



# Youth For Christ !

## Remember Now Thy Creator!

*"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. Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth..."* (Ecclesiastes 11:9,10; 12:1).

Youth is an interesting period of life with many opportunities that should be made good use of, as this may well be the only opportunity to lay a firm foundation for life. Misusing such opportunities could result in lasting damage for the rest of life.

Yes, God really wants all youths to enjoy life, be happy and pursue their desires and fantasies, but at the same time He (God) does not want them to be engaged in such enjoy-



To every thing there is a season and a time (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

ments that could ruin their lives and damn their souls in hell fire. Youths generally think

that joy can be obtained from much pleasure. However, God's word emphatically states that *"He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man; he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich"* (Proverbs 21:17). "But how?" may be your question. Well, the answer is plain—a pleasure driven youth who frequents pubs, night clubs and brothels, and probably gets entangled with the drug culture will squander all his/her income without earning the desired satisfaction. The pursuit of this seemingly mirage of insatiable pleasure will end up ruining his / her life, if s/he manages to evade prison.

A pleasure driven life incites fleshly passions that seeks avenues for physical expression. Unfortunately premature gratification of fleshly desires does not remove, but rather intensifies the crave for more, which ultimately results in 'addiction' to immorality, drugs, alcohol, etc. God was right when He stated *"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise"* (Proverbs 20:1).

Messing up with boys and girls does not restore happiness nor joy; rather they bring disastrous consequences such as sexually transmitted disease, premature death, abortion, insanity, infertility (in later life), shame and responsibilities that one is not ready to shoulder, etc. The story of Amnon (2 Samuel 13:1-19) who tricked his half sister into incest should

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### Ingredients of a Spiritually Healthy Youth:

- Love and fear (reverence) God above every other person
- Obey God at all cost
- Respect your parents and assist them in the Lord.
- Tell the truth at all times, irrespective of the consequences.
- Diligence in study, completing all assignments on time.
- Reads the Bible and prays every day
- Meditates on the Word of God
- Attends church services regularly.
- Active in the service of God
- Makes his / her friends know that s/he is a Christian.
- Sets a good example at home, school and church and influences others positively for God.
- Avoids bad company.
- Does not get involved in boyfriend / girlfriend relationships.
- Is aware of the dangers of internet chatrooms and does not exchange personal details / emails with an unknown person on the internet.
- Lives a balanced life of play, study, work, etc.
- Speaks only sound words that edify others.

## Remember Now Thy Creator (Continued)

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settle it once and for all that immorality does not bring joy and happiness.



Abstain from all appearances of evil (I Thessalonians 5:22)

You may wonder "what is wrong with fornication? Why is it associated with heart-rending pains?"

Well, God had purposes for creating man and woman one of which is procreation but this is to be carried out legitimately through the institution of marriage so that

both parents can cater for their offspring.

This is why pre-marital sex is wrong. God states in His word *"Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. What? Know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? For two, saith He, shall be one flesh. But that which is joined unto the Lord is one Spirit. Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's"* (I Corinthians 6:15-20).

Therefore anyone who indulges in fornication commits a great sin against God, and incurs the penalty of death, if there is no repentance (Romans 6:23).

This is not just referring to physical death but eternal separation from God following divine judgment. Hebrews 9:27 makes it plain that *"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment"*. God has fixed a day in which he will raise the dead and judge them on the basis of their lives on earth. Think

The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it (Proverbs 30:17)

about your lives; what will you tell God on that day? And how pleased will you be in the presence of God to see your whole life on earth replayed (as it were a video)? Revelations 21:8 declares *"But the fearful and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."*

Many people do not believe that this will happen, but man's unbelief can not change the eternal purpose and plan of God (Romans 3:3). As far as God has spoken, it must surely come to pass because God assures us that *"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it"* (Isaiah 55:11).

Does this then mean that God delights in destruction or that He merely created mankind just to destroy them? No! Never, for God plainly declares *"Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? Saith the Lord: and not that he should return from his ways and live?... For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn from yourselves and live ye"* (Ezekiel 18:23,32).

It may even seem that God is too slow to destroy the wicked, and some may feel that because of this things will continue forever as they are. The Bible explains what is really happening *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance"* (2 Peter 3:9). This is the wholesome will of God, and anybody that flouts it can only expect to face terrible consequences.



Remove sorrow from thy heart... for childhood and youth are vanity (Ecclesiastes 11:10).

