knowledge**” (what)
Proverbs 5:2 “**knowledge**” (what) “**discretion**” (preserves)

APPLICATION: Putting it all together it comes out like this.

- 1.) The Lord gives you some *knowledge*.
- 2.) You're to apply that knowledge to your heart and practice it. That is *wisdom*.
- 3.) You may *understand why* do it or you may not understand right now. The thing is to "trust and obey God for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."
- 4.) When God reveal the "why" to you, then you'll get understanding. There are a great many things we don't understand right now because God could never dump everything in your lap for you to understand. It'd be too much for you to handle. You'd probably quit believing if he dumped everything on you right now. So just trust Him.
- 5.) Discretion – is that which keeps you, preserves you. You're careful to avoid social embarrassment or distress, especially by keeping confidences secret; tactful.

ILLUSTRATION: Joseph, down in Egypt knew how to *preserve* king Pharaoh during the time of famine. He was discreet (Gen. 41:33-39). That is what kept them – Joseph's discretion.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

46. Christian youth CAN forsake their guide and FORGET GOD. (Proverbs 2:17)
Which **forsaketh the guide of her youth**, and forgetteth the covenant of her God.

ILLUSTRATION: A missionary friend had returned to his sending church after years had passed on the mission field. He could hardly recognize a daughter of a classmate he had studied with in Bible school. He remembered the young daughter as plain, simple, modest and humble. To his surprise she turned out to look just like the women of the street and no long serving the Lord. A sad loss!

ILLUSTRATION: A young man said, “When I turn twenty I won’t have to learn any more Bible verses.” He thought that just because he was required to learn Bible verses for church that at the age of 20 he wouldn’t have to deal with that any more. When he was much younger, as a little boy he’d pass out tracts without any hesitation. To get that young man to pass out tracts today is like pulling teeth. At some point in his life he ‘forsook’ the guide of his youth.

I don’t believe that every bum on the street said when he was a young, little boy, “Someday I’m going to be a bum.” No, in the days of his ‘innocence,’ God gives every boy enough light and a chance. But somewhere down the road of ‘hard knocks’ more offences begin taking place where he gives up the fight to stand, especially against himself where he is wrong and begins to blame others for his problems. Exceptions would only prove the rule.

It is a sad fact when Christians forget what God has given them and no longer show their appreciation for their salvation in Christ.

They **forgot God** their saviour, which had done great things in Egypt; (Psalm 106:21)

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

47. Keep the joy in your marriage. (Proverbs 5:18)

Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.

APPLICATION: All too often young couples start out just great; rejoicing, enjoying each others presence, etc. But, for some reason, as time passes they let that spirit they once shared together leave. Then things between them become a drudge, burden and then they start irritating one another to the end – divorce.

Young couples need to work on keeping the friendship together, living out their lives edifying, respecting, caring and loving each other as if they were just married. Why not?

That is how it ought to be when you get saved. You don't want to lose that first love and joy.

Dump the garbage! (Heb. 12:1) Get the junk out of the trunk! Bury the hatchet and START OVER, FRESH!

Personal Observations:

a. What truth do I find here? _____

b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____

c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____

d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____

e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

48. Youth Void of Understanding and its danger. (Proverbs 7:7)

And beheld among the **simple ones**, I discerned among the **youths**, a **young man void of understanding**,

The strange woman is a doctrinal revelation of a religious whore. The practical application is a warning about flirtation and fornication. The young man was hanging around the wrong place at the wrong time. The young girl dressed to draw attention to her body. She was loud to draw attention to herself and her painted beauty was a deception to lure the young man. He falls – by the subtilty of her heart. Many times he is in the place where he shouldn't be. "It takes two to tangle." "He went the way to her house" (v. 8). Of course she is dressed to 'kill' to draw attention to her own body (v. 10) and it usually happens in dark places or at least where nobody sees them. Of course she is religious too (v. 14). The religious peace offering implies that these young people can be found in the youth group of a local church. The looks of things and the smell of things (vss. 16, 17) lead up to the "invitation" (v. 18) 6+6+6=18. It is the spirit of Antichrist that leads youth into spiritual fornication: worldly music, worldly dress, (fashions), worldly speech, worldly 'bibles,' and worldly culture. Flattery (v. 21) is Satan's method (Gen. 3:1-5). The lady has got a pretty good record (v. 26).

This woman despised her feminine role (Tit. 2:3-5) and she loathed her husband (Ezek. 16:45). She flattered her man into thinking that he was her special man.

Enough cannot be said about the modern spiritual *and physical seduction* going on today among youth. There are twenty-one verses dedicated to it in chapter five; eleven

verses in chapter six; and twenty-three in chapter seven of Proverbs. Solomon had first hand experience of the problem with women. Don't make the same mistake.

HEART SEARCHING: Oh God! Purge out any and all impure thoughts from me. Help me to stay right before you.

Personal Observations:

a. What truth do I find here? _____

b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____

c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____

d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____

e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

49. Strength used for the right purposes. (Proverbs 20:29)

The glory of **young men** *is* their strength: and the beauty of old men *is* the gray head.

Many young men have wanted to prove that they are strong by arm wrestling, fighting, weight lifting, picking up small cars from the back bumper, charging each other at a line of scrimmage, squeezing beer cans, tearing thick books in two, etc. That is the way of the world.

For the Christian young man, while he is in his 'prime,' physically, unless he uses his strength for the Lord Jesus Christ, it is all in vain. Spiritual strength is what should have first place in the heart of any and all believing youth (Jer. 9:23).

Samson's strength went 'to pot,' because of sin. He could 'cut the cords' of sin in his life (1 Sam. 15:14; 16:9, 12) while he walked with God until he blew his cover (1 Sam. 16:17-21).

A young man ought to glory IN THE LORD, and not in his physical strength. There is too much of an emphasis on physical strength and not enough on the SPIRITUAL strength for today's modern youth.

Ephesians 6:10 and 2 Timothy 2:1 are good verses to ponder over and memorize.

For **bodily exercise** profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. (1 Tim. 4:8)

HEART SEARCHING: Lord, how much of the strength that you have given me do I use for you? Help me to spend and be spent the strength, and time you've given me for witnessing, labouring and giving you the honour and glory.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

50. Enjoy your salvation. (Ecclesiastes 11:9, 10)

Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.

Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity.

