



TO
HEAVEN - BOUND
YOUTH

"To Heaven-Bound Youth"

GREETINGS YOUNG PEOPLE:

Don't think you are an unusual specimen of youth if you desire to enjoy life. It is perfectly natural for teen-agers to want to enjoy life and I guess about everyone else for that matter.

I believe that life can be wonderfully enjoyable—perhaps even more so than you have ever imagined, and I am writing this little booklet especially for you, hoping that I may be able to impart to you some bits of truth that will help you to live a well rounded, enjoyable, and worthwhile life.

Life itself is wonderful. God graciously bestows upon us daily twenty-four golden hours, each filled with sixty sparkling minutes. Nothing else compares with life. All other gifts are utterly useless without the gift of life. Wealth, pleasure, acquaintances and all such are of absolutely no value without life to make them useful.

But in order to make life to be most enjoyable, it must be rightly lived. Many people that have the gift of life within them, do not truly enjoy living. They may even be miserable within themselves—and perhaps a great deal of their misery is simply because they have not yet learned how to live. I suppose the people who are truly most happy in life are the ones who have dedicated themselves to usefulness. Those who have no goal in life, no motive to inspire them to live, must indeed be discontented, and thus they waste away precious years without heartfelt goals, accomplishments, or joys. And I want to imprint upon your mind that our very lives must be accounted for someday. The older we get, the more we realize indeed how important that is.

FAITH IN GOD—

. . . is the greatest asset I know of for an enjoyable life. I have known people in many unfortunate circumstances of life that still could enjoy living, simply because of their faith in God. You see, a person who truly believes in God and is seeking to do His will is not just living for this present life, for they have hope of a life beyond the grave, where they will be eternally happy in the presence of their Creator. Thus a believer in God learns not to be dismayed with disappointments, failures, sorrows, and losses that are so grievous for those that know not God. To one who follows the Lord, there is the blessed confidence that all things work together for good to them who love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. (Rom. 8:28.) And with this assurance they are more able to face the problems of life. Even though many times, situations may not be according to their hearts' desire, they trust in God, knowing that He knows what is best for them.

So my first recommendation for a truly happy life is unfeigned faith, confidence and trust in God. Study your Bible; learn all about the Lord that you can. Trust in Him and do His will in all things as nearly as is humanly possible, and there will be a God-given peace to come over your life that you never knew before.

GOD IS NOT JUST A "KILL-JOY"—

I find that so many young people have the wrong conception of God. They seemingly picture Him as an Almighty Creator who is just mean and cruel and doesn't understand young people, and just doesn't want them to have any fun or to enjoy life. Listen to me, friends, there is absolutely nothing any farther from the truth. If you have thought of God as a "kill-joy" for all happiness, you truly do not know the God that is taught in the Holy Bible. He is not a person up in Heaven that desires to throw a "wet blanket" on all joys of youth. Quite the opposite. God loves you with a love greater than the human mind can comprehend, and He wants you to enjoy life and be happy. I repeat again, God loves you and wants you to be happy. He has a greater concern for your happiness than anyone else in the world. Yes, I truly believe that He is more concerned about your happiness than you are yourself. You actually mean that much to the God that made you. You see, He is concerned in such a broad scope of your happiness, not only here in this present life, but He desires that you be happy eternally. And with this in mind, it helps us to better

understand as to why God forbids us doing some things that our hearts might presently desire. He knows that there are some things that, even though they may be enjoyable right at the time, they eventually lead to sorrow and grief. God warns us against sin just on that very basis. He knows that sin always eventually brings sorrow. He knows that the wages of sin is death. (Rom. 6:23.) Thus the way of life that is taught in the Bible is the only way of life for enduring happiness. Seek that way if you would seek happiness.

DO NOT FOLLOW THE MULTITUDES—

. . . that are round about you. Remember that the majority of people are not on the road of true happiness and abundant living. They may seem to be happy outwardly, but the multitudes of people do not actually know the depth of true happiness and contentment. Their lives are filled with grief and sorrow, shame and remorse. They only enjoy such short seasoned pleasures and have no enduring peace and true happiness. The happiest people on earth are the ones that are bound for Heaven. Regardless of their lot in life, regardless of their circumstances they can be happy—not necessarily because of the things round about them, but in spite of them, for they in faith, serve God and find joy in so doing. Even if they needs must sacrifice for their Master, they count it all joy that they can have opportunity to do something to glorify the One who did so much for them. That is a joy that the multitudes of people, those that know not God, just can not understand.

Therefore, if you would be truly happy in life, learn now that you must be in a minority group. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, while here on earth in His flesh and blood form, taught, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matt. 7:13 - 14.) To walk with God in that better and happier way of life is to walk separate and apart from the world. The Apostle Paul taught that we can not go out of the world but still at the same time we are to keep ourselves from being of the world. In other words, we ought not to pattern our lives after the lives of unbelievers and unsaved folks round about us. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world: looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour

Jesus Christ: who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." (Titus 2:11 - 14.)

People who serve God and find true happiness must live above the things of this life and set their affection on things above. (Col. 3:2.) When one learns to do this, the things that this life has to offer seem only fickle and frivolous. And so the greatest recommendation that I can give to you is simply that you strive to live the Christian life that is outlined in the Word of God. Then, and then only, will you know true happiness.

SET AN EXAMPLE—

. . . for those about you, rather than following after them. Be a leader of men and not just a follower. Don't just be pressed along by the throng. Don't drift with every tidal movement. Stand out for what is right. Base your convictions on the Bible and then stand for them. Be not easily swayed. Even if it is one of those things that "everybody else is doing," that still does not mean that you should. I would remind you of a statement by the Lord in Luke 16:15, "That which is highly esteemed among men, is an abomination in the sight of the Lord." And so those things which are best for us are not always the things that are most popular; in fact indeed, they usually are quite the contrary. The better way of life is quite in contrast with the ways of the world, and the sooner in life that you learn that you must be different from those round about you, the sooner you will get started on the happiest way of life. God's people must be different, sanctified, set apart. Now don't be different just for the sake of being different, but if you can set a godly example when all about you are tempting you and yelling "chicken," you will then learn the joy of victory in Jesus. To merely follow the multitudes portrays weakness, while standing forth for your convictions develops confidence and character. Believe in what you stand for, and stand for that which you believe. Base your convictions on solid authority (religiously, nothing more nor less than the Word of God) and then stand forth for your convictions.

