Ecclesiastes - Commentaries by Gordon Henry Hayhoe

Glendale Conference: 1971, Young Men in Scripture

Article from https://bibletruthpublishers.com/bible-truth-study-bible/btsb

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

Well, I'd like to look at 5 different passages in the scriptures where we have young men brought before us in connection with various things of life. So the first one is in Ecclesiastes chapter 2. Ecclesiastes chapter 2 and verse one. I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure, and behold, this also is vanity. I said of laughter It is mad, and of mirth what doeth it? I saw it in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom, and to lay hold on folly till I might see what was good for the sons. Men that they might do under the heaven all the days of their life. The ninth verse. So I was great, and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me, and whatsoever mine eyes desired, I kept not from them. I withheld not my heart from any joy, for my heart rejoiced in all my labor, and this was my portion of all my labor. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do, and behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no prophet under the sun. Well, here is the 1St, and evidently we would say that Solomon was a young man when he came to the throne. We know that David, his father, reigned for 40 years and Solomon was not born till some time after his father was reigning. So I would say that he was probably in his late 20s or early 30s at the very best. And here he has come to the throne in Jerusalem. He has the opportunity of discovering for himself everything. That will bring happiness to a man if it's to be found. Under the sun, some of us might say, well, I'd like to try this or try that, but I don't have the position to try it, nor do I have the money. I don't have the influence, so I'm restricted. But here was a man who was not restricted. Here was a man who had power because he was king in Jerusalem. Here was a man who had wisdom because it says that he was wise above all that were before him. Here was a man that had money, for he made silver and gold as the sands of the street, so he had everything that was necessary if it were possible for a man to find happiness under the sun. And he didn't intend to go to the extreme in anything. He just intended to see what could be found out to bring happiness without, as he thought, going to the extreme and making himself foolish and dear young people. Perhaps this is the quest that's in your mind, too. You'll feel, well, I just like to try things out. This is a wonderful world, and we're living in a wonderful age. There's more within the reach of young people than ever were before. More things, more places to go, and much more learning. Oh, so much that you could reach out for. And this age in which you live is a very particularly tempting age. You can sit in your own home and see what's going on all over the world. Now this isn't this is something that couldn't be done in times past. And so you say, why not enjoy all these things and enjoy them to the full? Well, now, why did God allow Solomon to be in this position? Well, for the very reason for which I am speaking this afternoon. And that is he allowed this man to try everything. So that he might, as it were, give us the results of his research, of his findings. This is a day when we hear a lot about research. People say, well, I did research on this. I did research on that. Well, here was one whom God raised up to do an extensive research to find out. And he tried what could be found under the sun. And after he had tried everything to the fall. And as he said, he is. His wisdom retained with him, that is, he sought to confine himself in the limits of wisdom, in what he did. And yet this man, when he had tried it all, what was his observation? What was his finding? Well, his finding was as we were told in the 11TH verse. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on all the labor that I had labored to do.

And behold, I was satisfied. Not at all. It didn't bring him what he expected. And now, dear young people, as I look into your faces, I know that you are seeking after something that will satisfy. Youth is always after something worthwhile in life. Always seeking. And this is only normal too, because when you're young, why you look out on life and you think there must be something worthwhile. And you feel that you must try each thing in order to find out whether it's worthwhile. But this is the wonder of God's Word. We have one who knows infinitely more than we do. We have one who is perfect in wisdom. His name is called Wonderful Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. And there is one who looks down in this room this afternoon and is interested in you. And who knows all about? Out what is in your mind and knows that you're really seeking for something that satisfies. And he hasn't left you without the very finest and best of advice. He hasn't left you to the wisdom of man because the wisdom of man is very varied. Some people command one thing, some another. Some people uphold one thing, another condemned that same thing. And So what are you going to do? You say, even when I ask Christian? Some people say this is all right, and some Christians say it's not. Well, dear young people, I turn you to the word of God. The God has written a book for us. It's his Word, it's his wisdom, it's his light for our pathway, the entrance of thy word giveth light. It giveth understanding to the simple. And you, dear young people, I would say. That to be brought up under the sound of God's Word is the greatest privilege. That you can have, if you were a teacher in school, was the best teacher in the whole school, you would say, well, I must say I have a great favor. I have the best teacher in the school. If you were going to college and you were studying a subject under the very, very best professor in the land, he would say I'm really favored. I'm studying under such and such a professor, and he's the high man in his field. Well, dear friend, you're studying under the one. Who is not just the high man, but he is God Himself. That blessed One who came down into this world and walked through this world was God manifest in the flesh, and you and I have the light and wisdom of His Word. I cannot command too highly to you the importance of reading God's Word until you become well acquainted with it. And, as I sometimes said to young people, read the stories of the Bible carefully. Them saw that they sink right in on, you know what God has given, because God has written a story in his Word to suit every situation that you can ever meet in life. He has told about men. He's not merely given you instruction, but He has put man in the history of this world in every position in which a person could be found. And in that position He has shown how they acted. He has shown us their mistakes. He has shown us what they had to reap for their mistakes, and He has also showed us how they were blessed when they bowed to the Word of God and to His wisdom and walked in obedience to Him. My situation is different from others. No, I say there's a story in the Bible that's suited for you. There is a story in the Bible that's suited for your office, for your home, for the assembly where you live. Every situation you could think of is portrayed in the Scripture. And in the Old Testament we have the picture, and in the New Testament we have the instruction. Did you ever buy a part for your car and then? You found that there was a little diagram how to put it on. And then there was some printed instruction too, and you looked at the diagram and you looked at the printed instruction, and you worked together with those two, and you put the thing on properly. Well, your friend God's given you a picture and he's given you the instruction. He's written it all down.

How thankful we should be. And so if there's someone here who is in exactly the same quest as Solomon, who is almost saying the very words, listen to what he said. He said to his. Own heart I will prove thee with mirth. Therefore enjoy pleasure. Oh, you say, that's just what I wanted. I didn't know the Bible told me to do that. Oh, here was a young man and he talked to himself and he said, no, I'm just going to have a good time.