The words from the wise man, Solomon are invaluable. Here he tells youth to enjoy themselves but not without WARNING. One of the most difficult things for young folk to get ahold of today is to see that they will have to give an account of all that they decided to do while young. Therefore he made the conclusion nonetheless to get away from evil, and do not allow the FLESH to dictate what you 'want' to do. It's all VANITY without Christ and the word of God as the center of attention. Youth, for the most part, at best are nonetheless basically selfish – "I'm cold," "I'm hot," "I'm tired," "I want to go home," "I like this," "I don't like that," "What about me..." "I don't want to finish school," "Why can't I have a car now." "I'm tired of people telling me what to do." Etc. No education, philosophy, tradition, 'way' of life will "do" before a holy God.

APPLICATION: The natural desires may be enjoyed, and their outward senses may be gratified, in a lawful way, so far as is consistent with the fear of God, and the expectation of a *future judgment*.

Young man, you're to take God's fair warnings SERIOUSLY concerning your decisions in your youth. You will most certainly give a detailed account for every decision you make.

Youth should rejoice not to do evil, to which human nature is inclined, especially in youth, but to do good; should rejoice, not in the ways of sin, but in the ways of wisdom; not in any outward attainment of beauty, wit, strength, or riches, but in the grace of God; not in yourself, or your boastings, but in Christ, his person, righteousness, and salvation; not in the things of time and sense, but in light of God's glory. Got it!?

Therefore, young man, sing like never before in church. If you preach, preach having a good time. Witness having a good time. Work hard having a good time. Enjoy your salvation.

HEART SEARCHING: Lord, help me that whatever may be the desires of my heart, may they be in accordance to the rule of right in the light of thy word that I may ENJOY your fellowship in all that I do.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

51. Remembering God. (Ecclesiastes 12:1)

Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

What a great admonition for youth today.

APPLICATION: The admonition can still be done today. It matters not where you are at young man as much as the condition of your heart. There are a great many example of youth that REMEMBERED their creator while in the days of their youth –

- i. Joseph (type of Jesus Christ) is a great example of a young man that stayed with God for “God was with him” (Gen. 39:21, 23).
- ii. David, as a young man stayed with the Lord throughout the rest of his life.

- iii. Josiah obeyed the admonition (2 Kings 22:1, 2)
- iv. Daniel (Dan. 1:8) decided to remember God for seventy years throughout the captivity and was still soul winning in old age (Dan. 12:3, 4).
- v. Timothy was taught by his grandmother and mother. He remembered his Creator and was greatly used of God (2 Tim. 3:15).

A sad commentary of many young folk today is they had the opportunity to remember their Creator in the days of their youth and passed it up. Too many youth are leaving churches because they have left off thinking about the One Who created them. They have lost their appetite for spiritual matters.

The promoters of communism, humanistic, evolutionistic, atheistic, socialism are enemies of God that have kicked Him out of their system, schools and homes to kill the thinking processes of youth so that by the time young folk are 19-20 years old, family life, friendships, education, work, marriage, and location of living, God is nowhere to be found. There is a lot of action but no Spirit in their works. They forgot Him concerning major issues in their lives.

HEART SEARCHING: Oh Lord, help me to keep you in all of my decisions of life from now on and forever more. Help me to know your perfect will when it comes to family life, friends, education, work, marriage and place of living. Where I have failed in anyone of these areas please help me to get back to that place of blessing.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

52. Renewed strength after a fall. (Isaiah 40:28-31)

Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, *that* the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? *there is* no searching of his understanding.

He giveth power to the faint; and to *them that have* no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the **young men shall utterly fall:**

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.
(Psa 103:5)

It is one thing to fall. It is altogether something else when a young man is slothful in recovery or never recovers. He never gets back on his feet. Every backslidden, offended, "put out" young man messed up somewhere down the road. It could have been a father that was trying to straighten his own kid out, but the boy was 'offended.' He didn't get his 'rights.' It could have been a misjudgment in society by the law. It could have been some 'friend' that set him up for the 'kill,' and found himself holding the bag. It could have been some event at school that provoked him to do something he is now regretting the rest of his life. It could have been he had to spend time in the 'slammer,' and now he's planning on keeping a chip on his shoulder against society. Many a youth have fallen. There are saved youth that have 'fallen into sin' (as they say) into fornication, that have started drinking, or smoking, or taking drugs, have left their church, quit reading their Bibles, quit witnessing for the ways of the world.

The prodigal wastes time, money, energy, etc., only to cause others also to fall. But thank God Almighty Who brought Israel out of the land of Egypt *ON EAGLES' WINGS* (Exod.19:4) is **ABLE** to deliver thee, to set your feet upon a rock and establish your goings. Israel's own pastor once was a murderer, Moses. Time passed and God called him to lead Israel out of the iron furnace. What a Wonderful God we serve.

APPLICATION: Young man, have you fallen? Get back up. Let the Lord lift you up on His wings. Wait on the One Who created the heaven and the earth by the power of His word. Let Him do it. Give Him time and watch what He can do. The God that created everything **OUT OF NOTHING** can renew your strength and mount you up like an eagle. You really can fly if you want. Call on the Lord. Wait on him.

Now unto him that is **ABLE TO DO** exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, (Ephesians 3:20)

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

53. “You put the words right in my mouth.” (Jeremiah 3:4)

Wilt thou not from this time cry unto me, My father, thou art the guide of my youth?

Compare that verse with Jeremiah 2:27. There was a time where Israel got away from God and worshipped a “stock” as their “father.” So the admonition is if you at one time were begotten by the Father of the Bible, there is no need to turn to the “stock” of money, or to the “stock” of popularity, or to the “stock” of humanism, or to the “stock” of education, or to the “stock of science falsely so-called or to the “stock” of pornography. Dump-em! All of them for the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

APPLICATION: Young man, cry unto God. Are you a prodigal? You can come back to the Father. He has made a way for you, by His blood, through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. His own Son lost everything, including His own soul. For what? For your sake. If you are saved, you can’t lose your soul but maybe you’ve lost other things; time, energy, money, friends, etc., but Jesus is your example. Even when He had everything, He lost everything, even his own soul, He got it all back and then some. Job lost all he had, but he got back twice as much as before he lost everything. Come home, dear prodigal. Get back in the Book. Fall on your knees. Pray and beg God for mercy. He’s waiting for you. He even tells you what you can say to Him if you’re short for words, **“My father, thou art the guide of my youth?”**

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

54. The SHAME of sin and its affect. (Jeremiah 3:24)

For **shame** hath devoured the labour of our fathers **from our youth**; their flocks and their herds, their sons and their daughters.