And so in the following comments I shall not endeavor to instruct you in the way that might help you to be most popular, but instead in the road of life that is most useful and most helpful.

RESPECT YOUR PARENTS—

I have a number of acquaintances whose parents are not living. If yours are, then thank God for it and respect them, for there is a day coming when you will not have them with you. They are not perfect, for they are but human beings, and have their shortcomings, but they are your parents and duty demands that you respect them as such. They are concerned about you and endeavor to direct you in the ways that they truly feel best for you. If your parents are in the Lord, you have special reason to thank God for them, for they can be so much assistance to you in the spiritual side of life. But whether they be in Christ or out of Christ you still have the God-given responsibility of obeying them. (Col. 3:20.) (Of course there is the understanding that if so be that the commands of parents are contrary to the commands of the Lord, we ought to obey God rather than men.) Normally there is absolutely no justifiable reason for disobedience to your parents, other than that which we have just mentioned. Even if your judgment or your desires may differ from theirs, you are to submit to them. They are your parents.

Many parents have fallen short of their responsibilities to enforce their authority and to demand their children's obedience, and thus it seems that it is an uncommon thing anymore to find young people who wholeheartedly submit to their parents in all things. But simply because it is unpopular in no wise releases the responsibility God has given you. To disobey your parents is but to disobey your God. Don't forget that.

Oh, I grant you that you will be accused of being tied to your mother's apron strings and all such as that, but such statements as that give you open opportunity to tell your accusers why you love your parents so much and why you want to obey them. Your words of respect for your parents can put to shame the disrespect of those about you.

The very terms which you use in reference to your parents portray your general attitude toward them. How shameful is the language of so many of our young people today when they speak of "the old man" or "the old lady." Such terms are not becoming to those that profess to love God and to love their parents. Remember to always speak respectfully when speaking to or about your parents.

Believe me, you will come to realize better the debt of gratitude that you rightfully owe your mother and father after you have children of your own.

LOVE YOUR FAMILY—

If you have brothers or sisters in your home be thankful for it. Truly they help to prepare you for future life. Learning to abide peaceable and lovingly with them is sound fundamental training in public relations. It ought to be the most natural thing in the world for you to love your brothers and your sisters, and any one else in your home. You can share your burdens and your cares with them, and don't forget to share your joys with them too.

If you feel that you are not as close in heart with your brothers or sisters as you ought to be, then first examine yourself. Are you always just as kind and considerate of them as you ought to be? Do you let them know by your words and your actions that you truly love them and want to be loved by them? I never could figure out why it is seemingly so difficult for some folks to tell, even those in their own family, that they love them. Maybe it is because they have been so mean to their family in the past that now they are just too ashamed of themselves to go to a brother or sister and tell them how much they really mean to them. If you have a brother or sister, and have not recently done so, go to them and slip an arm around them and tell them how much you really love them. Apologize for not having shown more love to them in the past and assure them that you will from now on.

And if there is any one place that is especially important for showing courtesy and good manners, it is at home. It is beyond me how some girls can be so nicey-nice to almost perfect strangers on the outside, and so downright nasty and mean to a sister, a brother, or parents. Or how some boys just can't get done doing favors for some pal or chum, and how they can be a genuine gentleman out in public and then almost wipe their feet on members of their own family. It just doesn't make sense. Practice courtesy at home. Be kind. Never say anything that you would not want to be the last statement you ever made to a brother or sister, because you know it might be. Try to learn to control your temper, and always speak in love. It pays such wonderful dividends.

Well, I imagine that if you will be honest with yourself, you will already admit that you could improve in some of these things we have mentioned, but let us go on. I have other suggestions for you too; and if you are in the Lord, I know you will want to pray about them and then do your best to improve yourself, and to make your life more worth living.

CHOOSE YOUR COMPANIONS—

. . . and do it with much care. The company you keep definitely in time influence your thinking and your actions.

Now it's fine to have friends, but have the right kind. Oh, you can be kind to everybody, and manifest deeds of love and friendship toward them. That in itself is the God-given formula for obtaining friends—merely showing oneself friendly. (Prov. 18:24.) And it is good to do good to all men, especially those of the household of faith. (Gal. 6:10.) But in general, if you are living a Christian life, I mean truly dedicated to Christ, it can hardly be expected that you will have those of the world as bosom friends. You see, as you live for Christ your life becomes a constant reproof to worldly people concerning the sinfulness of their lives. Day by day your words and your deeds remind them about their unrighteousness and their need for a Savior. And since, by nature, folks do not like to be reminded of these things, they will not choose to be too intimate with you. Yet if you are going to be a real friend to them, you must humbly endeavor to lead them to Christ.

Make no peace treaties with sin or with servants of sin. Never compromise with evil. Don't agree to go to some worldly amusement with the understanding that then in return your friend will accompany you to church services. That is one of the greatest mistakes you could make if you are truly anxious to save that friend. Immediately he could see that you yourself were not too much opposed to sin. Keep your standards high and live by them!

Avoid keeping company with those that serve to tempt you to sin. It would seem rather impractical for us to ask our Father, "Lead me not into temptation," and then us willingly walk into it. Never join hands with some group, club, or gang that will in any way detract your time or effort from the things of the Lord.

I can not over-emphasize the importance of taking care in choosing those with whom you associate. Just remember that they too often deceive you, "Be not deceived; Bad company ruins good morals." (I Cor. 15:33 RSV.)

Be careful that you do not expect too much out of your friends, and take care that you do not place too much confidence in them. Remember that they too are only human and are apt to make mistakes. Everyone does. Have due confidence in them as they deserve, but remember there

is only one friend that we can trust in all things with a blessed confidence that He will never leave us or forsake us. The Bible says for us not to put our confidence in men, but to put our trust in the Lord.

Naturally, if you are in the Lord, your closest friends will be Christians. You have more common interests with them and your association with them can be most enjoyable. Try to get acquainted with other young Christians, of both sexes. If in your local congregation of the church there are few or perhaps no other young people, don't just turn to the world for your dearest acquaintances. Exert yourself to get to know other young people in the Lord in other congregations. Write to them and when possible visit them or have them to visit you. Your most faithful earthly friends will be those in the Lord. And of course, your greatest friend of all and one that can be closer to you than all others is your Lord if you will just let Him.