And I'm going to try everything that I can, and I'm not going to go foolish in it, but I'm just going to try it. This is the one whom God gave this place and He tried. Of course, we have to remember it was under the sun. Don't forget those words. You'll never understand the book of Ecclesiastes unless you always bear in mind those 3 words under the sun. Under the sun. He he didn't, he didn't bring in. The glorious knowledge that you and I have in Christianity. But he looked at things under the sun, and just acted as a man may try things under the sun. And so these things under the sun did not bring satisfaction to his heart when he had tried them. All, he said, all is vanity. Well, this doesn't mean that God isn't interested in your happiness, nor does it mean that he is not interested in your material happiness. I was very much struck in reading in the 12TH chapter of Luke, where it says that God clothed the lilies far better than he clothed Solomon, than Solomon was clothed in all his glory. And that if God was so interested in the flower of the field, he's interested in us, and then he goes on. The Lord Jesus speaking in the 12TH of Luke said, But seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. That is, don't seek pleasure and self satisfaction. Seek the Lord, seek him, and then heal. Undertake with what you need in a natural way. He has interested in the places you go. He's interested in the clothes that you wear. He's interested in the house you live in and the car that you drive. He's interested in everything. But he doesn't want you to make this the object of your life. He doesn't want you to make that the thing that you seek after. I've sometimes illustrated like this. As supposing United States we're going to send an ambassador up to Canada. And when he was going to be sent, he said, well, I'm most interested in what kind of a car I'm going to have up there and what kind of a house I'm going to have and whether I'm going to have a good time in Canada. They'd probably say, well, you're, you're not a suited representative for us. But when he comes there, he's provided with a nice house, He's provided with a nice car, but that's not his purpose. That's not what he's there for. That is merely provided. With the carrying out of his privilege of representing the United States and Canada. Well, dear friends, you and I are heavenly men. Every saved young person in this room this afternoon belongs to heaven and is a representative of heaven upon earth. Do you think God cares whether you're provided for? I'm quite sure United States cares very much whether they're ambassadors provided for. In fact, it's their interest to see that he's properly provided for. But that isn't why he's in Canada and you're not in this world, and I'm not in this world to seek pleasure. We're here to represent Christ. And so if this is what you're seeking after, dear young person, it's going to lead to disappointment if you have made the quest of your search pleasure and fun and mirth and laughter as he speaks of and perhaps great works in all these things. You are bound for disappointment. But if you make Christ the object of your search, why then he cares about the rest. He cares about everything in your life. I love that verse, casting all your care upon Him. And it doesn't end by saying, because He's so mighty, it could end that way. But why does it say casting all your care upon Him? For He careth for you because He's interested in you. You can safely leave it to Him. The protection of his child and treasure. Is a charge that on himself he laid, he made that his own charge. It's his interest. Well, here was one who sought the wrong thing. And when he had it all he had to say it was vanity and vexation of spirit. And saw before I pass on to the next, may I say if there's any young person, perhaps you're not saved and you have nothing else to live for if you don't know the Lord Jesus. And so you say you're going to make the best of this life.

Well, I'm sorry for you, because even if you did find something that gave you a measure of pleasure in this life at the end, His judgment at the end is eternal banishment from God's presence. But I speak primarily to those who know the Lord Jesus all. I beseech you, dear young people, don't seek after the things here, not because God is not interested in your happiness, but because. That seek the Lord. Shall not want any good thing. So here we find one in quest of pleasure, and only to be disappointed. Now I'd like you to turn to Mark. And chapter 14. Mark in chapter 14. In verse 50. And they all forsook him and fled, and there followed him a certain young man having a lemon cloth cast about his naked body. And the young man laid hold on him, and he left the linen cloth, and fled from them naked. Well, here's another young man. He certainly wasn't seeking after pleasure. Certainly wasn't in the same quest as the man that we read of in the Book of Ecclesiastes. Here was a young man and you would say, well, this was a young man of character. Well, I have brought this young man before you for a particular purpose. Here we find in the 50th verse that all the disciples had forsaken Jesus and fled, That is, the ones who had companyed with the Lord Jesus and who ought to have been very devoted to Him. Why? They turned out to be a disappointment. They didn't follow the Lord like they should, because at this point, at this very serious point in the test, that they all forsook Him and fled. And so this young. Man with a natural zeal of youth, he decides that he is going to, shall I say, be a hero. He is going to stand out above all the rest. Now, dear young people, there can be a danger of this too. Sometimes when we are young, we look around and we see perhaps others, and they haven't gone on with the Lord the way they should. And we tend, perhaps, to set up ourselves. And think we're not going to make the same mistakes as they made. We're going to go on, we're going to be this and we shall something of the spirit that Peter said, though all should forsake thee, yet will not I and sometimes we see young people like this. It's lovely to see a desire for the Lord, but sometimes when we display this without realizing what we are ourselves without ever having. Got into the presence of God in a sense of our own nothingness, and we have to find out that we do not have the strength for the Christian life in ourselves. Oh, how many a young person I have seen who has started out well, has started out and you thought well, what a promising young person. And today they have turned out to be a disappointment. And have heard older ones say well I don't understand. And that young person seemed so promising. Oh, dear, young people, just as in the first case, the man, the man's heart was wrong. He was looking after the world for pleasure, and his heart was wrong instead of sending the Lord before him. And here is a young man who stands out, as it were. And I might say that linen in the Scripture is a figure of practical righteousness. This one was going to be a little better than the rest. He was going to be one who, even if others all that, didn't do the right thing. He was going to be the hero. He was going to be the faithful one. All we don't know our own hearts. How many, many times my dear father quoted to me that verse. He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool. We don't know what we would do. We're troubled of doing anything. All your young people don't trust your own heart. You may think I wouldn't do this. Some other person might be turned aside, but not me. I'm going to be faithful. All we don't know our own hearts. This young man has to. Linen cloth cast about his naked body. I think of it sometimes. He had this outwardly, but what did he have underneath it? Nothing. Nothing. There was nothing underneath. And we can have something that's outward, but God's going to put us to the test about what we've got underneath. Underneath that display, underneath that nice talk, underneath that.

Pretended desire to follow the Lord is there. Reality the priest was to have linen breeches about his lines. He was to have something underneath the robes and your young people. It isn't enough just to put on the outward. There needs to be something underneath that is there needs to be now that self judgment in the presence of the Lord, that consciousness that we have no strength of our own and that getting into his presence in quietness and acknowledging. And that we do not have the strength to meet the difficulties of life and all. I would encourage you, dear young people, to get before the Lord, and don't try to be outwardly what you are not. Inwardly. God wants reality. Man

looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart. If the Nazarite broke his inward devotedness to God, he wasn't even allowed to retain his long hair. Why? Because God didn't want him to maintain the outward when he didn't possess the inward, If he was touching what was unclean, if he was taking of the fruit of the vine, that is enjoying the pleasures of the world. And that he wasn't to bear the outward sign of being something that he wasn't inwardly. And God said he was to cut off his hair and not make a display before others of something that was not real in his life. And I say to your young people, be real. Walk before God, walk in self judgment. The 2 great lessons of the wilderness are this and that. There is nothing good in us but that. There is everything we need in Christ. Yes it is. We're slow to learn both. We're so slow to learn that there's nothing good in US. Think of. Moses, one whom God afterwards used so mightily, but when we find him going in an energy, he was going to set things right. And when his brethren had a quarrel, he said, he our brethren, why are you with strife? One with another. Yes, he was going to set them right. He was going to kill the Egyptian. He he meant well, but he hadn't learned himself. And how long did it take him before God could use him? 40 years, 40 years in the backside of the desert. And when he came back, he wasn't a self confident man then. No, when he came out of Pharaoh's court, he was mighty in words and deeds. But when he came back from the school of God, he said, I can't talk, I can't talk. And the Lord had to say, who made man's mouth? I'll teach you what to say, Moses. Yes. And dear young people, this is another experience that we sometimes have to go through. And what I am trying to say, if I can make it very simple, God doesn't want you to pretend to be something. He wants reality. He wants not only that you put something on in front of your brethren to impress. Them but what would give a joy to the heart of your blessed Savior is that he sees you when no one else sees you in your bedroom on your knees, reading His word as it were, preparing the inward so that when you go and meet others that the outward would be the expression of what was inward. So when the young man made hold on this, this boy who had this and this. It says it was cast about his naked body, and when someone went to grab him, he lost the linen cloth and he fled. He had nothing underneath. And there's a test going to come in your life. There's a task going to come in mine. And what is the task going to be? Whether what we pretend to be outwardly is real with us inwardly, somebody's going to lay hold on us. Some unexpected attack is going to come. Someone is going to rise up and say or do something and it's going to catch us off guard. And if we have nothing inward, when the outward's gone, we'll flee, we'll run, because it hasn't been the habit of our lives to be constantly in the Lord's presence. Well, this young man that we read of here was sort of different from the first one. The first one was openly seeking mirth and pleasure. The second one was one who was displaying the outward linen garment, but he wasn't carrying it out practically. In his own personal life before the Lord. So I believe there's a lesson for us in this. And I say again, God wants reality. Now let us turn to another in Exodus chapter 33.

Exodus chapter 33 and verse. 7. And Moses took the Tabernacle and pitched it without the camp, afar off from the camp. And called it the Tabernacle of the congregation. And it came to pass that everyone which sought the Lord went out unto the Tabernacle of the congregation, which was without the camp. And the 11TH, 10th verse. And all the people saw the cloudy pillars stand at the Tabernacle door. And all the people rose up, and worshiped every man at his tent door. And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp, but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed, not out of the Tabernacle. Now here we haven't time to read all the connection of this, but we have another young man named Joshua. And this young man had, along with many others, left Egypt. God had redeemed them and brought them out of that land of ******* and here they were now in the wilderness. But a law they had left Egypt. How the world was, alas, in their hearts. And we find just in the chapter before how that they had made a golden calf. And those in the camp were worshiping the golden calf. They were worshiping the works of their own hands. And alas, can we say that that which professes the name of Christ today has. Departed from loyalty to him, other things have come in and just as he or they worship the golden calf, so there can be other things that are idols and christened them. While it professes to be apart from the world that's under judgment. Nevertheless, here we find that they were worshiping this golden calf. And when Moses came down from the mount and found the people worshiping the golden calf, and then it said. He took the Tabernacle and pitched it without the camp, afar off from the camp, and called it the Tabernacle of the congregation. That is, God provided a meeting place outside of all His confusion. I believe it's still the same today. Let us go forth, therefore unto Him without the camp bearing his reproach. So there was a place, and isn't this a marvelous name, the Tabernacle of the congregation? All were there a great crowd of people there. It says everyone that sought the Lord went out unto the Tabernacle of the congregation, which was without the camp. Now you would say, well, now you'd expect to find a large crowd there than if everyone that sought the Lord went out there. But now it appears that it was not so. It appears that there were very few. The greater part of them, Charles a more popular position. Now they didn't want to. Turn their back upon the Lord. And so it says that everyone rose up in his tent door and worshiped the Lord in his tent door. He worshipped, but he didn't go out to this meeting place. And now we know that there are many who we could say are true children of God, yet they have not seen their place outside the camp. They have not seen what it is to be gathered to a rejected Christ. Many of you, dear young people, have been brought up to know these things and to hear them. It's not a new thing for you to be told what it is to be gathered to a rejected Christ. And we're not expecting to find a popular position. But I trust that those who have gone through any exercise can say, well, the reason I have identified myself with those gathered to the name of the Lord Jesus is because I believe the Lord. Is there, And that's why I want to be there, because that's the only thing that will ever keep us there. It's certainly not because of the crowd, because here we find that the names of those that went out are not mentioned. But certainly if there were very many there, there were exceedingly. Few in comparison to the number that were in the camp. The greater majority stood in their tent door and worshiped the Lord. But here there was a place, there was a place where the Tabernacle was set, there was a place where those that sought the Lord could go and commune with him. Can I just make this little remark because someone might say, well then why did Moses go into the camp? Well, I just make this little remark. God is sovereign, and the fact that God is working in the camp and saving souls is not a reason for us to forsake the.

Of obedience 1 rejoices her to see God working in grace. And we, just like Israel, have failed exceedingly. We cannot lift up our heads and say, well, we're the faithful people in all the gospel testimony has been committed to us. Oh indeed not brethren, let's hang our heads and acknowledge now that we're just poor, failing things and a failing testimony to the truth of the church is the body of Christ. And God is faithful and I give thanks for. As those who have been brought to the Lord, even though they may not have given up the confusion of Christendom and we leave that with the Lord. And it's not our responsibility to interfere or to question the sovereignty of God. God has a right. And so Moses, who in his case represents Christ, he went into the camp and thank God that he still meeting people in grace, meeting them perhaps in a position that his word cannot. Of because he is sovereign. But as far as Joshua was concerned, his place was one of obedience. His place was one of following those who sought the Lord, being in the Lord's presence. Later on Eldad and Medad prophesied in the camp, and Joshua said, My Lord, Moses forbid them. Did Moses forbid them? He said, envious thou for my sake. Dear young people, never get envious because there's blessing outside of us. Never get envious because there's blessing in the camp. Give thanks if there's blessing in the camp, but your path and mind is to be obedient to the word of God. And So what I wanted to bring before you about this young man named Joshua was that to him the Tabernacle of the congregation was precious, the place where the Lord had met with his people, and that was precious to him. And

