



A DAY TO REJOICE

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At the time of the birth of Christ, the angel said to the shepherds, *"Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people."* Later on, both John the Baptist and Jesus proclaimed the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. Today we rejoice, for the King of the kingdom has come, and He has come to dwell within us by His Spirit. Before Jesus was taken up into heaven, He instructed His disciples to tarry in Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Father, the Holy Spirit, for they would receive power after that the Holy Spirit would come upon them. They were obedient to His command, and on that glorious day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended upon them, and they were filled to overflowing. God's power was manifested among His people in a mighty way, and many people turned to God.

During the following centuries, there was a falling away and Christendom fell into disarray, disunity and sin. However, God always had a remnant who longed to be led by His Spirit and walk in His ways. God promised those who did hunger and thirst after righteousness, that they would be filled. He said *"If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will*

heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14, KJV). As many took God's word to heart and sought after Him in fasting and prayer, God began to pour out His Spirit upon hungry hearts. We have seen a wonderful moving of His Spirit in the land.

God's love for us and for all mankind is forever with us. He is a loving God. He is a restoring God, and He is a just God. He said, *"I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed"* (Joel 2: 25-26, KJV). Praise God for His wonderful promises!

Early in the 19th century, God poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit, accompanied with speaking in tongues, upon many hungry people. Then in 1948 God moved again in a wonderful way and restored to us the truths of the body of Christ and the ministries in His body of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. How we rejoice to see God's glorious plan beginning to be enacted before our very eyes. We are seeing the pattern for the church laid out in the book of Acts, as well as in

the epistles that followed. Jesus promised that the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, would lead us into all truth and show us things to come. It has been wonderful to see the way the beauty of His plan has been unfolding before our eyes. We thank God for ministries in the body: shepherds to the universal church, shepherds [elders] in the local churches, and fathers and mothers in the home. What a glorious order!

He has taught us that we are living stones in the house of God, a dwelling place for Him. We are told that each of His sons and daughters are unique, and play a very important role in His body. We fit together and flow together in unity in God's great plan. We may often wonder what our role is in God's plan. As we read the Scriptures we see how God instructed His people, about what His will and plan for them was in their lives. The prophets were very necessary to guide His people in Old Testament days. Once again God is guiding His church through the ministry of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers today. In the New Testament, God spoke to individuals in prophesy through a presbytery, and this is happening in this very day in our midst. As the apostle Paul told Timothy to war a good warfare according to the prophecies that

were given him with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery, so today, we are admonished to take heed to the prophecies that have gone over us. We rejoice greatly to be living in this hour when God is leading us by His Spirit through prophecy.

Each member of the body of Christ must be motivated by the love of God within him/her. Jesus said that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind and all our strength, and to love our neighbour as ourselves. 1 Corinthians 13 speaks so beautifully as to how true love will function in our hearts. We would do well to ponder that chapter, and also the fruit of the Spirit as stated in Galatians 5:22-23. At the same time, may we be well aware of the things that will prevent us from inheriting the kingdom of God as stated in the same chapter of Galatians, verses 19 to 21. May God truly help us all to press toward the mark, for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

May our hearts be filled with thanksgiving, and our mouths be filled with praise to our blessed God and Saviour, now and forever. Amen. ✝



The teenage years are crucial years that prepare a boy or girl for life. Decisions made while we are young can have lifelong implications. The intent of this article is to provide a little guidance and suggestions on how to manage the teenage years.

The teenage years are a time of rapid challenging and uncomfortable change. A young man or woman makes a transition from youth to adult in just a few short years.

It comes as no surprise to parents, that MRI studies of the brain have shown, that the area of the brain that incorporates "wisdom" is not really fired up until a person reaches 22 or 24. The teenage brain is not necessarily wired to use "wisdom" as this part of the brain is still developing. He/she tends to be motivated by emotions, and risk taking.

There is usually a vast difference between someone who is 18 and someone who is 22. There are many examples in the scriptures of how to pattern our lives while young.

How to Avoid Poverty

William Galston, a University of Maryland Professor of Public Policy, found that following these steps gives you almost a 90% chance of avoiding long-term poverty. This study was published

on August 30, 2016. According to Galveston, only about 8% of the families that followed these rules fell into poverty, while 80% who did not follow these guidelines did fall into poverty.

Graduate from high school (at least).

Get a job right away (you can get a better job later).

Do not have a baby until after being married.

Marry wisely.

Stay out of trouble.

The comments above were supplied by William Galston. The following comments are from the author of this writing.

Education

Education is important. How much education a person needs depends on what type of work a teenager is inspired to do for life. A good education does not guarantee a good income, but it does improve your chances substantially. It is good to learn the skills that you need for your vocation. It may not be necessarily wise to invest a significant amount of money chasing a dream job if the reality is that the dream job will never pay well.

A teenager should begin seeking God about the direction their

life should take while still young. Be encouraged to talk much to your parents, to your elders, to others that you respect about education and work possibilities.