LOVE EVERYBODY!—

If you devote your life to the Lord you will have enemies, but love them anyway. Regardless of how they may treat you or things they may say against you, don't be bitter against them. Feel sorry for them. They have not yet learned just how miserably wretched they really are. Love them. Pray for them. Always return good for evil. (Matt. 5:44.)

Now I grant you that this is not the natural way of life, but it is the way that leads to true happiness. There is a spiritual contentment in giving rather than receiving. (Acts 20:35.)

BE HUMBLE—

Just this one more item of character I must mention before I pass on. And then we shall discuss some of the particular problems that young people question me about most frequently. Remember to always be humble.

It is a natural masculine trait to desire domination, but this attitude of "the big I and the little you," just isn't becoming to godliness. Don't be a "bully" or a "know-it-all." Be humble. Be considerate of others. Forget about "self" and think of "service." Paul said, "in honour preferring one another." (Rom. 12:10.) Jesus said, "whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister; and whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all." (Mark 10:43 - 44.) Live to serve, not to be served. Be willing to serve humbly, quietly, many times even unthanked and unappreciated by those around you, and it will give you a new joy in life you never knew before.

And you girls, . . . humility is a must for your most attractive personality. Perhaps few other things are as degrading to the character of a girl as being a "loud-mouth" and of boisterous disposition. Be quietly humble and lady-like. We'll love you more for it.

HOW SHOULD WE DRESS?—

This is one of the questions that I am most frequently asked by young people. Let me say that if you are truly concerned about how the Lord wills that you should dress, then you probably will dress very modestly and very decently. If on the other hand, you are not sincerely anxious about the subject, but are more concerned about popularity and attention from those about you, then you very likely will pay little or no heed to what I have to say anyway. But I do plead with you to be concerned about your dress. It is an important matter. The clothes you wear, at least in part, manifest your inward character.

Let's be clean. Cleanliness and Godliness go hand in hand. (II Cor. 7:1.) Now I know that a person gets dirty doing many types of work, but there is absolutely no excuse for remaining that way. Clean up. And don't be a slouch. Don't be slothful in your dress. Fancy clothes are not at all necessary, but keep yourself neat and clean. In fact, instead of things being fancy, Christians are most becoming in clothes more plain and simple. We are not to dress to draw undue attention, nor should we dress in such manner that anyone about us would feel inferior to us because they can not perhaps afford equal garments. It is my conviction that here in America we have gone to extremes of dress. It is a shameful thing when children of God adorn themselves with such expensive clothing that poorer folks will feel ashamed to gather with them in assemblies of the church, simply because they do not have such clothes and thus feel inferior and out of place. Be considerate of others in the choosing of your clothes. Clothes need not be expensive to be neat and becoming. Money can be used better in other ways.

Perhaps one of the greatest problems in apparel is this thing of daring immodesty. Improper covering of the body has become so widely socially acceptable that many young Christians have seemingly mistaken social acceptance for spiritual acceptance. The fact is, that here is a way that we can exemplify Christ to the world by showing that we have a distinct taste for the choice of clothing.

Especially to you girls, I would give a word of caution. I realize that your problems of dress are considerably more difficult than those of boys. Almost irresistible pressure is brought to bear upon the girls of today to conform to the modern modes of apparel, but I beseech you in Christian love, to dress as becomes godliness. Do not dress for sexual attraction. I would almost wish that I might sit down and talk with each one of you individually about many of these matters, as I do with many of my young friends, but since it is impossible for me to do so, please consider these things I write unto you seriously and in the same spirit of Christian love that I write them. Girls, there are certain natural traits in men that I would like to tell you about. In general the male is more sexually inclined than the female and the mind of man is easily turned to the things of sex by mere appearance of a girl who is so arrayed as to draw attention to her figure or her sex. To men who have no fear of God, immediately their hearts are turned to lust. To those of us who have learned to love the Lord, those things of indecency (though I admit they are attractive to our eyes), become repulsive and disgusting to our thinking. But let me just ask you pointedly, why dress in such a way as to tempt men to lust or even to fornication with you if possible? Men are men, and so being are natural creatures of sex, and if you girls constantly make yourselves sexually attractive before the eyes of men, don't be surprised and shocked if some day you have had your body defiled by man and your virginity taken from you. Don't be bitter against all the world if you bear a child out of wedlock. You just look back at the way you dressed and remember that I warned you about indecency of apparel.

I know that I am speaking plainly. I hope you will not take offense at what I say. I know of no other way to help young people to realize the seriousness of these matters than just plain, outright warnings. I love you all and I just want to help you keep yourselves pure and clean for the one that some day you shall give yourself to in marriage, and moreover I am concerned about the eternal destiny of your souls.

There is a distinct difference in the impression that the sexes make on each other. The very pattern of these impressions can be seen even in small children. Let me illustrate: A little boy will stand on his head, walk a rail fence, chin himself ten times, and flip his jack-knife, stabbing it in the ground within a half inch of his barefooted big toe—that is, he will do all these things if some little girl will stand by and admire all these antics and maybe give him a little praise and glory in between performances. And that same little boy all the time he is doing this free show is con-

stantly glancing toward the little girl. Actually there are two reasons involved. He wants to make sure that she is still watching, and then too, he just likes to look at her. He never gets too busy in a marble game to watch her as she passes by, or too involved in conversation with a "buddy" to glance over his fishing pole to see her as he passes her house. All this exemplifies exactly certain traits that you girls carry all through your lives and that we men never outgrow either. (We may seldom admit it, but I'm admitting it now. I'm trying to be just as fair and as helpful to you as I can.) Throughout life, the girl is fascinated by the heroic abilities of the male, his conquests and his victories, the fact that he is tall and muscular. Of course as people truly learn to love each other, they develop a little broader perspective, but I am speaking of those things which, by nature, are the attractive characteristics between the sexes. Concerning that which attracts the boy to the girl, the man to the woman—it can be greatly summarized all in one word—appearance. It's true, girls. Your appearance is greatly responsible for our attraction to you. Therefore, keep yourself neat, clean and attractive, but for prevention of sin keep your body properly covered. Don't be a walking temptation before men. Remember we are allured by your appearance.