We lie down in our shame, and our confusion covereth us: for we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even unto this day, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God. (Jer 3:25)

It all starts in the former days of youth. If there is no desire to get the things God wants for you, you'll pay later, big time! Sin is a shameful thing. Our verses speak of that which brings shame. With a little Bible studying, we find that the "shame" spoken of is because of IDOLATRY. Read Jeremiah 11:13 and Hosea 9:10. Idolatry is putting anything before God – friends, money, career, education, self, etc. It's all sin if God and obedience to him do not come first. Sin - is the most destructive thing in the universe. Sin is the cause of death and hell. What a shame! The ground is cursed, all of man's labour is in sorrow, and woman brings forth children in sorrow, the end of every sin is sorrow, and the end of a soul is SHAME, who has not "obeyed the voice of the Lord." Sooner or later every sinner must be ashamed of his conduct; next, confounded; and, lastly, ruined by it, unless by true faith and hearty repentance he returns to the Lord, including 'YOU'TH. **Stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry** (1 Sam. 15:23).

APPLICATION: If there is anything in your heart that has taken first place instead of God, you OUGHT to be ashamed of it. Get rid of it. Keep yourself from idolatry. Don't be shamed any more, or else, it is going to be a very embarrassing moment sooner or later in your life.

HEARTSEARCHING: Oh God! Remove any anything and all idols from me. May you have first place in my heart from this time forth and forever more. Help me to cleanse myself from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit (2 Cor. 6:14-7:1). Keep me from any covetousness which is idolatry (Col. 3:5).

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

55. Youth and death (Jeremiah 9:21)

For death is come up into our windows, *and* is entered into our palaces, to cut off the children from without, *and* the **young men** from the streets.

Another sober subject. Death is no respect of persons. It gets even the youth. What an awful sight to see young men dead on the streets.

ILLUSTRATION: In Ukraine the artificial famine (1932-33) left a great number of youth dead on the streets, in houses, everywhere. There was an estimated 6-8 million people that died in that famine. Young and old perished.

Today, there is a greater famine, a famine of the words of God in the hearts and lives of youth. Death lurks right around the corner for those that despise the Holy Bible. The dance of death at discos where people have literally died, the death because of overdoses, the death because of killings, gangs, diseases from sexual sins, taking ones life, car accidents because for lack of attention behind the wheel and ‘partying’ in the car, not to mention the spiritual death because of fleshly thinking of believers. Death, sooner or later gets its victim and more often sooner to a great number of youth who think that flirting with sin has no consequences.

ILLUSTRATION: A young high-school student sat in the back seat of a parked car along with some of his buddies. In the front seat on the passenger’s side sat his cousin. He opened the glove box and noticed a pistol that belonged to the driver who also was in the car. The cousin reached for the pistol and began pointing it toward others in the car, thinking that it wasn’t loaded. The young high-school student being scared said, “Put that thing away before you shoot somebody with it.” His answer was, “Don’t worry. It isn’t loaded.” The driver immediately answered, “Yes it is.” At that moment he reacted in fright, put the gun away back where he found it.” Wheeeewww! Close call! That young high school student was to be saved ten years later and then later was called to the mission field. Now he understands what Paul meant when he said, “...**by the MERCIES of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice...**” He now realizes that it has been only by the mercies of God that He kept him alive through many “close calls” where as he could have and should have died and went to hell. That is not the case for many youth who had met their death when least expected.

Close calls are fair warning to any and all youth. DON’T PLAY WITH FIRE. YOU’LL GET BURNT, or shot!

HEART SEARCHING: Oh God! What fair warnings have been in my life? Fair warnings of conscience, concerning friends, “close-calls,” and rebukes. Thank you so much. Help me to *find* your will, *be* in your will and *stay* in your will. May that be my best insurance policy of protection.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____
-

c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____

d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____

e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

56. Prosperity can RUIN ‘you’th (Jeremiah 22:21)

I spake unto thee in thy prosperity; but thou saidst, I will not hear. This hath been thy manner from thy youth, that thou obeyedst not my voice.

God spake to them in their prosperity, but would not hear. Prosperity ruins even youth.

One of the most dangerous traps for youth today is *prosperity*. Moderation (Phil.4:5) is simply not “in.” They complain if they don’t have a car, the latest fashions, at least two telephones, all the gadgets of technology, and especially ‘their way.’ A great many will even say that they are wrong in what they are going, but they just like what they do and do it anyway. In short, it is a matter of the will. “I will not serve the Lord.” We are in that generation, a wicked generation that will not obey.

Temperance is a fruit of the Holy Spirit according to Galatians 5:23. Prosperity is associated with materialism and money. It’s not the times of adversity when people start going down, but in times of prosperity. When you’ve got too much you don’t need God. At least that is what the wise man said, (Prov. 30:9), “...**give me neither poverty nor riches... Lest I be full, and deny *thee*, and say, Who is the LORD?**” Bad manners!

APPLICATION: When you go into the store do you always say, “I want, I want...I want. What voice are you listening to? There is only one voice that you should take heed to, “**My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me...**” (Jn. 10:27).

HEART SEARCHING: Lord, help me to obey you. Period!

Personal Observations:

a. What truth do I find here? _____

b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____

c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____

d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____

e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

57. True repentance and youth (Jeremiah 31:19)

Surely after that I was turned, I repented; and after that I was instructed, I smote upon my thigh: I was ashamed, yea, even confounded, because I did bear the reproach of my youth.

Young man, repentance is a change of mind like turning to God from idols (1 Thess. 1:9) turning from such sins as you have been particularly guilty of; not only of the grosser actions of life, but of inward sins, secret lusts and corruptions; having now different sentiments, affections, and conduct.

The phrase “**and after that I was instructed I smote upon my thigh**” is simply an expression of sorrow for sin after a godly sort; of indignation at it; and shame and confusion for it; and also of astonishment, at the mercy, forbearance, and long suffering of God. Of course it hurts, when you see your shame. Let it hurt. It will hurt for awhile. That’s good to know of the bitter taste of your own wrong doing so as to not repeat that wrong any more and nor to desire it as before.

APPLICATION: True repentance gets to the heart of things. There is also fruit for true repentance, a change of works that are meet for repentance (Acts 26:20).

ILLUSTRATION: A Romanian preacher tells how his 16 year-old son got in with the wrong crowd and was caught stealing from a store. Since the brethren from the church thought that the preacher was responsible for his son’s wrongdoing since he was still under his father’s watch care that the brothers agreed that the preacher was to sit in services without an opportunity to preach for a considerable amount of time. After a year had passed the son miraculously repented, was saved and, as the preacher said, “was completely changed.” The father had ‘new life,’ for his son’s new life in Christ. What a blessing! The son was saved. The father returned to preaching again in the church.

HEART SEARCHING: Dear Lord, may my repenting be a life of change, one that brings forth fruit. May my repentance be without reserve, whole-hearted and sincere for the glory of God (Isa. 6:1-11).

