

# Godly Youth

*Young in Age, Strong in Heart*

## A Good Name

In Ecclesiastes 7:1, Solomon said that a good name was "better than precious ointment (something that indicated wealth in those days)." Proverbs 22:1 says that a good name is better than great riches. Great riches can provide a life of ease and comfort but if we have to sacrifice our good name to get it, we pay too great a price for so little return.

A good name means that a person has a good reputation (they are known for doing the right thing). We must work hard to make sure that we have a good name and protect it from being a bad name.

Paul told Timothy that, although he was young, he must be a good example to other believers, 1 Timothy 4:12. Your parents, teachers, members of the church, and other good men and

women will not look down on you when you live like Jesus did. When you do this you bring honor to Jesus' name.

You honor Jesus by telling the truth, even if it will get you into trouble. You honor Jesus by loving others and trying to help them. If we lie, steal, or are mean to others, we do not bring honor to Jesus; we bring shame to His name.

We must always remember how quickly a good name can become a bad name. Wealthy people buy security systems, safes, and hire guards to protect their silver and gold; your reputation is more valuable than silver and gold; therefore, be careful to protect it from damage.

Remember how Solomon said that a good name was like precious ointment? He also said, in

Ecclesiastes 10:1 that a bad name is like bad smelling perfume filled with flies.

When we have a good reputation it brings honor to us, our parents, and Jesus. When people know us for doing bad things it does not honor Christ, brings shame to our parents, and causes us to feel bad about ourselves.

If you feel that your name is considered good, keep up the good work and do not do things that would give you a bad name.

If you feel that your name is not known for good things, change now and do good things so that people will see the change in your life. Over time you might be able to rebuild a good name—do not give up.

Always remember that it takes a lifetime to build a good reputation yet only a few minutes to destroy it.

## Pray for: Preachers and Teachers

As a preacher, I am so glad to hear when people pray for me as I am ready to preach. I want to make sure that I do not teach false things and that I teach the good things well. When people pray for me, I know that they want God to help me do what is right.

When you pray, be sure to pray for your Bible class teachers and your preacher. Both spend a lot of time during the week preparing classes and sermons to help you grow because they love the Lord and they love you and want you to go to heaven.

God warned teachers that they would be judged even harder by God because they might lead people away from Him if they teach false things, James 3:1 Pray that they may always speak the truth. Pray that they may be able to teach their lessons in a way that others can easily understand the important message of God.

Thank God for such men and women who are willing to spend time preparing lessons to teach you what is right. (Don't forget to thank your teachers personally!)

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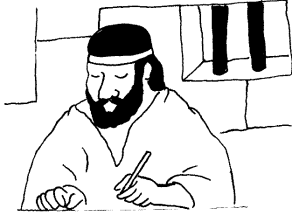
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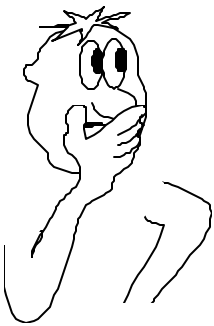
*" [They] searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so."*

*Acts 17:11*



### Facts about the Gospels

- Only Matthew and John were apostles.
- Mark and Luke traveled with Paul on different preaching journeys
- John's gospel does not have any parables
- Luke wrote Luke and Acts as letters to teach a man about Jesus and the church
- A large part of Matthew, Mark, and Luke tell about the last week of Jesus' life



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

## The Gospels

The New Testament begins with four books, called the gospels. The gospels tell the story of Jesus' life. They do not contain everything that Jesus did or said for John said that the world could not contain everything that could be written about Jesus (John 20:30-31; 21:25). They do tell us enough to teach us about Jesus, develop our faith, and learn how to live.

The book of Matthew, written by the apostle of the same name, seems to be written primarily to the Jewish people—God's people of the Old Testament. He listed the names in the family of Jesus that showed he was related to King David, as the prophets said he would be 2 Samuel 7 (see Acts 2:29-30). He also shows how Jesus was the one that the Old Testament prophets said would deliver people from their sins and be

a king over His kingdom (This promised king is called the *Messiah*).

It seems that wrote to people who were not Jewish. Since the gospel would be preached to the Jews and the other nations (the Gentiles), they needed to know about Jesus. Mark was not an apostle but a preacher who worked closely with Paul and Barnabas. The gospel of Mark contains only 25 verses that are not also found in Matthew and Luke. Though some believe that Matthew and Luke copied from Mark, we must remember that the Holy Spirit was responsible for all of the gospels, 2 Peter 1:21.

The book of Luke is actually a letter written to a man named Theophilus (sounds like the-ahh-phil-us). Luke sent another letter, the book of Acts, to tell Theophilus what happened after Jesus

went back to heaven. Luke was the doctor who traveled with Paul on His preaching journeys.

The book of Luke is the only gospel that claims to tell the events of Jesus' life in the order that they happened. The other gospels sometimes put stories that were alike together. Luke wrote his gospel from the stories of those who knew Jesus (Luke 1:1-4).