he didn't interfere with what God was doing in grace, but he just walked in the path of obedience himself. And this is the happy path for you, dear young people. I know that in these days it's often hard to continue in the path, but notice that. And it came to pass that everyone which sought the Lord went out unto the Tabernacle of the congregation. Well then, when you find out there's not many there, are you going to give up? Are you going to give up or because you see God working in the camp, or are you going to give up the path because of this? Joshua didn't. Joshua stayed the place where the Tabernacle was because that was the place for those who sought the Lord. And so he says he departed not out of the Tabernacle. Well, may the Lord give us to value the privilege of walking in obedience to His Word, even although God is sovereign. In his acts in grace. And now shall we turn to Zechariah? Zechariah The. Second last book in the Old Testament. The first verse I lifted up mine eyes again and looked, and behold, a man with a measuring line in his hand then said, I whither goest thou? And he said, I'm sorry. Zechariah 2 verse one. Thank you. Then said I, Whither goest thou? And he said unto me to measure Jerusalem, to see what is the breadth thereof, and what is the length thereof. And behold, the Angel had talked with me, went forth, and another Angel went out to meet him, and said unto him, Run speak to this young man, saying, Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls, for the multitude of men and cattle are in. For I saith the Lord will be under her, a wall of fire round about. And will be the glory in the midst. Her Well, in Zechariah we have the little remnant that had come back from the Babylonian captivity, and here they were back in the center where God had put His name. And yet there was much that would discourage them. There was very little activity in connection with the rebuilding of the temple that they were so much discouraged that some of them were at the point of almost giving up, and they were building their own houses, but the House of the Lord was being neglected and God. Raised up two prophets, Zechariah and Haggai, to stir up the people and to encourage them to go on. But now this brings us to this young man where the measuring line in his hand. I'm sure that as he looked around and he saw some building their houses, he saw some who ought to have been faithful man and they were getting into mix ups with the enemies that were round about them and all. There were so many things to discourage that here was a young man and what does he do? Well, he said.

I'm just going to take. Line and see how large this work really is. And so here he's walking along with a measuring line. Have you ever done that, dear young person? Have you ever taken a measuring line? And you measured the little assembly where you were, and then you compared it with others and you said, oh, it's nothing. There's nothing being done here. It's so small and there's so much weakness. And you were just about at the same point as this young man. I'm sure that if he had measured. Jerusalem. At this point he would have gone away with a discouraged heart and said, well, it's so small. Does the Lord really have delight in such a thing as this? And so here we find that an Angel is sent to run and speak to this young man. And what was the word that was given to him? All he's told to look on. As though the message was like this, O young man, don't measure things down here as they are, but just think of the glorious time that's ahead. Jerusalem is going to be inhabited as towns without walls for the multitude of men and cattle are in. Oh, he said, there's a glorious day ahead for Jerusalem. And if I could apply it to our own day, when you return to the little assembly that you came from and you take the measuring line in your hand. And you say, oh, it was nice to be with a few 100 when we were at those meetings up in Glendale. But oh, there's so few here and there are no young people. And with a measuring line in your hand, you're pretty discouraged. Well, here's somebody running to speak to you and what is he telling you? Always says, look on, there's a glorious day ahead. And you say, oh, yes, but down here. Well, dear young people, to be gathered on the ground. Of the one body as we have had in this meeting. To be gathered as members of the body of Christ is indeed a wonderful privilege. I believe the dearest thing to the heart of Christ in this present dispensation is that he is gathering out a bride, a bride for glory. And as he looks down and sees so many calling themselves by various names, forming groups with various measures of activity and measuring, well, we're doing a big work here and we're doing something. Here, and we perhaps think, well, it's all small, but the Lord looks down and he finds delight in a few that recognize that there is one body, and that in all weakness we can seek to give expression to that truth. If I can speak for myself, it's the knowledge of this that has kept me in some measure through the years. Because I'm just the same as you are. I've looked around and I've often been discouraged as I've gone to places and seen the weakness. Why I had to be careful not to pull up the measuring line. I had to put it aside, as it were. And I had to look on and say, well, the church is someday going to be presented without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, and to be gathered just to give expression to the truth that there is one body. Just to know that we're gathered as members of His body, waiting. Glorious time, then, that gives courage to go on. And so it says, I saith the Lord. Will be under her. A wall of fire round about. That is all evil will be kept out and a glory in the midst of her. Isn't that a wonderful future that's ahead? Well, if there's a young person here and you have just come to the point where you've been so discouraged because you've been using that measuring line, may I point you on like this young man? May I tell you? That someday, in the glory, I believe you'll be thankful. That you kept in the path. Someday you will praise the Lord that He gave you the privilege of being gathered to His precious name according to His Word. Oh, don't, don't, I beseech you, and make comparisons, except you want to measure things by the word of God. May the Lord grant them that if there's anyone here who is discouraged, that the Angel may run and speak to you and point you on to a time of glory that is ahead and it might be today. The Lord Jesus might come and all. What a grand meeting that will be. All those young people that perhaps you know at school who are not so gathered. That nice young person that works in the office that really loves the Lord and yet doesn't see the path we're going to all be.

Together around the Lord, someday we're going to praise him. There's a glorious time, but what a privilege of seeking to go on instead of instead of getting discouraged to look on to the time when the Lord will bless that very place in Jerusalem, He'll bless them on the earth, and we're going to be in the heavenly Jerusalem where every several gate was 1 Pearl. I like that expression because it just seems to me it gives. Thought that wherever you enter, what do you see? A perfect display of what the church is to Christ. A perfect display. Whatever gate you entered, the whole 12 gates, what would you see? Just a perfect display of what the church is to Christ, because it was the Pearl for whom he gave himself. And now just one more in First Timothy chapter 4. In verse 12, Let no man despise thy youth, but be thou an example of the believers in Word, in conversation and charity, and spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come. Give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee which was given me by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things, Give thyself wholly to them, that thy profiting may appear to. All take heed unto thyself and unto the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee. Here is Paul writing to a young man, a young man named Timothy, And he said, Let no man despise thy youth. I was very much struck in reading in the 27th chapter of Leviticus that God gives us the value of man at different ages. And from the ages of 5 to 20 he valued them at 20 shekels. From the ages of 20 to 60 he valued a man at 50 shekels, and from 60 and up he valued them at 15 shekels. So, you know, as we get older, we're not worth quite as much. You young people are the ones, if the Lord leaves you here, who are going to be the ones who go on in the truth of God. It's true that when the priests retired from service at 50, they were to keep the charge of the Lord and they were just like the ones that held the reins. But the rains don't do the running. It's the young people that do the running. And here young people, I want to encourage you. I want to encourage. You just like Paul did to Timothy, he wrote to Timothy and he said, let no man despise thy youth. Don't say well, because I'm a young person, there's nothing for me in the valuation of the 27th of Exodus. If you're past 20, you're worth over three times as much as the one that's the one that's over 60. What a valuable place is