Even some clothes that may entirely cover your body may be very immodest and indecent for a Christian girl to wear (or anybody else as far as that's concerned). Don't dress to show the beauty of your figure. That's just exactly what I said. Dress to conceal your body, not to reveal it. Many of the articles of girls' apparel today are made for the primary purpose of giving sex appeal. Think about it. I need say no more.

A Christian girl can still dress decently and attract the love of a godly man. She may not get all the attention from the world that immodest dress will get, but that is not the attention she should desire anyway. You would not want to marry a man that was only concerned about your physical attraction. Some day that beauty will gradually fade. But there is an enduring beauty deeper and greater than that first glance impression that we men receive, and any man of God will avoid falling for that glamorous appearance. He will look for a girl that is neat, but plainly dressed, decently and modestly. He will seek a girl that draws him to her by her simplicity, her quietness and her Christ-like character. Believe me, girls, it's true. Your sexual appearance may draw our glances momentarily, but we want something more worthwhile when we choose someone to love.

BUT FOR A PICNIC OR A HIKE?—

I suppose there may be times of exception that it might be more proper for a girl to wear some other type of apparel rather than a dress. However, I wonder sometimes if it wouldn't be better for them just to act like ladies instead of tomboys and then they could dress like ladies instead of tomboys. However, I shall endeavor to deal with the matter in reality.

Sometimes girls help out with farm work and spend long hours out in the field riding tractors or combines. Then too, there is the ranch girl who may spend a full day at a time in the saddle, helping her father tend the cattle. Under such conditions, I would personally recommend her wearing loose fitting jeans or slacks of some type—no, not skin tight. For hiking in the mountains or equal circumstances, if a dress will not be decent covering, wear these culottes, preferably pleated and having as nearly the appearance of a skirt as possible. They are far superior to slacks in that they have a more feminine appearance and still give you proper covering and adequate freedom.

My main objection to slacks is that usually they are too slack, and likewise to tights, they are too tight. And shorts are absolutely too short!

HEY! KEEP YOUR SHIRT ON!—

You fellows, while I am trying to help the girls realize the importance of their decency in apparel, let me just throw in a few words to you. Now I grant you that improper covering of a man's body does not have the same effect on society as does improper covering for a girl, but still at the same time if apparel from the waist on down is all that God thought was necessary, somebody tell me why God made Adam and Eve coats of skin to replace their aprons of fig leaves. It is only reasonable and proper that men keep their bodies covered.

“MAKE-UP” FOR GIRLS?—

There are literally thousands of so-called beauty preparations on the market today, and millions of dollars spent annually for them. Like many other things, here again social impulse cries out, “All other girls wear it.”

Girls, don't be swept off your feet by such nonsense. Don't be over influenced by all the advertising today of products that make you “angelic in appearance” or “more loving and more lovable.” Girls who belong to

the Lord are not going to depend on cosmetics, glamour preparations, or ornamentation for their attractiveness. Instead, they will resort to daintiness of personality, modesty, sweetness, graciousness, kindness, tenderness—the things that are real genuine marks of beauty.

Are you trying to make someone think that you are beautiful or prove to them that you truly are? Are you concerned about those first glances or those lasting impressions? Are you trying to gain the attention of some guy looking for a glamour doll or some godly young man looking for a virgin in all her purity and simplicity, her delightful feminine attractiveness and her God-given beauty?

To me there is no beauty as great as natural beauty. I would far rather gaze in wonder at the handiwork of my God as I view the beautiful scenery of the Rocky Mountains, than to merely look upon some artist's painting of that scene. I would rather see a real flower than an imitation. I would rather see a truly attractive girl than one whose paint and makeup are the attracting features.

It is all well summarized in the book of God which, of course, is the main deciding factor anyway regardless of my personal views. In I Tim. 2:9 we read that women should "adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; but which becometh women professing godliness with good works."

And then again speaking of women—"Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning or plaiting the hair, and wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." (I Pet. 3:3 - 4.)

Now don't say that is old-fashioned either—that's what you're going to be judged by at the end of time!

HAIRCUTS?—

Nature and the Bible both teach that it is a shame for a man to wear long hair, but that it is becoming to a woman. (I Cor. II:14 - 15.) This thing of boys letting their hair grow out to an almost feminine length when such a fad sweeps the country or in imitation of some Hollywood personality, is absolutely ridiculous and shameful.

On the other hand for a girl to cut her hair in similar fashion as would a man, is also a disgrace. A girl's hair definitely is to be long and have a feminine appearance. We do not have all the Oriental customs that were common among the Corinthian people, but still there is a general rule there in the Bible that cannot be denied.

There are those who have the conviction that a girl should never cut her hair. At the time of this writing, I have not yet been able to find that teaching in the Bible. If it is there, then of course you are duty bound to observe such teaching. If, however, such teaching is not in God's word, I cannot contend that it is wrong for a girl to cut her hair. But I will contend that it must be long! And since woman is to be under the authority of man, it would be wrong for a girl to cut her hair at all if such was in opposition to her father's will, or for a wife to do so against the will of her husband.

ARE YOU STILL THERE?—

As I write to you, I realize that I have already written more than some young people will read. No doubt many will have started to read, but by this point will have thrown this little booklet aside and said, "That's not for me." That type of person is probably miserably unhappy. Down deep inside he would like to live better, he would like to improve his life and make it more worth living—if he hadn't been interested in improvement, he probably would never have started reading this. And now to have quit implies that in spite of desire for improvement, he just doesn't have the fortitude and determination that are necessary. He just isn't willing to sacrifice and walk in the way that the Bible teaches. To those of you who are still with me, you know that there are sacrifices that you must make, but I just want to assure you that those sacrifices for righteousness will be rewarded and that you will feel like a better boy or girl for having made them. Your life will be more enjoyable and more worth living because of them. Let's go on.

