Scriptural Advice to Young People

I Tim. 4:12; Eccl. 11: 9 - 10; 12:1; Lam. 3:27; II Tim. 2:22
Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION
1. We all need good advice -- young and old alike.
2. It is the duty of the older to advise and teach the younger -- Tit. 2: 3 - 4; Prov. 4:1
3. Youth is a time of rejoicing; a time when the heart is not burdened with cares.
4. Every day is delightful, for every day there is something fresh to be tried.
5. The life of living seems inexhaustible.
6. Life in youth, as well as in old age, that is without purpose is an empty and wasted life.
7. Any life without God is without purpose -- Acts 17: 26 - 27
8. The time to remember God is in youth.

I. WHAT IS IT TO REMEMBER GOD?
1. To remember God is to WALK with God -- Gen. 5:24; I John 1:7
2. To walk with God is to DO HIS WILL in all things -- Matt. 7:21
3. To remember God is to HAVE THE THOUGHT OF GOD AND HIS WAYS constantly before us -- Psa. 1: 1 - 2; 119:9
   (1) Parents constantly teach their children -- Eph. 6:4; Deut. 6:6 -9
   1. In worship encourage their children to:
      (1) Listen
      (2) Sing
      (3) Bow during prayer

II. WHY SHOULD WE REMEMBER GOD?
1. He who made us has a right to us -- Eccl. 12:1; I Cor. 6:20
2. We should remember God in the days of youth because they are:
   (1) Happy days -- trials and burdens have not yet begun.
   (2) They are vigorous days.
   (3) They are days we can do much in the service of God.

III. ALWAYS AVOID BAD COMPANY
1. You cannot "run with the goats" without smelling like them.
2. If you run with people who have bad habits and do evil things, you will become evil -- Prov. 1:10 -16; Prov. 4: 14 - 18; I Cor. 15:33
3. If you run with a crowd that drinks, and does drugs and fornication (Prov. 7: 6 - 23), you will too.

IV. FLEE YOUTHFUL LUSTS -- II Tim. 2:22
1. In youth the passions of the body are keen; your knowledge of Mother Nature is lacking.
2. Learn to control your thinking -- I Cor. 9: 27; Lk. 9: 23
   (1) Out of the heart are the issues of life -- Prov. 4:23
   (2) Jesus -- Mark 7: 20 - 23; Matt. 5:28; Matt. 15: 19 - 20
3. Ways to control your thinking:
   (1) Do not read TRASH.
   1. True story; True Confession; Playboy, etc.
   (2) Do not Dance -- Gal. 5:19
   (3) Do not attend Trashy movies, or rent trashy movies.
   (4) Do not listen to vulgar jokes and stories -- Eph. 5: 4; 4:29
   (5) Do not let your mind dwell on evil thoughts -- Matt. 5: 28 - 30
   (6) Paul tells us how to think -- Phil. 4:8
4. Shun places and people that will lead you to be tempted -- I Cor. 6:18
   1. Sexually active teenagers are not learning discipline needed for a lifelong marriage.
      (1) This leads to divorce.
   2. You have no business in a road house or dance hall.
   3. Young men, keep yourselves from evil women.
      (1) Listen to the writer of Proverbs -- Prov. 6: 24 - 27; 7: 6 - 23
      (2) Virgins have 60% lower divorce rate.
   4. Young ladies, do not allow a young man to park his care with you on "lovers lane" and then "pet" with you.
   5. Young ladies, do not let young men put their hands on your body.
   6. When riding in a care, sit on your side.

V. "BE THOU AN EXAMPLE"-- I Tim. 4: 12; Tit. 2: 4 - 8
   1. The failure to be an example will result in men despising you and the gospel.
   2. Be an example IN WORD -- in speech, in your manner of conversation -- Matt. 12: 34 - 37; Eph. 4:29; Col. 4:6
   3. Be an example in MANNER OF LIFE -- Matt. 5:16; I Tim. 5:2
   4. Be an example in LOVE -- I John 5:3; John 13: 34 - 35; Heb. 13:1
   5. Be an example in SPIRIT -- In the government of your passions and in a mild, meek, forgiving disposition -- Eph. 4: 31 - 32
   6. Be an example in FAITH -- Rom. 4: 20; II Cor. 5:7
   7. Be an example in PURITY -- I Tim. 2: 9 - 10; I Thess. 4:7

VI. OBEY YOUR PARENTS -- Eph. 6: 1 - 3
   1. Notice the sins that "disobedience to parents" is listed with -- II Tim. 3:1 - 5
   2. Your parents know what is best for you; they are not as ignorant as you may think.
   3. Do not talk back to your parents -- this is REBELLION -- I Sam. 15:23

VII. SHOW RESPECT TO OLDER PEOPLE
   1. I Tim. 5: 1 - 2; I Pet. 5:5
   2. This is being lost among young people.

VIII. LEARN TO GET ALONG WITH PEOPLE -- Rom. 12: 18
   1. Learn to give and take -- this is part of life.
   2. Don't carry your feelings out on your "shoulders".
IX. ALWAYS BE HUMBLE AND KIND
   1. Prov. 15:33 -- "Before honor is humility"
   2. The Lord hates "a proud look" -- Prov. 6:17
   3. Be Kind -- Eph. 4:32

CONCLUSION
1. The young need to cleanse their way -- Psa. 119:9

Preached at Hebron Lane 1993