Personal Observations:

a. What truth do I find here? _____

b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____

c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____

d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____

e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

58. Uninterested, apathetic, lazy youth! (Jeremiah 48:11)

Moab hath been at ease from his youth, and he hath settled on his lees, and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel, neither hath he gone into captivity: therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed.

Ah yes, Moab! Sad situation. Egypt is a type of the world. Babylon is a type of the backslider because Israel had backslidden and was taken farther than they wanted to be taken. Sin had cost them more than they wanted to pay and therefore kept them longer than they wanted to stay – 70 years. But what is it with Moab? Moab is a type of laziness and unconcerned. You read in the verse, **“Moab hath been at ease from his youth.”** “Woe to them that are at ease in Zion.” Being unconcerned about spiritual matters among youth is a repugnant disease. The modern, Laodicean youth has a cold formal attitude concerning lost souls, no missionary evangelistic spirit but is self-satisfied needing nothing.

The second phrase in our text is, **“and he hath settled on his lees”** which means they are settled down, doing nothing for God. When Christians “settle down” they get entrenched so much so that they’re good for nothing when fulfilling the Great Commission.

Zephaniah in his prophecy states that punishment is due to them that “settle down” form their fervor to serve the Lord, “I will search...and punish the men that are **settled on their lees:** that say in their heart, The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil,” (Zeph.1:12).

Thirdly, you read **“...and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel.”** Here is a spiritual stagnation or spiritual inactivity. When various drugs are mixed together a druggist takes various bottles and pours the contents into one vial and then mixed with another drug in another vial therefore emptied from vessel to vessel. If the bottle is not emptied (mixed) with other chemicals the ingredients settle to the bottom thus losing the medicinal virtue of the mixture.

Youth from an early age ought to be emptied from vessel to vessel.

ILLUSTRATION: There is the Biblical case of Elisha and the widow. She was commanded to borrow vessels, not a few, and as long as she kept pouring, the supply of oil multiplied, which enabled her to pay the debt she owed (2 Kings 4:1).

APPLICATION: As you empty the vessel, God is able to refill it, providing you empty it to the benefit of someone else.

Fourthly, is the phrase, “...neither hath he gone into captivity...” The slothful and formal condition has not yet, like Israel when she was carried into captivity, ended in judgment. The chapter closes with “**the captivity of Moab in the latter days, saith the Lord**” (v. 47). The idea is that you produce young brats that are not punished. Proverbs 29:15 says, “**The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.**”

APPLICATION: Son, the sooner you realize that a good whipping is good for you the better you’ll be in later years. Your real problems will lie within yourself when you meet the difficulties in life that might set you back when you don’t know how to take a rebuke or when the hand of providence has dealt you a seemingly ‘wrong hand.’

The fifth phrase is “...therefore his taste remained in him...” means you have the same old appetites. If your desire is the disco, worldly jokes, cards, parties, movies, tobacco, TV, pornography and other things of the world, your taste has not been changed. Your appetite for the word of God, prayer meetings, Bible studies, private prayer and fellowship with the saints is bland.

The last phrase is, “...and his scent is not changed.” In other words “you stink to high heaven.” The reason for that is the Moabite has lost his discernment. There is no power and ability to try the spirits to see if they are of God, he soon becomes an easy prey to any false doctrine that may be brought into the church, mind and heart. “Noses have they, but they smell not.” (Psa. 115:6).

A man filled with the spirit of God can usually smell a spiritual camp-meeting, a prophetic Bible conference, or a Holy Ghost revival though it is many miles away.

In describing the bride in chapter 7:4 Solomon says, “**Thy nose is as the tower of Lebanon which looketh toward Damascus.**” The bride’s nose is likened to a watchtower in which the guards would sit and look toward Damascus, the city in which dwelled Israel’s enemy, the Assyrians. It speaks of vigilance. In the same way, the young Christian ought to be trained to be ever on the watch for those spiritual enemies that would invade the land of his possession, destroy his heritage and bring him into bondage.

HEART SEARCHING: Oh God! Help me in my youth to stay on my toes. Help me to discern, to try the spirits whether they be of God or not. Help me to be diligent like the ants, busy concerning the will of God.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____

c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____

d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____

e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

59. Hard work is good for 'you'th. (Lamentations 3:27)

It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.

In our last devotion we covered the laziness of Moab. Here we have the young man learning the bear the yoke. That is good training. Hard work is the antidote to laziness.

APPLICATION: This shows that a young man can never begin too soon to be exercised under the cross, that when the afflictions grow greater, his patience also by experience may be stronger.

There is the yoke of commandments that are a schoolmaster to bring you to Christ (Gal. 3:24). There are other yokes – accepting the blows, burdens, the unfairness in various instances, etc. This will serve to keep you humble, and hide pride from you, which youth are addicted to; to wean you from the world, the lusts and pleasures of it, which are ensnaring to this age; to prevent many sins and evils such might be tempted to go into; and to become tempered to hardships, and make you a good soldier of Christ.

APPLICATION: This disciplinary training in youth (Psa. 90:12; 119:71; Jer. 1:6, 7) is beneficial and necessary an injunction for suffering people. To quietly wait (v. 26) is to be patiently still under afflictions, submissively resting in the will of God, while busy about the Father's will. The way out from a yoke is not to fight against it, as would a young bull that is unaccustomed to it (Jer. 31:18; Acts 9:5) but to submit to it, as would the man *who was used to it from his youth.*

HEART SEARCHING: Lord, may the troubles that come my way try my heart and make me a better man. Without any cross-bearing now I cannot expect a crown later.

Personal Observations:

a. What truth do I find here? _____

b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____

c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____

d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____

e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

60. Undefiled youth

Ezekiel 4:14 Then said I, Ah Lord GOD! behold, **my soul hath not been polluted**: for **from my youth up** even till now have I not eaten of that which dieth of itself, or is torn in pieces; neither came there abominable flesh into my mouth.

At first glance it looks like there is not really much to ‘chew’ on in this verse. But taking a closer look there is something here for correction and instruction in righteousness. Ezekiel is talking here about his dietary laws that he meticulously observed that were required under the Jewish law which he observed from his youth, they were for a purpose; *so that he could discern between the clean and unclean.*

APPLICATION: If a Jew was taught and required to observe certain dietary laws so as to teach a young man to discern between the clean and unclean, the same would go for any young man today to observe and discern that which is good and bad; right from wrong; light from darkness, etc. What it boils down to is that youth ought to be often exercised to discern that two things DIFFERENT are NOT the same. A pen is not a pencil. The Old Testament is not the New Testament. Salvation by faith and fulfilling the works God required of those under the law is NOT the same as salvation **“without works”** in the New Testament church age (Eph. 2:8, 9). Antioch manuscripts are not Egyptian manuscripts. All the other ‘bibles’ are most certainly different from the Authorized Version of the King James Bible. They are all fake. It, the AV, is infallible. Your standing in Christ is permanent. Your practical walk is up and down, in and out, stable then unstable. Etc. It’s not so much for the young believer today what he puts in his mouth as much as what comes out of it (Mark 7:19-23). What it comes down to is, a young man ought to “study” (2 Tim. 2:15) and exercise himself in DIVIDING (2 Tim. 2:15), being able to discern between different things. That is good practice.