ABOUT SPORTS—

I do not understand the Bible to condemn sports or games of decent nature. Paul mentioned some of the sports of his day in some of his lessons, using them by way of illustration of a point and he did not condemn them. But there are so many other things that we must consider other than just the sports themselves. We realize if we are to serve God that we can not

engage in any activities that in any way will detract from our service to Him. Anything that will hinder our work or our influence for the Master is to be avoided. Our time, our money, our all, belong to Him. But I guess healthful recreation is good for anyone—that is, within reasonable limits. It can become a god.

I would highly recommend hunting and fishing as recreation especially for you fellows. Don't hunt or fish just for the sake of killing. Such would not be becoming to a saint. Confine your hunting and fishing to creatures that you will use for food or to those beasts which are regarded as pests to humanity and are killed for that reason. Don't just go out and kill squirrels to see if you can, then not dress them and eat them. A number of Bible principles are violated for so doing. And remember to always stay within the limits of the civil law. Christians are duty-bound before God to be obedient to the legal authorities. (Rom. 13:1-7 and I Pet. 2:13-17.)

Swimming is a grand sport for everybody, both the fellows and the girls. But now wait a minute, I didn't say to take off for some public bathing beach. Such places are notorious for their lust and sin. The primary objective that some men have in mind when going to such a place is just to see the girls, and I guess the girls must like to be seen because they certainly show themselves. How shameful and degrading! How can people dare to go to such places and still call themselves Christians? Could even the eyes of the Lord discern between us and the world if we adopt such ungodliness? If such places are the only places that you have to swim, then don't swim. Your soul is too valuable to trade it for enjoyment that you would get out of a few swims in life.

However, some young people are blessed to live near rivers, streams or lakes where they may go separated from the public swimmers and really enjoy themselves.

I can not refrain from warning you to use proper safety precaution. Life is precious. Those of you who are personally acquainted with my past realize why that thought comes to me—my nephew, whom I dearly loved, left this life in a swimming accident. I reckon that if I were to dedicate this writing in memory of any earthly creature, I suppose it would be him, for I would to God that other young people might learn to walk the same Christian pathway that he endeavored to walk. But rather than dedicating it to one now passed on, I prefer to think of writing this just for you, you

young people that still are living and still face the problems of life. I love you and I am concerned in helping you to live in the way of the Lord.

It is preferable that girls swim by themselves unseen by the eyes of men and that the boys swim unseen by the girls. In such cases more scanty apparel might be permissible. For even with complete covering for the body, because of the fact that the wet clothes cling to the body and thus reveal more than is desirable for decency, it just isn't too advisable for the two sexes to swim together. If however, you must swim in a mixed group, dress just as decently as you know how to do. Proper undergarments can help to conceal the body and the figure even with wet, clinging outer garments. The boys should wear shirts and pants, the girls blouses and slacks or jeans or equal apparel. Keep your dress and your conduct acceptable in the eyes of God. A girl and boy should never go swimming unaccompanied by others. Go in a group.

I do not recommend participation in athletics in school. Usually they involve too much time, and take you away from more worthwhile things. Dress is indecent for boxing, wrestling, basketball and several others.

I prefer to think of my young Christian sisters being too modest and too reserved to be out entertaining the public with nothing on but the modern day basketball suit. I prefer to think of my brethren having higher ideals in life than to batter someone's head in a boxing match. I truly believe God created us for greater things than that.

RECREATION—AT HOME—

If you fellows or you girls or both of you together want to play a little basketball, tennis, baseball and such like right in your own back yard, that is a considerably different situation. You can choose the company you keep. You can dress decently. You're not doing it for a public show or for popularity. You're doing it because you enjoy yourselves together.

Recreation is a part of wholesome home life, and it is in the home where it belongs. In general, public recreation centers are to be avoided, because they are designed to meet the desires of the public, the multitude, the throngs that are hell-bound, and thus a child of God is usually quite out of place at such a place. Have your parties, gatherings, and your recreation at home. That's where recreation belongs.

SHALL WE DANCE?—

That shouldn't be a problem at all to Christians. Dancing is definitely of the world. It is one form of recreation that depends almost entirely upon sex for its continuation. And I'm sure that if you are honest with yourself you will admit this to be true.

Don't try to tell me that you dance just because you think it teaches co-ordination and poise. All those lies that the devil offers about it being just good, clean, innocent fun don't make it any more decent or any more godly. Dancing is one of the things that the government of our land blames as one of the greatest causes of crime among American youth.

If you dance and honestly can not see that it is primarily because of the sex thrill that you get out of it, please try this little experiment and I think it will convince you once and for all time. Get your mother's broom or an old oak two-by-four, put your arms around it and cuddle it against your bosom, lay your cheek over against it and start gliding about in some favorite dance step. If you can truly say that you have the same thrill of emotion as when you embrace one of the opposite sex dancing, then I think you may be an exception such as I have never seen before. Maybe you do dance for reasons other than the thrill of sex. But let's be honest. Dancing is sexual.

If girls could dance only with girls, then dancing would soon become less interesting and eventually be abandoned. If it were left only to the boys and they could dance with no one but boys from now on, then dancing would be a thing of the past as of right now.

SKATING—

Ice skating can be very decent, if proper clothing is worn and the skating party is properly conducted. Avoid these public displays of ice skating, however. Christians don't do such things just for show, nor do they go to such assemblies to feast their eyes on skating girls with their skirts five or six inches above their knees.

In regard to roller skating—if it is wrong to ride on wheels, then I never want to ride in an automobile or train again. Roller skating can be done properly and decently, properly conducted and with proper dress. The best place for it is right in your own back yard though. Most modern rinks permit improper dress, sometimes vulgar language, smoking, drinking, and, oh yes, dancing. Dancing is dancing whether on skates or off of skates.

HOLLYWOOD MOVIES—

These are another subject that ought not be any problem to any sincere person endeavoring to serve the Lord. Just an open-minded unprejudiced glance reveals that they thrive on sex. If a girl doesn't have sex appeal she never makes a Hollywood star.

Hollywood movies are another thing that are listed by our federal government as one of the major causes of crime. They are so filled with filth and the American public feeds upon them until they actually influence their viewers' ways of thinking. The sin, crime, lust, indecency, murder, divorce and the other things of equal nature that are involved in the plot of most of the movies actually become penetrating influences that warp the minds of the American public to accept such things into their thinking and their ways of life. Perhaps no other one element has been so instrumental in the degradation of the American home as has been the Hollywood movie. Time and space would fail me to tell of all the damage they have done.