yours. What a responsibility, what a privilege is yours. And So what a wonderful thing and I've noticed. As I have traveled about from assembly to assembly that the greatest blessing that I've seen in assemblies is young people that want to go on for the Lord Jesus. The old people are blessed by them in every meeting where the young people are going on for the Lord, the old people are rejoicing because we want to see you blessed and happy. And here Timothy has written to Timothy is encouraged and he said don't let anyone tell you it's no use because you're young there. This is something for you to do. There's a place for you to fulfill. And all I want to encourage you, I want to see dear young people who have a heart for Christ, who seek to go on for Him. Because we've observed in the other cases, there may be times when we get discouraged. There may be times when we seem to feel that we're pretty much alone. But the Lord values that devotedness. Timothy was living at a time when he saw all Asia turn away from Paul. Paul said all in Asia be turned away from me. But Paul writes and said, Timothy, don't you give up. Don't you give up just because there's a breakdown. But you go on and you'll be an example in Word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit. In faith, in purity. And if the enemy can't lead you out of the meeting, he can perhaps lead you to a careless walk inside. And in that way too, instead of being an example, you can be a hindrance. And so here we find that Timothy is exhorted to go on and to be an example. And so he encourages him too, about the gift that is in him. There's many a young person who has a gift, often as I.

Look at young people and I see that they really are young people of ability. I know the devil makes a special target of those who have that kind of ability. Didn't the king of Syria ask for all the goodliest in the court of Ahab? Didn't the king Nebuchadnezzar ask for the choicest in Babylon for to bring up in the wisdom of the Chaldees? And isn't the world the same today? It's looking for the best of our young people. That's looking for you to join the ranks of making this world a place of greater progression and more advancement only for judgment. But O dear young people, the Lord wants you. The Lord wants you. And so I just close with those words. Continue thou. Continue thou. Continue in them, for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee. O may the Lord help you through the snares and pitfalls of youth. It may help you and encourage you to live for Him. At the end of your journey you'll look back and you will thank Him for His preserving grace. No credit to ourselves, but all. You'll thank Him. And when you see in that day of manifestation how He valued any little bit of. To Him, you and I will wonder why didn't we live more for Him? He did everything for us. Continue thou.

Montreal Conference: 1979, Five Young Men

Address—G.H. Hayhoe

And we sing together, hymn #250, hymn #250 From various cares. Our hearts retire, though deep and boundless. Their desire we've now to please but one Him before whom each knee shall bow. With him is all our business now. And those that are his own #250. I'm very. Tears our hearts are. I'd like to turn this afternoon first of all to the book of Ecclesiastes. Ecclesiastes. And the 11TH chapter. Ecclesiastes 11 and verse 9. Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth, and let thy heart hear thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart and in the sight of thine eyes. But know thou that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart and put away evil from thy flesh.

For childhood and youth are vanity. Remember now thy Creator. In the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the ears draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them. Well, it was on my heart, dear young people, to speak this afternoon about 5 different young men in the Scripture. And this is the first one that I had before me. And perhaps it applies to some who are here. Perhaps there are some who have come this afternoon to these meetings and you don't yet know the Lord Jesus as your precious Savior. You're still trying to find something in this life that will fill and satisfy your heart. And so this first occasion is addressed to. So a young man rejoiced, so a young man in thy use. For this is a meeting that is specially for young people. And notice what it says. And let thy heart hear thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the way of thy ways of thine heart and in the sight of thine eyes. Doesn't that remind us of what is so very common today? We hear so much about doing your own saying and planning your own life, deciding your own destiny, everything. All you can just do your own will and independence of God, and perhaps through some young person, maybe there are more than one of the young people here and you've come in here with just that concept of life. You said I just don't like the idea of everybody telling me what to do, and I don't like them to bring verses of the Bible before me because I feel I should just go my own way and do as I like. I'm not doing anything very wrong. And after all, in this day and age, standards are a little different than they were before. Is this the way you're thinking? Is this the way? Your mind is working at this time. Well, here's a word and you say, well, it sounds. And what you have said as if that's the way you should live your youth, it sounds as if God was telling you to go on in that way, but He is just telling us in this verse and all, how serious it is that there is such a way of living. But it's a very sad and serious way. And I want to warn you, dear young people, that if you go on in this way, you may saw a great many seeds of sorrow that may affect the whole of your later. Even if the Lord in His goodness should bring you to himself, how often we can sow in our youth of those things that we have to reap later on. Or how many young people have started out, and they call it to have their flame, and then the Lord in His grace saves them. But what sorrow they have to reap, what remorse. And so how lovely this passage really is in bringing before us the importance of this word. Lord, remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth. It's a wonderful thing to be brought to know the Lord Jesus as your Savior while you're young. I was thinking this afternoon of different instances in the Scripture, too, of men who were brought in contact with the Lord Jesus. I think of a young man named Saul, Saul of Tarsus. He was going his own way. He was going on just as he thought was right. He even said in Acts. I verily thought with myself that I ought to do many things. Contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth, he had all his own ideas. US and no one in the Christian community was going to interfere with his ideas. He was going to go his own way until the Lord met him. And oh, what a mighty change took place when the Lord met him on that road to Damascus. What a change when that light above the brightness of the sun shone down round about him. And if there should be anyone here, I say, and you're just going on walking in that way. I must read the rest of the verse to you, for it is immensely solemn. Notice what it says. But know thou that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. Perhaps you say, well, what is sin really? What is it? Well, sin as it's defined in in John's epistle is lawlessness. It's just doing thy own will and independence of God.