Personal Observations:

a. What truth do I find here? _____

b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____

c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____

d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____

e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

61. Remember your wife. Treat her kindly. (Mal 2:14, 15)

Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the **wife of thy youth**, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.

And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against **the wife of his youth**.

APPLICATION: Oh the blessing to keep the sweetness in a marriage, to keep the friendship, love and kindness toward one another. Years go by and couples lose their first love for one another. Couples begin to take advantage of one another, and take each other for granted. That is often the case concerning the relationship between a young man and his Lord. The freshness wears out, the everyday manna becomes stale.

If you say you love the Lord and your attitude toward your own wife, let alone toward the brethren is not one of love, then how can you say you love God and not love the brethren? It is a sure indication that the love of God is not working in you (Phil. 2:13) as God would have.

HEART SEARCHING: God, help me to love you first, your Book, the brethren, which implies my own sister (wife) in the Lord, and the unsaved (Phil. 1:9; 1 Thess. 3:12). Help me not to lose that first love and keep the freshness in my heart toward you and others.

Personal Observations:

a. What truth do I find here? _____

b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____

c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____

d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____

e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

62. Johnny's a good ole' boy."

Matthew 19:20 The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept **from my youth up**: what lack I yet?

"Johnny's a good ole' boy." Yeah that's what they say. He goes to church, he listens to his daddy. He does good in school. He does his homework, but there is one thing wrong. He's on his way to hell. "What lack I yet?" Jesus answered him straightly, "If thou wilt be perfect, go *and* sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come *and* follow me." Of course he was a spoiled at a young age. He had too much to give up. He thought his riches of this world were more important than the riches in Christ. **"But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions."** (Matt. 19:22)

APPLICATION: There are a number of young people who have a lot of possessions. That is what hinders them from following Christ, let alone getting saved if they haven't been born again. They've got too much for their own good. "...the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful" (Matt. 13:22).

This is a clear illustration and warning to all young folk that think that treasure on this earth is better than treasure in heaven. They have little vision and taste for spiritual matters.

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).

HEART SEARCHING: Lord, help me to put first things first. Help me to seek you first and your righteousness that I may see the importance of heavenly riches in Christ.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____

- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____

- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____

- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

63. Better to wax strong in spirit than wax worse and worse (Luke 2:40)

And the child grew, and **waxed strong in spirit**, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

Jesus was but twelve years old (v. 42) but he was strong, strong in spirit. Although he most likely healthy and strong for his age if he had been working with Joseph who was a carpenter. His step father (Joseph) most taught him what it was to work hard. His faculties were far from being weak. But the Holy Spirit didn't lay emphasis on his physical strength as much as His spiritual condition. He was 1.) "**strong in spirit**" 2.) "**filled with wisdom**" and 3.) "**and the grace of God was upon him.**" That is more important than the outer and also shows that it did not come to its maturity at once, but by degrees: and appeared stronger and stronger every day; his understanding was clear, his judgment solid, and his memory strong and retentive, his will, and the desires of it, were to that which is good, and his affections cleaved unto it.

Paul's prayer to for those in Ephesus was, "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in **the inner man**;" (Eph. 3:16).

APPLICATION: Your inner strength is far more important than your physical strength. People like Arnold Schwarzenegger couldn't lift sin from himself if his life depended upon it.

It was the apostle Paul that said to young Timothy, "Thou therefore, my son, **be strong** in the grace that is in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 2:1). It is the power and the grace of God that makes you **MORALLY** strong. **THAT** is far more important than the modern stuff going on. Moral strength builds **CHARACTER** and **VIRTUE**.

There is no need to be wasting excess, unnecessary time for the sake of the flesh which will profit little. "For bodily exercise profiteth little: but **godliness is profitable unto all things**, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come" (1 Tim. 4:8).

But evil men and seducers shall wax **worse and worse**, deceiving, and being deceived.
(2 Timothy 3:13)

HEART SEARCHING: Am I becoming more and more temperate in all things? Or am I finding myself 'flying off at the handle?' Am I understanding people better than before or am I quick to judge and even misjudge people? Are my motives right even after someone has tried to provoke me? Am I wasting time with my youth.

Lord! Help me to exercise my heart, spirit and mind in spiritual matters on a daily basis.

Personal Observations:

a. What truth do I find here? _____

b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____

c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____

d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____

e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

64. Taking care of 'business' as a young boy (Luke 2:46-49)

46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

What better example is there than the one of our Blessed Lord when He was yet a young boy. There are a few things to note here.

i. *First* Mary and Joseph found him in the temple after three days. What could he have been doing for three days, if he spent each day where they found Him, in the Temple? He was not found at the local computer club playing 'tanks' or shooting somebody, or looking at the latest fashions in Cosmopolitan Magazine, or at the new Casino in town. Neither did they find him playing Poker on his computer at home or playing pool. The scriptures say he was sitting in the midst of doctors, hearing them and asking them questions.

That means he could converse to adult men for three days concerning spiritual matters. Wow! What twelve year-old boy could do that today? That is something to shoot for. What a 'standard.' Joseph and Mary must have done a lot of daily training with their boy Jesus for Him to be able to hold a spiritual conversation with adult men, doctors at that.

ii. *Secondly*, the doctors were astonished at his understanding and answers. That means He was not only asking them questions, He was giving them answers to their questions.

iii. And *lastly* when Mary and Joseph found Him, He thought it strange that they couldn't understand that He was about His Father's business as if He knew what He was doing and they didn't.

His “father’s business” is what He spoke of before He died (Jn. 19:30). That means He was mature and sober enough to talk about things at twelve years old as a man that was thirty three years old.

That’s it. The young boy already knew what His Father’s business was at the age of twelve. He had direction; He had the answers for the doctors and was busy doing the Father’s will right up to His very death. **“I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies *are* my meditation”** (Psa. 119:99).