And yet some of my brethren and sisters who seemingly just take joy in flirting with sin, try to excuse themselves by stating that they only attend the decent movies. I question in my mind as to whether they actually use the Bible standards of decency though. And even if you might find one respectable movie out of a whole listing of filthy ones, it hardly seems logical to go to a garbage disposal unit and dig through tons of rubbish and rot just in hopes of finding one good slice of bread. And I never yet figured out how they were able to detect which ones did and which did not have scenes of sexy love, indecent dress and vulgar language. How can they tell which are "fit to see" until they see them?

And besides, just let me remind you that every time you buy a theater ticket for one of those "good movies" you are supporting the same ungodly, immoral, filthy stars in Hollywood that make the other movies. You're giving them your money, instead of God, so they can spend it for drink, prostitution, or gambling. And remember, it is your duty to set the example for the world. Do you expect to lead souls to Jesus if they follow your steps to the movie house?

I know of no other item that better fills the bill for "lust of the eye" than does the silvery screen.

What about a drive-in theater? The devil's work is the devil's work, regardless of how convenient he may make it for you to feed upon his

wares. Movies over TV? Well, now that's what I really call making it handy to go to hell. That's letting the devil right in at home so that you won't forget any of it on the way back to your home from the movie house. 'Nuff said.

THE SHAME OF SMOKING—

I really almost passed by this subject with only a casual mention, but since it has become so socially acceptable I feel I should say a few words about it. It might be that some who read this booklet may be in the midst of a battle within themselves concerning the subject and need every bit of strength and encouragement that they can get.

Some girls are so anxious to use proper toilet preparations to keep themselves dainty and fresh; they never neglect to take a daily bath, brush their hair, their teeth, wash their undies lest they offend—and turn right around and pick up a cigarette, and allow themselves to be enslaved by the smelly, filthy, senseless habit of tobacco.

Some young fellow may lead songs in the public assembly of the church, and sing such wonderful words of praise unto God as "In all that I say, in all that I do, I'll put Jesus first in my life." But then he has to stop momentarily and double over in a hacking cough and you can't help noticing his cigarette case in his shirt pocket. If you have been born again all such sin as that should have been left back on the other side of baptism. Your body belongs to God now. Why pay the devil and the tobacco companies to destroy it? It is a proven fact that tobacco is detrimental to the health, especially to feminine tissue and also even to the future system of any babies that you girls may bear of your bodies. Don't say you weren't warned if you give birth to a child and the doctors tell you that it can never have but a mere twinkle of a mind because of too much nicotine poisoning in your system.

Study and meditate on such scriptures as 1 Cor. 3:16-17 and 2 Cor. 7:1. Realize what a terrible thing it is to disobey God and miss your chance at an eternal home in glory. Wouldn't it be awful if God would send you to burn eternally in fire pits of hell simply because you wouldn't give up the tobacco habit?

If you are willing to give up the habit, do it right now. Cut it off just like a puppy's tail. Don't try to taper off. You don't just cut an inch or two off of a puppy's tail each day in hopes that it won't hurt so badly.

If you've never started the habit—don't. It isn't one of the things that makes for happy living. Instead the tobacco habit is a thief and a murderer. Just ask some friend who is a heavy smoker how much he spends a week for tobacco products. Multiply that by fifty-two weeks in a year, and then by a thirty- or forty-year period of time. It's truly shocking. Try it. And I will promise you this one thing, if you never take your first smoke, you will never be an habitual smoker and literally burn up money that could be used to God's glory.

NEVER STOOP TO LIQUOR!—

If you are sincere in your desire to serve God and to live a life that is most enjoyable and worthwhile, stay completely away from liquor. If on the other hand you want to see just how far you can get from God and how fast you can do it, I know of absolutely nothing that the devil has to offer that can get you clear down in the gutter any quicker than the liquor habit.

The liquor habit is poison to the body, the mind, and the soul. There is absolutely no good than can be spoken of it. It is degrading in every consideration.

The devil tells lots of lies, but I know of none that he stretches any farther than the ones used in advertisement of liquor industries. Billboards line our highways testifying that this brand or that "adds to the party" or "shows discrimination and good taste" or "makes life more worth living" or is a "satisfying refreshment that gives you a lift and makes life a pleasure." Every single one of such statements is as far from the truth as anything can be. To drink beer, whiskey, wine or other alcoholic beverages detracts from every worthwhile thing in life, shows ignorance and poor judgment and makes life most miserable.

Young people, beware of damning drink. Never submit to taking a drink along with some of your friends—no, not even to see what the stuff tastes like. The first drink would probably taste absolutely rotten to you and almost choke you before you could swallow it, but something about it will tend to make you willing to try it again in maybe a few more minutes, or else maybe the next time it is offered to you a few days or weeks later. After a few drinks an almost irresistible craving is developed and the devil has you well on the way to being an habitual drunkard. He didn't expect you to turn to the habit overnight. Sometimes he may use years to get one life changed over to it, but if he can just get you started he knows that he

has a very good chance of eventually having you lined up at the bar with some of his other victims, just like hogs lined up at a slop trough, to drink down that rot until you've spent the last dollar in your pocket, and then to make a public fool out of yourself, staggering down the street, bumping into people and light poles, talking out of your mind, cursing and insulting people, and eventually falling into the street gutter, sick and vomiting all over yourself.

Of course the liquor advertisements don't tell that side of the story, but listen to me, young people—liquor is a terrible thing! It is responsible for a great deal of our murders, sexual crimes, automobile wrecks, divorces, insanity, and suicides.

The Bible speaks of men being enslaved or bound in sin. Here is one of the greatest examples I know of. Liquor is extremely habit forming and not only is it habit forming, but it tends to work upon the personality of the victim in such a way as to cause him to lose his will power. The deeper a person gets in the liquor habit, the less he cares; and the less he cares, the deeper he gets.