Is choosing my own way shutting God out of my life? And doing just as I please. And it has. So it tells us here. What is the sad end of such a course? It says here. But know thou that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. There's another verse in Matthew that says, every idle word that man shall speak, he shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. Have you stopped to think what sad results there will be from lost time in your life? What it might mean to go on and just say, Well, why should I acknowledge? The Lord's rights over me. Well, first of all, in Him we live and move and have our beings. Not one of us could move a hand or take a step if He didn't give us the strength to do it. The Bible says if God thought only of Himself and gathered unto himself his breath and His spirit, all flesh would perish together, and

man would return unto the dust. And there was a young man who was going on in his own way. And he was told by Daniel, the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified? Is there someone here? And this is the way that you're living. Oh, I beseech you to realize what is the end of such a course. I warn you that ahead is the judgment of God if you go on walking in your own way. And that isn't something that is just an uncertainty, it says. Know thou that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. Have you stopped to think of what it will be when you have to stand before God and give an account of the way you have left God out of your life. You haven't acknowledged Him as your Creator. You haven't recognized what was done at Calvary's cross for your salvation. What a solemn warning to this young man. And then in his 10th verse, it says, therefore remove sorrow from thy heart. Might mention that the new translation reads, remove discontent from thy heart. And this is quite remarkable too, because I'm quite sure of one thing, that if you haven't already found it out that sooner or later you're going to find out that the pleasures of sin do not satisfy. They're only for a season and they bring sad results. And not only has sad results, but even in the present, no matter what you may say about I don't see anything wrong in it. You know very well that it's not bringing that peace and that joy to your heart that you want to find in life. You haven't found life until you have found the Lord, because apart from Him it's only death. It says all they that hate me love death, and then it says, therefore put away evil from thy flesh. For childhood and youth are vanity, that is, if there live for self. But there's another side to it too, and that is as we'll see in looking at these other young men. There are those who have in their youth recognize the Lord's claims and been blessed by it. As I look over the great number of young people here. It gives my heart joy because I know that life is becoming increasingly difficult. The whole challenge today and to use is to contribute something to this world and to make a name or a place for yourself and make the most out of life. But the Bible shows us that life is only a vapor that appears for a little time. It's eternity that counts. Are you living in view of time? It's all for. It's all for such a short time. Time but eternity just think of it eternity with Christ or eternity under the judgment of God eternity in his presence where there's fullness of joy or to be banished from his presence forever, or even if you are a Christian, to live your life in such a way that as we read. In First Corinthians chapter 3 it says if any man's work be burned, he shall suffer loss, yet he himself. Shall be saved, yet so is by fire. That is, you can have a saved soul, but a lost life, a lost life. What is a lost life? A life that's lived for self, A life where the Lord is left out and you just live for your own interests, for your own concerns. All dear young people, May God speak to each one of our hearts and I think especially of you growing up in this present age.

When it takes real purpose of heart, it's true that in this land. You may not have to go to the stake and be burned for Christ. You may not be put in prison and be tortured in this land. But I do say this, it's going to cost you something. It's not going to be easy, but it's well worthwhile because we have such a wonderful Savior and to go through life in His company and with the knowledge of His love and of His approval in your life, His true peace and His true joy. To the first man. The first young man that we read about is one that is going his own way and it says, remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth, before the evil days come are the years drawn nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them. Some of us are getting a little bit older and you know as we get older why we feel this very true what it says here. That you don't find the same pleasure in living and as people might say, it all don't get. The same things out of life that when you're young, but we still have the same blessed Savior and all. How those of us who are older sitting in these chairs this afternoon, how we thank God, many of us, that we were brought to the Lord when we were young, How we praise him for the grace that saved us. There's not one of us who are older here who were saved in use, who would say, oh, I wish I had had a bigger fling in the world. Then I would have wanted to follow Christ. Everyone of us who were older, who know the Lord and who found them in our youth, just thank Him and praise Him from our hearts that He saved us while we were young. And so I plead with you, dear young people, The Lord Jesus is the one who can make your life worthwhile. He's the one who loves you, who finds His joy in your blessing, and who wants to have you as His companion, walking through life and for all eternity above. Now we turn over to the gospel of Mark, and we'll come to another young man. Mark's Gospel, chapter 14. Mark's Gospel, chapter 14. And verse 51. And there followed him a certain young man, having a linen cloth cast about his naked body. And the young man laid hold on him, and he left the linen cloth, and fled from them naked. This is a very interesting little incident that is recorded here in the gospel of Mark. It's the only gospel where we have this recorded, but I believe it speaks a good deal to us. Now why is this little story brought in? Well, first of all, I would say that I believe this young man represents to us a person who's putting on an outward exterior but doesn't have reality underneath. Quite easy to put on an outward exterior. It's quite easy to deceive your parents. It's quite easy to deceive your brethren and to put on a kind of an exterior of being devoted. You come to the meetings and your parents really think that you have a desire, but how often it's so that all this can be on the outside. But inwardly the heart is not taken up with the Lord Jesus. He's not really precious to you. And you know, dear young people, as one, I can speak for myself brought up in the meeting, brought up under the sound of God's Word and in a Christian home. It's very easy to be like this young man. It's very easy to pass before others with an outward show because the linen garment just is a figure in the Scripture. The Bible says the fine linen is the righteousness of Saints. Now it's not talking about salvation. The righteousnesses of Saints means. Practical righteousness in our lives. And you know, we can put this on before others. I say we can put on a real pretense. But you know, I want to warn you, dear young people, it came in my life and perhaps it's coming in yours, or perhaps it has come and the Lord makes known whether our pretense, it's only a pretense or whether there's something real underneath. This young man thought he was. Very devoted. It seems almost as if he was showing off others, because at this point the disciples had all forsaken the Lord and fled. But he wasn't going to be like them. He was going to follow even if the others didn't. He was going to put on quite a display. But I say the testing time had to come. The testing time had to come. And what was it? Somebody reached out and put his hand on this young man, caught hold of him.

And he wasn't able to withstand that situation. And such a situation will come in your life or mine. I believe it came in my life right after a conference like this, where the Lord had to show me whether I was really doing it for the eyes of others or whether I was doing it for him. And it's going to come in your life too, if it hasn't already come. And I beseech your dear young people that there's no use putting on a pretense before others because the Bible says. All things are open and naked unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do. Yes, God knows our hearts. He knows the very innermost thoughts of our hearts, and He wants reality. Are you going on with the Lord in the secret of your own soul? Are you really seeking to please Him when, apart from all others, you get down on your knees at night? Is it true that you really want to please the Lord Jesus? That you really want to give him the place that he deserves in your life and in mine. Oh, he's done everything to win. That he went to Calvary's cross and died for us. He's living for us there as our great high priest above at the right hand of God. Do we need help? Well, certainly when we're young and at all stages of life, we need help. We just can't meet the conflicts of life in our own strength. It's absolutely impossible. The Lord Jesus said. God without me he can do nothing. But there's a great many of us that are like Peter. We think we can do something our own. We think that we can handle situations on our own. And Peter said, O Lord, if all the rest of the disciples should deny thee, yet will not I? He didn't realize how much self-confidence there was in that statement. And we often don't realize too. And then the Lord has to put us to the test some supreme. Test comes in our life, something that discovers to us whether we really want to follow the Lord Jesus, whether we really want to put him first, whether he's going to be before everything else in our lives. And this test comes, it came in the

