

Godly Youth

Young in Age, Strong in Heart

Do Not Be Ruled By Things

If you go to a mall you will see many stores with lots of wonderful things. There are clothes that it seems everyone is wearing and shoes that the “popular” people wear. Sadly, many people choose their friends based on what they own instead of who they are.

Some people feel bad because they do not wear clothes that everyone else is wearing. Some feel bad because they do not have the latest video game that everyone is talking about or the newest toy.

It is sad when people consider themselves good or bad based on the things they own. It is sadder to see people who will not be friends with someone—or even make fun of someone—who does not have the clothes or own things that the “popular” crowd has.

This attention to things can make us forget about things that really matter. It does not matter what clothes you wear or what things you

own, you are important because there is only one you. Anyone who does not want to be your friend because you do not look like them, dress like them, or have the things they have is not a friend worth having.

This focus on things is called covetousness. When one is covetous, he wants what he does not have, is not happy with what he does own,



and thinks about things too much. Galatians 3:5 says that covetousness is idolatry. If a person is so focused on things,

they become like a god to him. He cares more about things than he cares about God. Instead of God determining what is important in his life, he thinks things are more important.

Around birthdays and holidays it is easy to get excited about what gifts you might receive. Some people want lots and lots of things but, after they have had the gifts for a while, start wanting more and more things. It is not wrong to have nice things and gifts but do not make them the most important thing in your life.

Your relationship with God and other people should be more important than things. Do not choose your friends based on what they have but on who they are. Some of the worst people have many things. Some of the best people have few things. Be content: be happy with what you have. 1 Timothy 6:6-10 warns us that the desire to own many things may lead us away from God.

Volume 3, Issue 9
October 2004

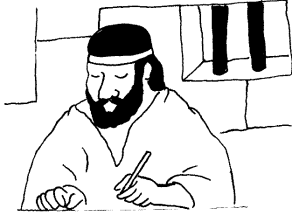
Inside this issue:

<i>Ephesians</i>	2
<i>What Should You Do?</i>	2
<i>Do You Know?</i>	2
<i>Codebreaker</i>	3
Memory Verse: Proverbs 13:15	3

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

Acts 17:11

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil



Lessons from Ephesians

- Jesus rules over all powers on earth
- God's people must be kind and helpful to one another
- We should not do things that God does not like if we want to live a good and happy life
- God wants children to obey their parents
- Jesus loved us so much that He died to save us—we must do what He commands



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

What is the book of Ephesians about?

The book of Ephesians is a letter from Paul to the church in Ephesus. Paul probably wrote Ephesians and Colossians at the same time since they are very similar.

The book of Ephesians tells how Christ is better than all powers in the world and is stronger than Satan. Paul told how Jesus is God who lived life as a man. He also told the Ephesians how Jesus made a way for us to go to heaven when we die if we obey Him.

Paul wrote about the church which is the kingdom Jesus made on earth. The church shows the power and wisdom of God because He was able to build the church even through many people tried to stop Him and Satan fought against Him. Jesus won.

Paul told his readers to be kind and get along with one another since they were all trying to go to heaven. They needed each others help and needed to help others.

Paul told the church to try hard not to sin since that did not please God. When they chose to serve Jesus, they had to quit doing things that were wrong and start doing what pleased God. All that God commanded them would help them live a better life. God knows what is best for us.

Paul wrote that children should obey their parents since this is right and will help them live a long life. Our parents, just like God, want us to be safe and happy which means that sometimes they will not let us do some things because they love us.

Paul compared the church to a husband and wife. Jesus died to save the church because He loved it so much. A husband must love his wife just as much. The church loves Jesus and obeys His commands. The wife must love her husband and know that God put him in charge of the family. Both must love one another and help one another.

Finally, Paul told the church at Ephesus to arm themselves with the word of God and the spiritual armor to face the attacks of the enemy, Satan. If we will trust God to help us do what is right and pray for strength, God will help us do what is right even when other people want us to do what is wrong. By trusting in God's power, we can have the victory.

What Should You Do?

The whole month of December you were hoping to get an Xbox for Christmas. When you woke up in the morning you got many great presents including toys that you know you will enjoy. However, you did not get the Xbox. What do you think is the best way to act? Is it ungrateful to look down on what you did get when you did not get one thing you wanted? Why?

Later that day you found out one of your friends down the road got an Xbox and some great games. What do you think would be the best way to act? How would you want your friend to act if you got the Xbox and he did not?

Do You Know?

1. What is the shortest verse in the Bible?
2. What is the longest verse in the Bible?
3. What is the longest chapter in the Bible?
4. What is the shortest chapter in the Bible?

(Answers below)

Answers

1. John 11:35
2. Esther 8:9
3. Psalm 119
4. Psalm 117

Activity

Use the key below to decode the message:

◆ ≡ ℳ ↗ ℳ ☉ ☼ □ ↗ ◆ ≡ ℳ ● □ ☉ ☼ ✕ ● ◆ ≡ ℳ

ℳ ℳ ♯ ✕ ■ ■ ✕ ■ ♯ □ ↗ & ■ □ † ● ℳ ☼ ♯ ℳ,

☞ ◆ ◆ ↗ □ □ ● ● ☼ ℳ ♯ ✕ ✕ ℳ † ✕ ☼ ☼ □ ○ ☉ ■ ☼

✕ ■ ● ◆ ☉ ◆ ♯ ◆ ✕ □ ■.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
☉	ℳ	♯	☼	ℳ	↗	♯	≡	✕	er	&	●	○
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
■	□	☞	→	☼	●	◆	◆	❖	†	⊠	⊡	⌘

Memory Verse: Proverbs 13:15

“Good understanding gains favor,
But the way of the unfaithful is hard.”

If you seek wisdom from God’s word, it will help you to live a good life. You will find favor with God and live a wise life.

If you refuse to seek wisdom from God’s word, you will not only suffer eternal punishment if you will not repent, you make your life difficult while living on the earth.

In movies, television shows, and computer games, it seems that you can do all kinds of things that God forbids and

nothing will happen to you.

What you see on the TV and movies is not real. Every sin will bring problems for you. Sometimes the problems are not seen. You may feel bad about what you did or shame for your actions. Sometimes people feel bad for a long time about the “fun” they had.

Some people say that the life of a Christian is hard since a person must avoid things that many people do and be careful about his

behavior. The person who wants to please God must work and be careful to do what God commands. It is sometimes hard to do the right thing when your friends are doing what is wrong. If you do the right thing, you will feel happier and know that you have chosen the better way. True happiness comes by obeying God.

The devil’s fun is a cheap replacement for the true joy that comes by loving and obeying God.



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 rhodesdavis@joimail.com or write to the address below.
Past issues on <http://www.justchristians.info>

Godly Youth Newsletter
Rhodes Davis, Editor
c/o Northwood church of Christ
P.O. Box 416
Northport, AL 35476

A SPECIAL NEWSLETTER
JUST FOR YOU!