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## Remember Now Thy Creator (Continued)

Since God's will is that nobody should perish, he has given His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to come and die for our sins and iniquities so that whosoever believes in Him may not perish but have everlasting life. Also the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sins (John 3:16; I John 1:7).

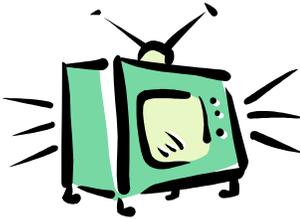
Salvation is God's free gift to all. A gift is not a gift if it is not accepted. If you do not accept this salvation you shall surely perish (John 3:36). You do not have to perish, but the choice is entirely yours. If you accept it, then you must "...put ye on the Lord

**Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof"** (Romans 13:14).

If you have already been living in sin without knowing; God has offered an opportunity now for you to repent **"but if ye will not do so, behold ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out"** (Numbers 32:23). **"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent; because He hath appointed a day in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead"** (Acts 17:30,31). You are included in the 'everyone' and this place plus all other places you may ever be is included in the 'everywhere' of that scripture. You have no excuse / hiding place not to respond positively to this scriptural demand.

If you accept this forgiveness on God's terms then know for a certainty that you have been set free from all sins that you have ever committed (I John 1:9). However, note that if you go back to sin willingly and deliberately after you have known the truth you stand the chance of forfeiting your forgiveness. **"For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries"** (Hebrews 10:26,27; 6:4-6).

This is a call to steadfastness. **"For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for**



My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not (Proverbs 10:1)

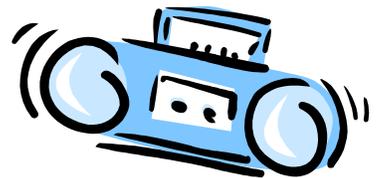
**an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another... Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.... This I say then, walk in the spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would..."** (Galatians 5:13,16,17)

If you have seen yourself as in need of God's mercy will you ask God now (in the prayer of the psalmist) and mean it **"Search me O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me"** (Psalms 139:23;24; 51:10).

If you want to stay free from sin then stay away from the things that lead to them such as conversations that always dwell on the opposite sex, reading materials or pictures that have only one aim—to excite sexual passions. Keep your mind, your eyes and your tongues occupied with clean positive things, working towards worthwhile goals that bring enduring benefits and that leave no shame or heartache.

Above all strengthen your knowledge and appreciation of your creator and of the rightness and wisdom of his ways. Look to Him in prayer and fix your heart on the things he promises to those who serve him. You can firmly hold to the course of righteousness if you really want to, for God and His Son Jesus Christ will give you the strength you need to do it. Read your Bible everyday and fellowship regularly with other heavenly minded believers.

Children obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise); that it may be well with thee,... (Ephesians 6:1-3)

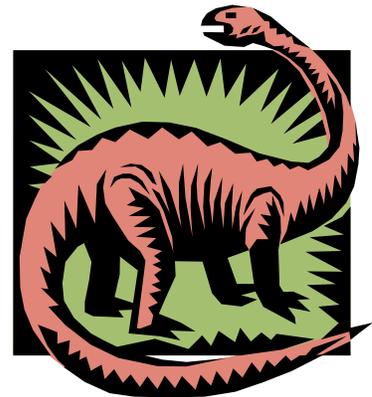


**But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves** (James 1:22)

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## Reflections

1. Who should you remember? *(Your Creator)*
2. Who is your creator *(Jehovah God)*
3. Why should you remember Him? *(To make the best of your life)*
4. When should you remember Him? *(Now)*
5. Why Now? *(Because tomorrow may be too late. Besides you may lose golden opportunities or ruin your life).*
6. How should you remember Him? *(Agreeing with his words, repenting of your sins, forsaking those sins, receiving Jesus into your life as Lord and saviour, living in daily obedience to*
7. What happens if I do not remember Him? *(You may likely ruin your life or fail to fulfill your God given potentials. Ultimately God will condemn you to eternity in hell fire because there will be no record of yours in the book of life).*
8. What benefits do I get by remembering my creator now? *(A meaningful and purposeful life, divine presence and assistance. Guidance, grace and refreshing. Ultimately, an eternal*
9. Okay, I will remember Him now, what next? *(Invest your time, talents, treasures and life in helping others to do likewise).*
10. How long should I do this? *(For ever).*



Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established (proverbs 4:26)