life of this young man. And what did he discover? Well, it says he let go the linen cloth. In other words, all that that he had pretended was going on outwardly. He let go and he fled from them naked. He had absolutely nothing underneath. And many of us have observed such things and we say, can it be that young person? We thought he was so promising and look where he has gone. There has to be reality. It says man looketh on the overt appearance, but the Lord looketh upon the heart. And so I want to say to you, dear young people, do you want to go on in the secret of your own soul? Well, I would just say to you, remember that there are two things that are most necessary in your life, and that is the reading of the Word of God and prayer. There needs to be always and constantly. And that washing of water by the word, constantly in the quiet of your own room, not just when you go to meeting, when you're sitting with your brethren or with another group of young people. But I say quietly, alone with him, that you should be there before him, reading his precious word, learning more of his will, and then getting down before the Lord and telling him that you have no strength of your own. That you can't meet the youth conflicts in your own strength. That you can't and that you don't not only don't have the strength, but you don't know what to do. And life is so complex, it's full of hard questions. And just like the Queen of Sheba, he tried to find the solution to all these hard problems she had. Position she had wealth and she thought if there's anyone who could possibly find a solution, surely she could in her own land, but she couldn't who did she have to meet She had to meet King Solomon and how what is the answer to your problems and mine Oh, it's the Lord Jesus himself he's the only one who can give us the answer to all these problems, these questions that continually rise in life and. Here we find a young man. He had the outward but not the inward, and he fled. And so I say with you and I, may we sustain the inward life. Go on quietly with the Lord. One thinks of Paul speaking to Timothy, and how he exhorted that young man and said.

Meditate upon these things gives thyself wholly to them, that thy profiting may appear unto all. Take heed to thyself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in so doing thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee. Oh, there's so many snares and pitfalls of use, and we're so weak, and has Satan is so strong. But greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world. Oh, dear young people, this young man seems to bring before us the importance of dependence upon the Lord, of maintaining that inward spring of fellowship with the Lord, so that what is seen on the outside is the result of the inward result of going on with the Lord quietly. And then when difficulties and trials arise, we will find, like Paul, he had a difficult situation. All his brethren forsook him, and he said. Notwithstanding, the Lord stood with me and strengthened me all he will, he will not fail you. So here we find in this young man the importance then that we should maintain that inward life with God. And I want to say in life, with all your heavy studies and all the demands of business and. Perhaps a young man is married and you know have a financial stress is so great. I know how very difficult it is to try and meet the situations of life and if we're not carefully, just take all our time, all our time, and we need that little hymn says take time to be holy. We need to take time. You'll never have time for the word and prayer. You'll never have time for any of those things unless you take time. Take time. Mary learned that lesson, and she took time. Time to sit at Jesus feet. Martha didn't learn it so easily and she was busy, but she didn't take time to sit at Jesus feet. Well then we come to another. Perhaps in Exodus chapter 33 we have another young man brought before us. Exodus chapter 33. And begin at the seventh verse. And Moses took the Tabernacle, and pitched it without the camp, afar off from the camp, and called it the Tabernacle of the congregation. And it came to pass, that everyone which sought the Lord went out unto the Tabernacle of the congregation, which was without the camp. And then the 10th verse. And all the people saw the cloudy pillars stand at the Tabernacle door. And all the people rose up, and worshiped every man in his tent door. And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp. But his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the Tabernacle. Now here we have another young man. To me, it's very interesting to trace the life of this young man. It's Joshua. And we see this young man, first of all, when they came out of the land of Egypt, he comes out at the time that they started to worship the golden calf. And well, first of all, we see how. Before this, he had led the people against Amalek. And I just want to give you a little thought about this. You know, Amalek speaks to us of Satan's power over the flesh. And here was a young man. Did he have all the feelings that that young people have? Did he all have all the drive and everything that young people have? Yes, he did. But this young man, he took the lead in seeking to go out commanded of God. Against Amalek. Next time we read of him, the people had fallen into the worship of the golden calf, and it tells us here about Joshua that he was much concerned about that. And now we come to here, where the Tabernacle of the congregation was pitched without the cap. Wasn't a very popular place, but it was a wonderful place because it tells us. That everyone which sought the Lord went out unto the Tabernacle of the congregation which was without the camp. Why did he go there? Well, it says they sought the Lord. Oh dear young people, do you and I really seek the Lord? I trust we do desire to have His mind and will collect individually, but here it seems to me that it brings before us collectively.

What a grand privilege it is to be gathered to the precious name of the Lord Jesus. And not because that we're boasting about something, a possession or something, but what was it that made as long as it went out to this Tabernacle of the congregation, what was it made them go there at this time? I don't believe it was the wonderful Tabernacle that we later read of that was constructed, but this was something that was a place of reproach. And this was a place apart from the camp, not like the one afterwards built that was right in the center, but this was a place of reproach. Are you and I content to go without the Cam just because we want to be around the person, the Lord Jesus? Well, tells us here that later on. When Moses came by, it says all the people saw the cloudy pillars stand at the Tabernacle door and then they go out. Did they say, well we want to be there because the Lord is there? No, it says they rose up and worshiped every man in his tent door. It wasn't popular. Even though they did see the glory cloud there. There were many of them that chose an easier path and you know it is not an easy path to follow the Lord. Individually, and it's not an easy path to follow the Lord collectively to go on in the path that he is marked out in his precious word will cost something. And we're not told here about Joshua having any company in the stand that he has taken. It just simply says in the latter part of this 11TH verse. But his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the Tabernacle of the congregation. Even if many of the others decided to worship at their tent door. Or perhaps I hear someone say, but didn't Moses go into the camp? Yes. And doesn't the Lord work in the camp? Aren't souls being saved all around us in the camp? Yes, we thank God that they are. We thank God for everyone who is brought to know the Lord Jesus as His Savior, no matter how or when. It's brought about. We thank the Lord for the proclamation of the God. The gospel, Paul said, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached, and I therein do rejoice. Yeah, and will rejoice. But it always cause Joshua to leave the Tabernacle of the congregation which was without the camp. No. Why was he there? Well, not because he wanted to be identified with the crowd, not even because he was seeking blessing, although we delight to see blessing and we thank God for. But he sought the Lord, he sought the Lord, and dear young people will never be preserved unless this is before our souls. This young man sought the Lord. Afterwards this young man was chosen to be a spy, to go into the promised land and to bring back some of the fruits of that land and to tell the people what a good land it was. And afterwards he had the privilege of leading the people into the land. What was it? Life of this young man that gave him this privilege or there was a constancy there was a going on with the Lord. Joshua sought the Lord his very name means Jesus or Jehovah the Savior. That was everything to him and it characterized his whole life and as I look into the faces of so many of you young people. All how long that the Lord would keep you, and preserve you, and give you the grace? To continue in the past that he has marked out in His Word, I know there are trials and difficulties. There were things going on in the camp here that must

have greatly concerned Joshua and did. But what did he value? He valued the place where the Lord had. Tall It's where we're told here that everyone that sought the Lord went out to the Tabernacle of the congregation. And in its New Testament connection it says, Let us go forth therefore unto Him, without the camp, bearing His reproach. And all my desire is that the Lord would keep each one of us walking in the path that is pleasing to Him in obedience to His Word, for his coming is near. Soon the Lord Jesus is going to come and give that shout. So here we find one who valued the Lord's presence.