LIVE EACH DAY FOR JESUS—

The purest way of life truly is the most enjoyable. To be at peace with your own mind and at peace with God is far better than all the frolic-ing fun that the world has to offer. The confidence that God has blotted out all your sins, the hope of an eternal home, the daily guidance of the Lord are unequalled by any of Satan's feeble offers. As a Christian, you may not be able to indulge in all the filthiness of sin but instead you find a greater joy in indulging in the fellowship of the Spirit of God. There is a deep-seated satisfaction just in doing the will of the Almighty God and knowing that you have His favor. And the sacrifices that are necessary to make in the service of the Lord seem to be more than repaid by the loving hand of God. Perhaps some of the greatest joys derived from the Christian life are those of helping others and especially leading some soul from darkness to the Saviour.

DEVELOP CLEAN HABITS OF DAILY LIFE—

Practice cleanliness physically and spiritually in your daily life. Avoid being giddy and silly, but do be pleasant. Be kind to those with whom you associate daily and the stranger that you realize you may never chance to meet again. Always speak as kindly and lovingly as you know how. No,

I didn't say to be "gushy" and to plather around with a lot of flattery. Be sincere in what you say, but show a definite interest in those round about you. Consistently be concerned about them. The less you talk about yourself, the more they will love you for it. Never speak evil of anyone behind their back or in someone else's presence. Talk to that person alone concerning his faults, and offer to assist him to overcome them. Let him know that you are anxious about his soul.

Develop a serious-mindedness in life. Learn to think deeply and practically. Use forethought and management in your life. Even in your school curriculum choose studies that will be beneficial to you in later life, not just subjects to get you through school. Don't be deceived by false theories of science and philosophy that are in contradiction to the Bible. Don't be swept off your feet by every fashion and fad that comes along. Dare to be different, especially if that fashion or fad is not becoming to one who is trying to live for Christ. Choose your companions and associates carefully. Avoid being with someone that will cause you to be tempted because of the places they will want to go or the things that they will want to do. Remember the Apostle Paul said, "Evil communications corrupt good manners." Try to set aside adequate time each day for reading the Bible, meditation and prayer. This is one of the most important things if you are trying to live a Christian life, for it keeps you in contact with the Father. Feed your mind on things that are wholesome and pure. Just as your physical strength depends a great deal on your diet, so also does your spiritual strength depend on the way you feed your soul and mind. If you so much as see some written material that you suspect to be obscene or filthy, don't read it just to see whether it is or not. Deny yourself of these trashy pulp paper magazines and love story magazines. Develop will power. Remember that Jesus said we should deny ourselves of the lust of the eye and the lust of the flesh. You'll feel better within yourself if you live above these things. There's more to life than just passions of love and thrill and mystery. Life is most enjoyable when it is wholesome and full in the Lord. Learn to live a practical, realistic life; not just the life of a dreamer or a life in a fairy world of imaginations. Feed your mind and soul with good, pure food. Perhaps few people realize what a great influence their reading material has on their minds. The material you put into your mind is going to determine the channels through which it operates. Likewise also the music that you listen to. Many of you young people have your own radio, or record-player, right in your room. What do you listen to most of the time? Songs which you hear over and over

again are going to make a mental impression that maybe you, yourself, do not realize. You learn little parts of some of them and go around singing them, and though you, yourself, may think they have no influence on your life, you can not deny the fact that the human mind is a machine which operates only according to the material which has been fed into it. I would far rather hear two or three good hymns of a morning as I start my day, than a whole stack of rock-and-roll records—or Bop—or Shag—or Hula—or Cha-cha or what have you. Think on wholesome things, young people, whether it's music, reading material, television or what it is—choose the wholesome, deny the rest of it. It may be a sacrifice, but I assure you you'll feel better because of it. Some way there is an inner joy in a Christian life that just can't be described.

AVOID UNNECESSARY SLANG EXPRESSIONS— NEVER USE PROFANITY—

Jesus said that in the day of judgment we shall give account for every idle word that comes forth from our mouths. Foolish jesting and silliness become boring to those round about you. Slang indicates a lack of proper vocabulary. Profanity is never in good taste. It not only is socially incorrect, it shows a lack of culture; but moreover, it is sin in the sight of God.

HOW ABOUT A DATE?—

Boys, be careful about what type of girl you ask that question. Girls, take care to give a negative answer if the boy asking the question is not genuinely a gentleman. Preferably, of course, date Christians, but at least be sure that a boy or girl that you keep company with is of high morals and high standards. Before agreeing to the date, have a definite understanding as to where you are going, so you will not be taken to some place that a Christian is out of place.

Dating is a thing which should be by your parents' approval. It is good to have an understanding with your parents as to when you can date, hours that you should keep, etc. Let me say that it has been proven definitely inadvisable to date too young. I know a lot of you fourteen- and fifteen-year-olds won't appreciate this right now, but I know that in years to come, several of you will thank me for my concern in you and advice for you. Some homes have an understanding that no one dates until they reach their sixteenth birthday. In general, I think that is a pretty good standard. Some young people are not even ready to date at that age, but certainly I would advise against dating any younger than that.

I won't go to great length as to where to go and where not to go on your dates. I just admonish you to remember that you are a Christian when you are dating the same as any other time and that you should conduct yourself accordingly. Do not go anyplace where a Christian should not be and avoid doing anything that a Christian should not do. In dress, appearance, speech, conduct—remember the one you are most anxious to impress is the God of Heaven. The best places for you to go on a date are to church services or to a home. Certainly if your friend will not attend church services with you, he or she is not the type of person you ought to be dating. Or if they are not willing to go to your home and meet your parents, there again you have reason to doubt. If your date can think of nothing but just going somewhere for a hilarious time, nothing but thrill and "bang" all the time, his outlook on life will never harmonize with that of a Christian.

One thing I do want to especially mention is that some young people when they start dating, isolate themselves from all other age groups other than their own. This is never good. Simply because you are getting more attention from someone of your own age group than you perhaps have ever had before (at least it's a different kind of attention), don't turn your back on all other ages. Don't suddenly get too big to take time to play with little children to entertain them, nor develop that teen-aged superiority that makes all mature adults too ignorant to understand anything. Remember your parents are interested in you and are glad to help you if you will just let them. Don't hide all your affairs from them. Let them know your joys, heartaches, and problems.