APPLICATION: Every young boy ought to get a hold of this. He ought to strive to study the scriptures, be willing to be teachable concerning spiritual matters and seek the Father’s will and do it. That is the best life for any young boy growing up. There is nothing like teacher/student fellowship and tutorship. That is what makes great men, great ‘discipleship,’ great training, and a great future for any young boy. It’s not about money, prestige, career, popularity, being acceptable and all that junk. It’s a matter of the heart – how bad you want it and a matter of the will. Do you want it or not. It’s available to any and all who will receive it and pay the price.

HEART SEARCHING: God, do I really want it? Do I really desire to know You and the power of your Son’s resurrection? Please give me the inner desire to be teachable. Help me to spend the time before you in prayer and meditation, in the scriptures and around wise people that can teach me.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

65. Youth and subjection (Luke 2:50-52)
50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.
51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.
52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Although Jesus was the Son of God, as a man he humbled Himself to be even in subjection to His stepfather, Joseph. He had just mentioned that he “**must be about [His] Father’s business**” (v. 49) and yet he subjected Himself to His parent. What an example for young folk to follow. The Bible says, “**knowledge puffeth up...**” Jesus was a great example of One Who knew the scriptures well from an early age, and better than His elders, but He didn’t let it ‘go to his head,’ to come across to his elders as some ‘stuck up’ ‘know it all.’ He didn’t come across with a proud, boasting spirit. The key of it was His understanding to be in subjection unto his parents.

Submission will get you farther than just sheer knowledge. His submissive spirit is what was his means of wisdom and stature, and is what it was that could win the favour of God and man. If he was submissive to His parents at home, then He would understand how to behave Himself in public. That is how He could win others’ favour as a young boy.

APPLICATION: Teen rebellion is on the rise for the Bible says that of these last days in which we live, “For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, **disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy...**” (2 Tim. 3:2)

HEART SEARCHING: Is my spirit right in the midst of elders? Do I have a submissive spirit or do I come across as a ‘know it all?’ Oh God, help me, that I may learn to allow you to lead, guide and direct in all my affairs, especially when I’m my elders ask of me something, especially my parents. May I have that balance of knowledge, wisdom and understanding along with submitting.

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. (1 Peter 5:5)

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

66. The young boy gave to the Lord. (John 6:9-12)

9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

10 And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

11 And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

12 When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

Here a young lad gave what he had to the Lord. Did he just give his lunch? No, he gave his life. You see, he had some fish and bread. He must have stopped at the store and was on his way home when he saw a big crowd of people gathered together. He stopped and stood there and overheard the need of bread. What was his reaction? He gave all that he had. Could he have known that the Lord was about to feed so many people? Hardly! Nonetheless, he gave what he had and the Lord did the rest. The young man gave his lunch and got a dinner load and leftovers. He got a dose of fresh bread from heaven.

Can you imagine what his mother heard from him and saw when he came home and told her what happened while standing before her with twelve baskets of leftovers?

APPLICATION: Would to God we'd find young men and women that would give their lunch to Jesus, and sacrifice a bit and let Jesus do the rest. Instead of "Give me" as the prodigal said, and got what he wanted but lost it all, young Christian people ought to learn that sacrifice starts while being young. Later it will be more difficult if the practice doesn't start now.

It was the Lord that wanted people to see their need as He saw it, and that they would see what He could do when He wants others to help out. The boy is the one the got the blessing for he's the one that gave all that he had.

HEART SEARCHING: Lord, help me to give all that I have to you. After all it's all from you anyway. Help me to give when I see the need and to see that I'm giving it to you first.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

67. Young men, stay awake during services. (Acts 20:7-12)

¶ And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

8 And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together.

9 And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead.

10 And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him.

11 When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed.

12 And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted.

A young man was up the late hours listening to Paul. Paul preached long. Amen. Of course it is quite difficult to stay awake and listen attentively if it is already ‘past your bed time.’ But we’ll give him an A plus for effort. You can say a lot more for him than you can of those that if they had a choice between hearing the apostle Paul that is preaching just a couple blocks away or go to a professional football game that is 3 hours away they’d take the game over Paul. There wouldn’t be a one of them from both teams that could hold a match to Paul.

APPLICATION: For many a youth it’s not ‘past their bed time’ when they want to have fun in the late hours of the night. Many a young men would rather spend time in front of the television, or playing some kind of sport rather than to sit and listen to a God called preacher for about an hour or so during a regular evening service. That is torture for them.

Ah the flesh is weak but the spirit is willing. And many times the appetite and hunger for absolute truth is no concern for the modern day young crowd.

HEART SEARCHING: Am I getting the necessary rest for services so that I can listen attentively to the preacher? Listening to the preacher can save me from a lot of problems in life. Do I look forward to going to church to participate and be a blessing to others? Would I really choose a God-called preacher at a revival over a football game? Help me, Lord to see the difference between the temporal and the eternal and choose the eternal things over the temporal.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____

c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____

d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____

e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

68. A young man's courage saved the apostle Paul's life (Acts 23:15-22)

Ac 23:15 Now therefore ye with the council signify to the chief captain that he bring him down unto you to morrow, as though ye would enquire something more perfectly concerning him: and we, or ever he come near, are ready to kill him.

16 And when Paul's sister's son heard of their lying in wait, he went and entered into the castle, and told Paul.

17 Then Paul called one of the centurions unto him, and said, Bring this young man unto the chief captain: for he hath a certain thing to tell him.

18 So he took him, and brought him to the chief captain, and said, Paul the prisoner called me unto him, and prayed me to bring this young man unto thee, who hath something to say unto thee.

19 Then the chief captain took him by the hand, and went with him aside privately, and asked him, What is that thou hast to tell me?

20 And he said, The Jews have agreed to desire thee that thou wouldest bring down Paul to morrow into the council, as though they would enquire somewhat of him more perfectly.

21 But do not thou yield unto them: for there lie in wait for him of them more than forty men, which have bound themselves with an oath, that they will neither eat nor drink till they have killed him: and now are they ready, looking for a promise from thee.

22 So the chief captain then let the young man depart, and charged him, See thou tell no man that thou hast shewed these things to me.

The young man stopped a conspiracy, an assassination attempt. He could have said nothing, as if nothing was said, being afraid of risking his life. He could have been convinced that Paul really was wrong in what he believed. The boy could have betrayed Paul and lied about him. He could have backed out on his way to the chief captain with the centurion. There are a number of things the young boy could have done. If he hadn't told Paul about it, we wouldn't be reading the Pauline epistles today. But the boy did right. He 'stood in the gap,' risked his own neck and said what should have been said. He was at the right place at the right time and did the right thing. Little did he know that Paul would be one of the most popular author spanning 2,000 years plus.