And remember, when you are young, you have the luxury of being able to change your mind midstream. I know of a very honorable young man in the church that started off as a helicopter pilot in the military. He later became a police officer, and then later again became a doctor! Now that is one amazing young man!

You may stumble a few times getting started, but don't give up. Even when we stumble God is there to help us pick ourselves up and move forward.

Psalms 37:23-25 (NKJV)

*The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord,
And He delights in his way.
Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down;
For the Lord upholds him with His hand.
I have been young, and now am old;
Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken,
Nor his descendants begging bread.*

Employment

A teenager, or young person should find a way to enter the workforce as soon as possible. Your first job will most likely be low paying, but it will build good working habits and discipline that will help you for the second job. First job opens the door for the second job. There is nothing wrong with humbly accepting a low paying job to begin with.

When you do work, put your whole heart into whatever you do. Work as unto the Lord, and the Lord will honor you.

Colossians 3:22-24 (NKJV)

Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

Colossians 3:17 (NKJV)

And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Don't have a baby until you are married.

In the hour we live in, men and women have adopted the morals of mice. Being a single parent, having a child outside of marriage is the single biggest ticket to poverty there is. Unfortunately, when children are born outside of marriage, it is usually the young woman that pays the highest price.

Let's be blunt and clear. Babies come from having sex. If a young man pressures his girlfriend to have sex, he is essentially saying "lets take a risk that you (the girl) will live in poverty for many years to come, for a few moments of temporary pleasure that we will experience, while I (the boy) have no obligations to you".

If a boy says to his girlfriend "If you love me, you will sleep with me," she should reply to him "If you loved me, you would not ask!"

1 Corinthians 6:18 (NKJV)

Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body.

Hebrews 13:4 (NKJV)

Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

Marry wisely.

Getting married to the right person is crucial. One should have the attitude that marriage is for life. Marriage is not something that you "try out" by living together. It is a lifelong commitment "until death due you part." You should "date" those who would make a good "mate."

There are many books available for pre-marriage counseling. However, I often find that it is good to thoughtfully consider the marriage vows that are repeated at the wedding. If you find a person that you feel confident in making these promises to, you do well.

Most vows go something like this: I vow to love and to hold (you) in sickness and in health, for richer or for poorer, for better or for worse, until death do us part. Then, spend the rest of your life keeping that promise.

God is interested in your future mate. Lean on the Lord, and keep your eyes open for that right one. Be both patient and persistent. Look for a godly partner that shares your faith and values. Don't compromise.

2 Corinthians 6:14 (NKJV)

Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?

Stay out of trouble.

The best way to stay out of trouble is to stay away from the wrong people. It is better to have no friends than it is to have the wrong friends. Pick your friends carefully. Don't be afraid to advertise your Christian values.

Proverbs 12:26 (NKJV)

*The righteous should choose his friends carefully,
For the way of the wicked leads them astray.*

Proverbs 18:24 (NKJV)

*A man who has friends must himself be friendly,
But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*

Proverbs 22:24-25 (NKJV)

*Make no friendship with an angry man,
And with a furious man do not go,
Lest you learn his ways
And set a snare for your soul.*

1 Corinthians 5:11 (NKJV)

But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner - not even to eat with such a person.

Regarding internal attributes of successful people, I ran across the following on social media printed by an unknown author. These are simple attributes, nevertheless very successful attributes for teenagers and all to follow.

Ten Things That Require Zero Talent

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|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Being on time. | 6. Attitude. |
| 2. Work ethic. | 7. Passion. |
| 3. Effort. | 8. Being coachable. |
| 4. Body language. | 9. Doing extra. |
| 5. Energy. | 10. Being prepared. |

I am a person that likes to collect bullet points lists of things. Over the years I have collected the following actions that are applicable to teenagers and to all:

1. Stop and think before you drink. (don't drink!)
2. Don't let your parents down; they brought you up.
3. Be humble enough to obey. You'll be giving orders someday. Respect authority.
4. At the first moment, turn away from unclean thoughts - at the first moment.
5. Don't show off driving. If you want to race, go to a race track
6. Choose a date who would make a good mate.
7. Go to church faithfully. The Creator gives you the week. Give Him an hour.
8. Choose your companions carefully. You are what they are.
9. Avoid following the crowd. Be an engine, not a caboose.
10. Be master of your habits or they will master you. (good habits, getting up early, working hard and diligently, studying well, reading the Bible daily)
11. Treasure your time; don't spend it; invest it.
12. Stand for something or you will fall for anything.
13. See what you can do for others; not what they can do for you.
14. Guard your thoughts; what you think, you are.
15. Don't fill up on this world's crumbs; feed your soul on the Living Bread.
16. Give your all to Christ; He gave His all for you.

The Psalmist summed up the walk of a righteous person best when David wrote the following:

Psalms 1 (NKJV)

*Blessed is the man
Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;
But his delight is in the law of the Lord,
And in His law he meditates day and night.
He shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water;
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.
The ungodly are not so,
But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.
Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment,
Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
But the way of the ungodly shall perish. †*

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