Perhaps the greatest problem of all, during courtship, is the problem of morality. I'm going to speak very plainly with you now, young people, and I think you will appreciate my doing so. I want to help you, and I know several of you want help along this line. Let me say that this becomes a problem if you make it a problem, but proper precaution and care can keep it from being the terrible giant that it becomes without that precaution. Immorality is the final step of a number of things which all evolve together to tempt you to sin. It may be an outgrowth to those who first yield to indecent dress, dancing or theater attendance; followed by time spent in a parked car on a dark street, petting and necking—but mind you, all these things could have been prevented.

You see, God created both the bodies of girls and fellows with certain natural sexual desires and functions. Those desires are naturally stimulated and aroused by normal expressions of love such as kissing, cuddling and

caressing. To many young people those intensified desires become the strongest temptation they have ever experienced, and they yield to sin which at any other time except the moment of fervently heated emotional temptation, they would have absolutely abhorred. I can not over-emphasize this subject, young people, because it is one of the strongest temptations that confront teen-agers, one of the devil's greatest tools to mislead youth. It has been reported that there were an estimated 200,000 unwed teen-aged girls who gave birth to babies during the year of 1958 in the United States! And I reckon that there would be untold more hundreds of thousands who defiled their bodies but did not become pregnant. I'm sure that many of these were girls who had no intention of sinning, but allowed themselves and their lovers to go too far with love-making, and now must weep their scalding tears and bear their shame and misery. The sex-relation is a sacred and holy experience for those who have pledged their lives to each other by the solemn vows of matrimony, but for those who do not yet belong to each other, those who are not married, immodest familiarity with each other's bodies is indeed a grievous sin. There are few things that you could do that would be more torture to your own mind, more shameful to your character, more degrading to your reputation or more endangering to your soul. No wonder the Bible says, "Flee fornication." The way to flee a thing is to stay completely clear of it. Avoid it completely. Avoid the very things which would tempt you to fornication. That is why dancing is so extremely dangerous. Some girls say that they can dance all evening and not experience improper thoughts. That might be true, but I seriously doubt if such is normal. And I'm sure that no average red-blooded fellow can hold a dozen or more pretty girls cuddled against him and glide about over the dance floor and remain pure in his thinking. We're just not made that way. Temptation is the very reason I just plead with you never to consent to parking on some dark road or street to cuddle and pet. Remember your bodies are not each other's until after you are married. Your virginity is too precious to gamble away by petting and necking. It is a gamble in which you are bound to lose. At the least you will lose your dignity, at the worst your soul. It's not worth it. Keep yourself pure for the sake of presenting yourself pure and virgin to the one whom you marry and for the sake of presenting yourself pure on the day of judgment. Remember reading in history of a political position called the "hands off policy"? That's a good policy during courtship too. Leave "love making via the Braille system" to the dumb and blind. There is only one answer that a Christian can give if a date wants to pet, cuddle or insiduously caress.

If you must embrace and kiss, there is one time that I recommend—that is as you bid good night on the doorstep. It is far better to have a delightful evening together closed by a brief embrace, and kiss as you part, and then the girl steps inside filled with a warm thrill of love, and the boy leaves feeling like a hero; that's far better I say than twenty minutes in a parked car, sin, and then going home with a tremendous feeling of guilt and shame.

I have told you these things because of my concern for you. Please heed these warnings and you'll always appreciate this advice. Reject it and you'll never forgive yourself.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE—

Remember that marriage is a lifetime proposition. Spend much time in consideration of this fact before you promise to marry. Meditate as to whether you sincerely are convinced that this is the one God wills that you should have. One of the most important factors is to be sure that you are harmonious religiously. A Christian can't be united with an unbeliever and be as happy as God wills for you to be. Be certain that you see things alike religiously. Your desires and ambitions should synchronize. Discuss your hopes for a home and for children. Remember these intimate discussions should be held in a place where you will not be tempted to sin—in one of your homes, or if in a car, in a place in full view of the public. The sound of your voices will be cut off from all the rest of the world, but in view of the eyes of the world, you will not fall into an embrace which might not be loosened until sin had taken its toll.

When you finally make that promise to marry, your flirtation and attention now undividedly belongs to your future mate. Be true to each other. And remember to be true to God. I warn you young people, the closer you get to the time of your wedding, the stronger the devil will tempt you to defile your bodies. It may seem I am spending a lot of time warning against sexual sin. I am, because I realize it will be one of your strongest temptations and because it is such a shameful sin.

As you plan for the wedding, remember your families. Do not even consider running off some place and getting married secretly. You owe it to your parents to let them in on it. Put yourself in their position. A home wedding or church wedding either one are splendid. Plan whichever best suits your tastes. Some flowers are nice but avoid extravagance and extreme decorations, etc. You can usually think of lots of things after the wedding that you would rather have used some of that money for. The same thing

holds true in the purchase of rings. Be practical. A honeymoon is nice, but again, be reasonable.

When married, do not live with either of your parents. It just isn't best. God knew that and said, "Let man depart from his father and mother and be joined unto his wife." The same holds true about the girl's parents, too. You may have the best parents in the world (you should feel that way anyway), but it is best to have your own home, even if it be ever so humble.

In your newly established home, let God be your constant guest. Have a set time for family devotion daily. When problems and trials confront you, pray over them. When blessings are yours, thank God for them. Never quarrel. If one of you is upset about something, the other should take special precaution to maintain composure. If problems ever tend to divide you, do not make the mistake of seeking the advice of a lawyer or marriage counselling agency. Ordinarily their advice is only from a sociological viewpoint and not necessarily the thing that would be spiritually right. Seek the assistance of some competent brother in the Lord. I hope if there is ever anything that I may help any of you with, that I will have gained your confidence to the extent that you will count me worthy to confidentially reason with you. I mean that from the depth of my heart, and stand ready to assist you any time I may.

There's lots of things I would like to pass on to newlyweds, but perhaps this isn't the most appropriate time or place to deal with those things. Maybe some other time, or when I can sit down with you personally.

Just in closing, let me admonish you to always keep Christ uppermost in your life. Live for Him daily and prepare to meet Him in judgment.

There are so many things I'd like to say but must close for lack of space. I wish I could sit down and talk personally with every one of you about these things and any others that might be on your heart, and trust that I may be afforded the opportunity with several of you, but this will have to be all for now.

Farewell now—and my prayers are with you. If we fail to meet here on earth again, I hope that this little discussion with you will help you on your way toward Heaven.

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