

# Godly Youth

*Young in Age, Strong in Heart*

## A New Year—A New Start

The beginning of a new year is an exciting time. You may be anticipating a new birthday or special vacation for this coming year. Maybe you are excited because you know that at the end of the year you will be in a higher grade at school.

The new year is a perfect time to make changes in your life. Many adults decide to lose weight, exercise, or change bad habits at the beginning of the year. Some quickly forget their goals but others do what they planned.

What about you? Are you going to try to be a better student in school—the best that you can be? Are you going to learn about the Bible, maybe deciding to read a little bit every

night so you can read through the whole Bible or the whole New Testament by the year end. Will you determine to pray more, to always have your Bible lesson prepared by the night before your class, or decide to quit doing things that God does not want you to do?

We can all make changes. I am a father and a preacher and I always see things that I need to stop doing and things that I can improve on. You have the ability to decide what changes you want to make in your life and your attitude. But you must also be the one to stick to those changes.

Why not write down some things that you

want to change in your life. You may know what things you need to do to make those changes. If you know what you want but do not know how to get it, ask your parents. They can give you advice about what things you can do to achieve your goals. Who knows, maybe it will cause them to want to make changes as well!

Have a great new year!



## Thanking God

In previous issues we have studied different things for which we should pray. When we pray, we must also give God thanks for the prayers He has answered and that He listens to us. Though some adults may ignore you when they are busy or at other times, God always has time for us. He wants us to visit Him in prayer and open our hearts to Him. However, we should not just spend our time asking things from Him. We would not like it if people only talked to us when they wanted something we had.

Luke 17:11-19 records the story of ten men with a terrible, incurable disease called leprosy. These people had to stay away from all healthy people. They cried to Jesus, asking Him to heal them. He told them to go to the priest who could determine if they were healthy. As they went, they were healed, but only one returned to thank Jesus for what He did.

Let us remember to give thanks for all that God does for us and the care that we enjoy. Let us not be unthankful.

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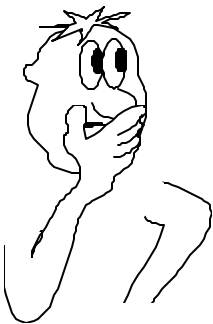
*" [They] searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."*

*Acts 17:11*



### Lessons from Ezekiel

- God knows everything that takes place in the world
- God's word is always good for us though, if we are sinning, we may not want to hear it
- God knows when people are only doing good around others but are doing wrong in secret



***“Know what you will do in a situation before that situation arises.”***

## Meeting the Prophets: Ezekiel

Ezekiel was a prophet of God during the time that Judah was beginning to go into captivity. He saw some wonderful visions of heavenly things that are recorded in the book bearing his name.

Ezekiel's book begins with a vision of God on His throne in the land of the captives. Ezekiel did not see God's real throne but God used symbols, or pictures, to help Ezekiel understand His message. The throne of God that Ezekiel saw was made so that it could travel throughout the world. It was surrounded by heavenly creatures that praised God and served Him.

While standing before the throne, God called Ezekiel to be a prophet to speak to the evil people of Judah. God gave Ezekiel a book, again a symbol, to eat which represented God's

word. The book was sweet to the taste. This helped Ezekiel know that God's word was precious and good even though the message would hurt the feelings of some who were doing wrong. None of us like to hear that we are doing something wrong but, if we change and do what is right, it is better for us in the long run.

Ezekiel was to act like a watchman on a high tower. In ancient times, the watchman would sit in a tower and look out in all directions. If he saw an enemy coming, he would yell or sound a trumpet to warn the people in the city so they could prepare for battle. Ezekiel would warn God's people of God's anger that would come upon them if they did not repent.

One time, God took Ezekiel to the temple in Jerusalem where the people were

supposed to worship God. He took Ezekiel into a basement where the priests of God were worshipping idols and doing things that were against God's law. Though their sin was hidden from some men, God knew what they were doing and would judge them. We should always remember that God knows what we are doing even if our parents our friends do not.

Finally, God determined that He would take the rest of the people from Judah and destroy the city of Jerusalem. His presence left the temple and, though Ezekiel, He told the people to prepare for the armies that would defeat them.

Even in His anger, God promised that He would save a small part of the people, the good people, and bring them back to Jerusalem and, eventually, send them His Son who

### What Do You Think They Should Do?

“Oh, no! I forgot to do my math homework last night,” cried Jerry to himself. as the teacher collected the homework. He started to get nervous as she approached his desk..

“Maybe I can tell her that my parents were sick or that something terrible happened at our house so that I could not do my homework,” he thought, though he knew it was not true. He knew that some told lies to explain why they did not have their homework and the teacher let them turn the work in late. But he also knew that it was wrong to lie. His parents said that it is best to accept responsibility for your actions. What should he do and why?

### What Place Am I?

1. I am a region in which Jesus did a lot of His early preaching.
2. Jesus walked on a sea in my region.
3. The city of Nazareth, where Jesus grew up, is in my area.
4. Some made fun of the disciples because they were from my region.
5. I am in the northern part of the land of the Jewish people.

*Do you know who I am? (Answer below)*

*I am Galilee!*



## What Can You Do?

By Troy Nicholson

Helen Keller, blind and deaf author, once wrote, "I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; I will not refuse to do the something I can do." What a great principle to lead us in life.

Peter and John once came upon a lame man begging at a gate into the temple. Peter said to him, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you" (Acts 3:6).

Sometimes we spend so much time thinking about what we don't have that we fail to recognize all that we do have. Like the examples above, our focus needs to be on what we have and what we can do with it, for that is the basis by which God will judge us. Jesus praised the woman who anointed His feet because "she has done what she could" (Mark 14:8).

So forget about what you do not have and cannot do, and instead focus on what you do have and can do. Make a list of those things and look for ways that you can give and use them this week. You will feel better at the end of the week for doing so, and more importantly you will be pleasing to God.

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I hope you enjoyed this issue of *Godly Youth*. If you have ideas for articles or questions you want to ask, you can email me at [rhodes.davis@comcast.net](mailto:rhodes.davis@comcast.net) or write to the address below.

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A SPECIAL NEWSLETTER  
JUST FOR YOU!

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