“Thank you kid. Oh, by the way, what’s your name?” “That’s alright, it doesn’t matter. The Lord knows who I am.”

ILLUSTRATION: There are a great many youth that have done great feats only a few or even nobody knows about. It is estimated that over 800,000 men who served during the Civil War were seventeen years of age or LESS. Of these approximately 200,000 were sixteen years or less; 100,000 were fifteen years or less; and about 300 boys were thirteen years of age or less. Among the later group it is believed that 25 were not more than ten years of age.

Charles “Eugene” Merrick was born in 1850, that’s fourteen years before the Civil War started. He caught the “war fever” from two older brothers who had already enlisted. The first time he tried to enlist he was immediately turned down because of his age. He claimed he tried to enlist four more times before succeeding. *Determination and courage* can go a long way.

HEART SEARCHING: Lord, have I passed up opportunities to stand in the gap (Ezek. 22:30) for the right cause when I’ve had the chance? Please forgive me of not passing out that tract to that one person that I see on a regular basis. Help me to speak up when necessary and not let you down. When challenged help me to stand up to the plate, and take that challenge on.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

69. “He used to be a soul-winner. He used to pass out tracts.” Etc. (Acts 26:4)
My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews;

Paul was brought up in a strict sect of the Pharisees. You could say he was a real Pharisee. The Gentile version of that would be something like an “altar boy” of the Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox churches.

APPLICATION: Others may know of your manner of life before you were saved. Has there been a solid change in your manner of life after your salvation? “But thou hast fully known my doctrine, **manner of life**, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience...” (2 Tim. 3:10). That is commendable. But there is yet another application. When you got saved other Christians knew how that you *used* to pass out tracts, you *used* to go witnessing with others, you *used* to witness to others. But something happened. You quit street preaching, quit passing out tracts, quit witnessing, etc. **WHAT HAPPENED?**

Paul sought to prepare the mind of Timothy for the proper endurance of trials, by a reference to his own case. Timothy had been the companion of Paul during a considerable portion of the time after his conversion. The persecutions referred to in verse 11 are those which occurred in the vicinity of Timothy’s native place, and which he would have had a particular opportunity of being acquainted with. Paul’s **manner of life** was a living testimony to Timothy. It is the *discipleship course of living* what you preach. Actions speak louder than words.

HEART SEARCHING: Lord, help me that my manner of life is one that has a definite demarcation between where I was years ago and where I’m at now. May there be a constant growth in my life that there is a difference even after my salvation before and where I’m at now. May my life be a living testimony that I may say “But thou hast fully known my doctrine, **manner of life...**”

Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Cor. 5:17).

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

70. You can make a difference among your peers. (1Timothy 4:12)

Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Timothy's example in word, conversation, in charity, etc., would be his save guard so that no man could despise his youth. It is difficult for a young man in his twenties to command the respect of an older congregation, but he could earn it by a right attitude and his conduct so that when he spake as a minister ought to, they couldn't hold anything against him.

Young men are sometimes honored by God with great gifts, for usefulness both in the local church and state, as Samuel, David, Solomon, Daniel, and his companions: nor should they be despised on account of their age, when they have gifts suitable to their office, and behave well in it, but, on the contrary, ought to be esteemed for their works' sake; and such should take care that no man has an opportunity or reason to treat them with contempt on that account.

ILLUSTRATION: Charles Haddon Spurgeon was saved at the age of 16 and began preaching at the same age. Four years later Spurgeon, then only 20, was called to the pastorate of London's famed New Park Street Chapel, Southwark. This was the largest Baptist congregation in London at the time. Spurgeon's life was an example to all. His youth was not despised but rather something to be admired.

HEART SEARCHING: Lord, help me that no matter what others may say, no matter how young I may be, help me that I can so live before you that people will know that the best sermon I'll ever preach (or any true believer for that manner) will be the one that starts from the moment I rise from my bed 'till the time I retire back to the same place.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

71. Any age of youth is never too early. (2 Timothy 3:15)
And that **from a child** thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

This is one of the exceptions concerning our study that basically has to do with the words “young man” and “youth.” But we couldn’t resist the verse since it has to do with this young preacher boy that had the privilege of preaching and teaching the word of God with the apostle Paul, the great traveling missionary-evangelist, trainer and church planter. What a blessing and honour! It just couldn’t have happened over night. This was something that Paul may have had an idea to do when he first came through Timothy’s town. Having led Timothy to the Lord, the apostle Paul may have had mind before his second missionary trip to take Timothy with him. He had a vision of training yet further one of his converts. Paul knew that Timothy had good training from his mother and grandmother. He recognized the fact and fruit that Timothy was saved. Now it was just a matter of time which would include further training and preparation. That is what youth need today – good training and preparation with a vision in mind and heart.

1. One of the basic principles for training *new converts* and *youth* is to spend valuable time WITH THEM. That requires sacrifice of both trainer and student.

i. There is too much lost between the pulpit and the congregation. That is where churches are losing youth. You, young man must make yourself available for your teacher, mentor.

ii. You need personal training. That is what Timothy got.

1. Be teachable. That is your theory or “*theology*.”

2. Do your **homework** whether that be lessons, (a Bible course, or a catechism (from Bible believers) etc.

i. You need structure which would imply a plan, direction and a GOAL – something to shoot for.

ii. Catch the VISION (Prov. 29:18)

iii. You need THE PROPER MOTIVE for which to shoot for that plan (Jn. 15:8)

3. Read, search the scriptures, study, pray, memorize scripture (which is part of practice) to help you realize that vision.

4. Witness. That should also be part of your practice, to BECOME A PARTAKER OF THAT VISION – to become more like Jesus Christ.

i. You are to pray for lost souls, lead whatever soul you lead to the Lord and then eventually train him (Matt. 28:19, 20; 2 Tim. 2:2; Eph. 4:11).

5. You may reward them for their progress.

THAT IS YOUR OBJECTIVE!

- Theory without practice is an *UNPRODUCTIVE LIFE*. There must be a balance.
- At the point of salvation, there should be a PERSONAL TESTIMONY.
- At the point of theory, there should also be an OUTWARD WITNESS – PRACTICE.
- A testimony is to keep the balance and proper outward relationship TOWARD PEOPLE.

Proverbs 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left *to himself* bringeth his mother to shame.

If you are left to yourself and not faithful to a Bible-believing church you will live shamefully.

1 Cor. 4:16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye **followers of me**.

1 Cor. 11:1 Be ye **followers of me**, even as I also *am* of Christ.

Personal Observations:

a. What truth do I find here? _____

b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____

c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____

d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____

e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

72. Young men ought to be serious about eternal matters. (Titus 2:6)

Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.

