

Godly Youth

Young in Age, Strong in Heart

Blaming Others

Think of the last time you did something wrong. Why did you do it?

"My brother (or friend) made me do it"

"Everyone else was doing it."

"The Devil made me do it."

When we do something wrong it is easy to blame someone else. When Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden, Adam blamed Eve for his sin. He was also blaming God because he blamed the woman that God had given him. Eve blamed the serpent (Genesis 3).

In 1 Samuel 15, King Saul blamed the people for his sin. However, when we do something wrong, we can only blame ourselves.

Other people may encourage you to do something wrong or tempt

you to disobey your parents and God. But you—and only you—choose whether to obey or disobey. Someone might make it difficult to choose the right thing, or you may feel embarrassed to choose the right action, but you can make that tough choice.

God has promised escape from all temptations but He did not promise that it would be easy. Your friends might think you are strange when you do what is right (1 Peter 4:4). You will be blamed for a poor choice but God will approve of your good choice. You will feel better about yourself when you choose to do the right thing.

Taking complete responsibility for your actions, whether good or bad, is one of the most important decisions you

will make. People who constantly blame others for their wrong choices will never be strong or responsible.

When you recognize your bad decisions and accept the blame and any punishment that the decision deserves, you take an important step in maturity. Good people always respect someone who will admit fault when they have done wrong, will try to fix any problems they have created, and accept the punishment that may come.

Be strong. Some of the most important words you can say are, "I'm sorry. I made a poor (wrong) decision. Please forgive me and tell me what I can do to make it right." You will be proud of yourself, you will bring honor to yourself, you will be responsible, and you will glorify God.

Pray for: Opportunities to Teach Others

In John 8, Jesus used the example of harvesters in a field to tell His apostles to pray for teachers to lead people to Him. The lost need to hear the gospel. You may not feel like you could teach someone but you can lead that person to a teacher or invite them to Bible class or worship services where they can hear God's word taught.

Pray for chances and the courage to

invite friends to Bible classes, gospel meetings, Vacation Bible School, and worship services. By leading someone to Jesus you can change their lives for the good and they can have eternal life with God.

Which of your friends or family members needs to hear the gospel? Pray for them and try to find opportunities to teach them or lead them to a teacher.

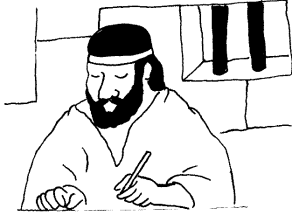
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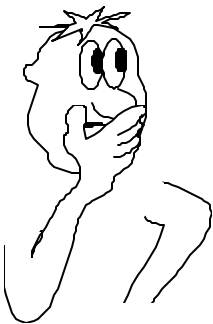
*" [They]
searched the
Scriptures daily
to find out
whether these
things were so."*

Acts 17:11



Lessons from Romans

- God sent Jesus to die though we did not deserve His love
- Jesus took away the penalty of sin that we deserved for our sins
- If we are God's children, we should have proper love and be busy doing the things that God wants us to do
- We must avoid people who teach false things and try to divide the church



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

The Book of Romans

The apostle Paul wrote the book of Romans as a letter, or epistle, to the Christians in Rome. He had not yet visited them but wanted to encourage them to be faithful.

In the letter, he told how wonderful God was for sending Jesus to die for our sins. Paul wrote that we did not deserve to be saved and that we did not do anything that could earn our salvation.

In the Garden of Eden, God said that the penalty or punishment for sin was death. Since all have sinned, all deserve death. It would not be fair for God to overlook our sin and yet God wanted to save us. When Jesus died on the cross, He had committed no sin and He was God living as a man. Jesus died so that we would not have to die. We

deserve to die for our sins but Jesus died in our place. When we obey the gospel, Jesus' blood washes away our sins so that we can be right with God. This was God's plan from the beginning.

The book of Romans also instructs in the way we should live as Christians. In chapter 12, Paul wrote to have pure love and to hate things that are evil. He listed many things one should do if he is God's child.