The book of John, was written by the apostle to prove that Jesus is the Son of God, John 20:30-31. John's gospel does not contain any parables and often tell things that the other gospels do not. Throughout his book, John reminded his readers that God proved, through miracles, the Old Testament prophesies, and God's voice from heaven, that Jesus is the Son of God.

### What Should You Do?

Instead of a problem this month, I want you to think of some things that I hope you would like to do for your parents.

- Thank your parents for cooking, doing the laundry, and other work to make the house run well
- Thank your parents for working so that you can have a place to live, food to eat, and money to get things you need.
- Thank your parents for teaching you about God.
- Obey your parents because it is the right thing to do and it will make you and your parents happy.

### Where Is This?

1. Paul preached in this city soon after becoming a Christian when Barnabas brought him here.
2. Paul and Barnabas left for their first preaching trip (missionary journey) from this city.
3. Paul had to get on to Peter here because Peter made a poor choice (Gal. 2:11)
4. Jesus' followers were first called Christians here (Acts 11:26).

*Do you know where this is? (Answer below)*

*It's Antioch!*

## Word Search: The Gospels

B T M I R A C L E S E S O M G L M  
 E P W R S J E S U S D J L D S B A  
 L R M C D R Y S V I P P E L O V R  
 I E T H E R V T O J O H N O N I K  
 E A M R D F D S U W A L S H O Y H  
 V C H I S M R L D M R F D B F L J  
 E H N S P D A U A C D C F H G G E  
 K I M T A S B K N H K R I D O E W  
 G N S A M C D E I V F O U R D B S  
 T G Z C V X W T H E A S D F T E D  
 N D T H E O P H I L U S O F G L O  
 M A T T H E W E N A G O S P E L R

## Word List

FOUR  
 GOSPEL  
 MATTHEW  
 MARK  
 LUKE  
 JOHN  
 THEOPHILUS  
 JESUS  
 CHRIST  
 SON OF GOD  
 CROSS  
 PREACHING  
 MIRACLES  
 BELIEVE  
 JEWS

Correction: In last month's puzzle, one symbol did not have anything associated with it. This symbol ☞ was in the place of a comma (,). Sorry if it confused you.

Memory Verse: Verse: Philippians 3:14

"I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Paul told the church in Philippi that he did not let bad things from his past bother him. Before he became a Christian he tried to destroy the church and killed many Christians. Though he was very sorry for this, he did not let it stop him from trying to please God.

Even though Paul taught the gospel to many people in many countries he did not think that his work was finished.

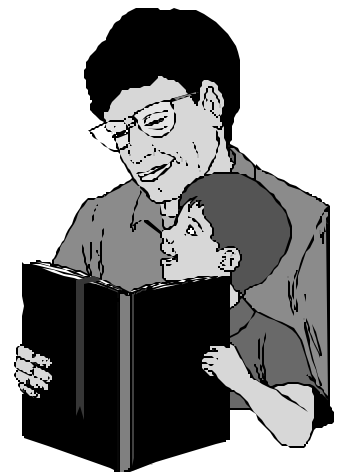
Though he had been beaten several times, shipwrecked, stoned and left for dead, and suffered other things in order to preach the gospel, he did not think that his work was finished.

Paul said that he continued to reach forward to his goal of pleasing God and going to heaven. He would not quick working until he died and could rest in heaven.

We need to keep moving towards our goal of going to heaven. It means that we must not dwell on bad things that we have done but ask God to forgive us and determine to do better.

It also means that we will not give up before our work is finished. Whether one is young or old, there is much work to do in God's kingdom.

Make heaven your goal!



# Sheep Don't Wallow

By Troy Nicholson

There is an old story about a lamb and its mother. It seems the lamb passed a pigpen each morning on the way to the pasture with its mother. Watching the pigs wallow in the mud seemed like fun, and on an especially hot day, the lamb asked the mother if he could jump the fence and wallow in the cool mud. She replied, "No." Then the lamb asked the usual question, "Why?" The mother just said, "Sheep don't wallow."



This did not satisfy the lamb. He felt she was not being fair, overreacting, and didn't have the right to tell him what he could or could not do! So, as soon as the mother was out of sight, the lamb ran to the pigpen and jumped the fence. He was soon feeling the cool mud on his feet, his legs, and soon his stomach. After a few moments, he decided he had better go back to his mother, but he couldn't. He was stuck! Mud and wool don't mix. His pleasure had become his prison. He cried out and was rescued by the farmer. When cleaned and returned to the fold, the mother said, "Remember, sheep don't wallow."

Sin is like that. It looks so nice, so inviting. We think we can escape from it any time we wish, but it is not always so. Sinful pleasures soon become prisons.

### **The moral of this story? Christians don't wallow!**

Sin and sinners entice us to join in the passing pleasures of sin. But as the wise writer of Proverbs said, "Keep your feet from their path" (Proverbs 1:10-19). "Let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily ensnares us and run with endurance the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1).

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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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