Sober minded means seriousness, having the right attitude toward the things of the Bible and the real issues of life (Prov. 4:23). There are a number of things the young man can be distracted with – “Fads,” the News Media, Facebook, texting, computer games, comedy shows, parties, soap operas, concerts, etc.

APPLICATION: The sober-minded young man will have his mind on God, Heaven, Eternity, the Bible, Jesus Christ, the will of God for his life, Hell, controlling the flesh, fleeing youthful lusts, finding a Christian wife, providing for his family, winning souls to Christ, and keeping in good shape to serve God.

Like others, they may soon die; and they should be habitually in such a frame of mind, as to be prepared to stand before God. A young man who feels that he may be soon in the eternal world, cannot but be sensible of the state of having a serious mind, and of living and acting as in the immediate presence of his Maker and Judge.

HEART SEARCHING: Lord, help me to understand the real issues of “life.” May I have the same spirit and attitude as mentioned in the Bible. Help me to lay hold of eternity and practice the presence of God, acknowledging Him in everything and everywhere.

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I've been wrong? _____
- _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____
- _____
- d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____
- _____
- e. What example is here for me to follow? _____
- _____
- f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____
- _____

Practical application: _____

73. Young overcomers. (1 John 2:13, 14)

I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning. I write unto you, **young men**, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.

I have written unto you, fathers, because ye have known him *that is* from the beginning. I have written unto you, **young men**, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.

Youth are often associated with fierce moral struggles, and are also characterized by their spiritual vigor and conquest. They've been given strength, MORAL strength to overcome any sins, bad habits, etc.

John says in 1 John 2:14 "...because ye are strong..." could only mean spiritual strength here having to do with spiritual wisdom and knowledge, "**A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.**" (Prov. 24:5). It is possible for youth to be strong in God's grace for 2 Timothy 2:1 reads, "**Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.**"

Twice they are said to have "**overcome the wicked one.**" Of course the context can be applied to those in the Great Tribulation because the wicked one is the Antichrist according to 2 Thessalonians 2:8. Nonetheless, the commendation can be applied today in the sense that youth can have and should let the word of God abide in them, and richly at that. Colossians 3:16 reads "**Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.**"

That is the only way a young man / or woman can overcome, by the living words of the Living God.

And lastly John writes “**ye have overcome...**” The only way youth can overcome the world, the flesh and the devil is by allowing the eternal words of God to abide in him. That will require three basic things –

1. Daily Bible reading,
2. Constant memorization and meditation upon the words of God,
3. By keeping a good prayer life, which means daily and throughout the day, each day until your last breath.

Of course a good church where the Bible is preached as it is in truth the word of God also is a “fundamental of the faith” and sound fellowship with wise men will strengthen your faith also. Do not neglect any of these things. As a result you’ll be a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ in this wicked world. The words of God will effectually work in your heart if you believe them; all of them (1 Thess. 2:13). That is absolutely necessary for “YOU”th today to have the spiritual strength to resist “**the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**” which is mentioned right in the context (1 Jn. 2:13-15),

Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Lust, ambition, pride and jealousy are the main ‘killers’ that get “YOU”th off track. Let not that be your case. Stay on tract dear friend. Stay with the Lord. May the will of God be your desire (Eph. 5:17; Col. 4:12), seeking His face, and seeing it more and more in the Blessed Book, anticipating to be “**caught up**” (1 Thess.4:17). Listen to what Paul said to those in Corinth –

For God, who commanded **the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to *give* the light** of the knowledge of the glory of God **in the face of Jesus Christ.** (2 Cor. 4:6).

Let the words of God lead, guide and direct you –
Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. (Psalm 119:105)

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. (John 15:7)

Personal Observations:

- a. What truth do I find here? _____
- b. What reproof have I received to show me where I’ve been wrong? _____
- c. How have I been corrected to get me back on track? _____

d. How has the Lord instructed me here? _____

e. What example is here for me to follow? _____

f. In what way can I practice this verse? _____

Practical application: _____

Here are some closing practical admonitions for you young man and young woman –

1. Practice daily at every opportunity at every moment to learn how to die (1 Cor. 15:31) to sin (Rom. 6:11), to self (1 Pet. 2:24) and to Satan (Rev. 2:10), to the world (Gal. 6:14), and to the flesh (Rom. 8:13). Then you will know what it is to really LIVE.

2. Learn to yield to God your spirit (Psa. 51:10, 11), your soul (Col. 3:1-3), and your body (Rom. 6:11, 13; 12:1, 2; Dan. 3:28). Then you will know what it is to have Biblical liberty...

3. ...That God would lead (Psa. 5:8), guide (Psa. 31:3) and direct (Prov. 3:6) you. Then you will have sound direction.

4. Depend upon God's words (Psa. 119:42), God's will (Luke 22:42), God's ways (Deut. 8:6; Isa. 55:8, 9) and God's wisdom (Prov. 4:7). That is the best insurance program that there is.

5. Seek His Person (I Chron. 16:11), His Presence (Psa. 139) and His Power (Psa. 62:11). Then you will fear man less and fear God more.

6. Apply your heart to God's knowledge (Prov. 22:17), God's wisdom (Psa. 90:12), God's understanding (Prov. 2:2) and God's instruction (Prov. 23:12). Then you will have the best 'education.'

7. Love the Lord thy God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind (Luke 10:27). Then it will make less difference to you what man thinks of you and mean more to you what God thinks of you.

8. Commit your cause unto God (Job 5:8), your way unto the Lord (Psa. 37:5), and your works unto the Lord (Prov. 16:3) and He will establish you.

9. Ask the Lord to help you to stand (Eph.6:11, 13, 14, stand strong, courage), stick (Psa. 63:8, "stick-to-it-iveness") and stay (2 Sam. 22:19, stay with it; don't quit) and He will do it. Then you will know what it is not to compromise.

10. Lay every care and concern at the feet of the *All-knowing* (Psa. 147:5), *Ever-Present* (Psa. 46:1; Jer. 23:24), and *All-Powerful* (Job 26:14) God, and He will comfort you.

11. See to it that your motives would be pure *in word* (Prov. 15:26), *in deed* (I Cor. 3:11-15) and *in thought* (Psa. 139:23) and things will come out at the Judgment seat of Christ with less works burned up.

12. To the end that God would get *ALL THE PRAISE* (Psa. 34:1), *ALL THE GLORY* (Rev. 4:11) and *ALL THE HONOR* (Psa. 71:8).

Walk with **Wisdom**,
Jog with **Jesus**,
Run with the **Redeemer**,
Let Him set the pace,
Soon you will see your **Saviour**,
Face to face.

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