Paul also wrote that the Christian should obey the laws of the government (unless they would make us break one of God's laws). He commanded his readers to love one another and do good to others because the Christian has “put on the Lord Jesus Christ.” Just like we wear clothes, we

should “wear” Jesus; we must do the things He would do if He were living our life.

Paul told the Romans to help one another during the difficult times. Sometimes we can help others when they are weak. You might say something to encourage or comfort someone who is sad. You can help them do something that they need done but cannot do for themselves.

Paul ends the letter with a warning to stay away from people who teach false things and who try to cause problems in the church. When people try to divide the church, they are fighting against God and we should not encourage them.

Romans is a difficult book to read but, in time, you may find it enjoyable.

What Should You Do?

You are invited to a sleep-over with some friends. After the friend's parents go to sleep, one of the friends takes out a popular movie on video to watch.

The movie has lots of men and women dressed in immodest clothes and are sometimes shown without clothes. The movie characters use bad language and are doing things you know your parents and God do not approve of. Your friends are enjoying the movie but you know it is a bad movie.

What should you do?

What Is This?

1. It was the most important piece of furniture in the Old Testament tabernacle
2. The priests carried it in front of Israel when they entered the Promised Land
3. One time, when Israel was not faithful to God, they lost it in a battle with the Philistines (1 Samuel 4)
4. It was made of gold and had two angels on the top of it.

Do you know what this is? (Answer below)

It is the Ark of the Covenant!

Fill in the Blanks

1. God commanded _____ and _____ to build arks.
(Hebrews 11:7) (Exodus 25:1, 20)

2. Saul was a _____ and an _____.
(1 Samuel 11:15) (Acts 13:9; Romans 1:1)

3. _____, _____, and _____ are
apostles AND books of the Bible.

4. _____ stands at a door, is a door, and is adored.
(John 10:6-7; Revelation 3:20; 5:9-12)

Answers Below

Answers:
1. Noah, Moses 2. King, apostle 3. John, Peter, Matthew 4. Jesus

Memory Verse: Verse: Hebrews 9:27

“...it is appointed for men to die once
but after this comes the judgment”

We do not like to think of death often but it is a fact that we will all die someday. Some die when they are young, some when they are old, but all will die.

While we live we should enjoy life and do the things that bring us joy. However, we must remember that God will judge us for the things we say and do (Ecclesiastes 11:9-10; Matthew 12:36). When we sin we must ask

God to forgive us and give us strength and wisdom when tempted.

For God’s children death is not the end of life but the beginning of a never ending life with God. We should do nothing that would cause us to die, but when death comes, God’s child can know that God will be waiting for them.

The Hebrew writer says that death is an appointment. If you have an appointment with a

doctor, you have a time reserved when you can see the doctor. We do not know when we will die but when that time comes, we must be ready to meet God because we will stand before Him and He will judge us. We will not be able to change or ignore that appointment but we can obey Him so that when we do meet Him, He will say, “Well done, enter into the joy of your Lord.”



Do Barbers Exist?

Author Unknown

A man went to a barber shop to have his hair and his beard cut. He began to have a good conversation with the barber who attended him. They talked about many things and various subjects, including the existence of God. The barber said: "Look man, I don't believe that God exists."

"Why do you say that?" asked the customer.

"Well, it's so easy, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God does not exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God exists, there would be no suffering or pain. I can't think of loving a God who permits all of these things."

The customer thought for a moment, but he didn't respond because he did not want to start an argument. The barber finished his job, and the customer left the shop. Just after he left the barber shop, the customer saw a man in the street with long hair and a long beard. It had been a long time since he had his hair cut, and he looked dirty and unkempt. The customer entered the barber shop again and said to the barber, "You know what? Barbers do not exist."

"How can you say they don't exist?" asked the surprised barber. "I am here, and I am a barber. Why I just worked on you!"

"No!" the customer exclaimed. "Barbers don't exist, because if they did there would be no people with long hair and beard like that man outside."

"Ah, barbers do exist; what happens is that people do not come to me."

"Exactly!" affirmed the customer. "That's the point! God does exist. What happens is people don't go to Him and do not look for Him. That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world."



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 or write to the address below.

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A SPECIAL NEWSLETTER
JUST FOR YOU!