Now let's turn over to Zechariah and we'll see another one. Zechariah, second last book in the Old Testament, chapter 2 and verse one. I lifted up mine eyes again and looked and behold, a man with a measuring line in his hand. Then said I, Whither goest thou? And he said unto me, to measure Jerusalem, to see what is the breadth thereof, and what is the length thereof. Be all the Angel that talked with me went forth, and another Angel went out to meet him, and said unto him, Run, speak to this young man, saying, Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls, for the multitude of men and cattle are in. For I saith, the Lord will be unto her a wall of fire round about. And will be the glory in the midst of her. Well, you know in this. Prophet Zechariah, God in His goodness had gathered back a little remnant from the captivity. They had come back to Jerusalem. But it tells us in the beginning of this book that many of them had settled down and they were not. They were not going on for the Lord. There was much to cause sorrow of heart to Nehemiah and to. And to Ezra as these people had come back. And they were all occupied with their own affairs. Tells us in the Prophet Haggai that they were building their houses, they were making money to put in a bag with holes. But there just seemed to be so much that was going on. Had they come back to the city which the Lord had called by his name? Yes, they had. Wasn't a wonderful return ordered of God? Yes, it was. But it's quite possible for us to know the truth. But how easy it is for us, even knowing the truth and even seeking to be where the Lord would have us as gathered to his precious name, just settling down to our own interests, looking after our own things. And this young man, as he looked things over, he was very discouraged. And I know that there may be a number of young people here and just say, well, I'm just discouraged. The little meeting where I lived, there's so. Activity, There's not much going on and we do come to remember the Lord Jesus in his death, but it just seems that there's a coldness and there's not the interest in the things of the Lord and there's nothing to take up your time and interest. It's easy to settle down and get concerned about getting along in the world. And that was the condition of things that existed here. And God raised up Haggai and Zechariah to stir up God's people. To seek to build a house and to be occupied with his interests. But here is a young man where we read here in this chapter, and he was going to measure Jerusalem. You can sort of picture this young man. He had known a little bit of what Jerusalem had been in the past. For it was a wonderful city in the time of King Solomon. The nations of the earth came up there. That beautiful temple had been built by Solomon. The queen of Sheba made her journey all the way from down in the South up to Jerusalem to see the glory of the Kingdom. And perhaps his mind turned back to that. And perhaps your mind turns back to days in the past and you think, well, I read this and that. In days of those great men of God like Mr. Darby and Mr. Kelly. Mr. McIntosh But things are different today. They're not the same. And I suppose this is the way this young man was doing. He was measuring, he was making a kind of a comparison in his mind about what things had been like in the past. And I'm quite sure that as he measured Jerusalem and then thought of what it had been in the past, he was very discouraged. And it might be that there are some young people here, and perhaps. Some older ones too. And you say, well, it's lovely when we come together at a meeting like this and we really enjoy listening to the ministry and meeting our brethren. But it's so different when you go back home and things are things are so weak and we just feel discouraged. Well, that was the way it was this young man and he was measuring Jerusalem. And it tells us that there was an Angel that talked with Zechariah the prophet, and another Angel came and he was told, run speak to that young man. How was he told to do to help him to make the measurements to be sure they were accurate? Oh, no, he wasn't told to do that at all. Listen to the message.

That was carried by the Angel, he said. Jerusalem shall be enhanced. As towns without walls for the multitude of man and cattle are in. In other words, what was he told to do? He was told to look on to a coming day of glory, when Jerusalem, the city of the great King, will be the center of that wonderful millennial scene of glory. And what is it that will sustain us, dear young people, that will keep us going on? There are many discouragements in the path of faith. What is it that will sustain us? Oh, it's looking on to that time. Oh, I love to think of that time in my own heart, when the Lord Jesus descends from heaven with a shout and calls all his own around himself. Mr. Darby and his little hymn puts it like this. Who shall to me that joy of Saint throng? Courts declare for God himself vote safe to dwell. And every bosom fell. And as you sit here in these meetings. And meet a few of the young people and brethren from elsewhere. Oh, what a thrill to look on to the time. And it might be this very afternoon when the Lord Jesus will give that shout. And there around the Lord Jesus, we'll meet him. He'll be in the midst, the center and glory of the whole throng, and all the redeemed will be there. Not one divergent thought that somebody that you meet that perhaps. You Col. I can't have the same fellowship I'd like to have with this person or that person. And we know that all of us are not going on for the Lord just as we should. But oh what a moment that will be. And everyone we meet will be just like Christ. Every heart will be full of His praises. Christ will be the center. As another has said, every St. will be gathered to Christ. What a glorious thing, what a hope this was and this would sustain that young man. And so as we look forward to that glorious day and think of it, it gives us faith and patience to go on in this present time, living for the Lord Jesus. And it tells us here in the next verse. For I say that the Lord will be unto her a wall of fire round about her, and will be the glory in the midst of her. What was going to be the glory? Always say the street of gold, the gates of Pearl. Now the Lord himself, the Lord himself. And dear young people, if your eye can only be set upon the Lord Jesus, if you can just see Him as the object for your heart as we go back and. Spoken on, we see how here's the person who had his eye on all the things of the world and they didn't satisfy. Here's someone who was trying to put on some something outward and there was no reality to it, and that didn't bring any satisfaction either. Then we find Joshua and in the day of great have failure and weakness. What did he seek? He sought the Lord. What was it that preserved him? Well? He wanted to be where the Lord was, the Tabernacle. Of the congregation. Then here we see someone who's measuring and he's disappointed, I'm sure, because what a few there were, you only have to read Ezra and Nehemiah to see that there were just a very small remnant that came back from the captivity to Jerusalem. And then if you want to know something about their condition, just read. In Ezra and read in Nehemiah and read in the. Prophet Malachi, you would you say, well, just because these people all came back, they were wonderful spiritual giants. They really wanted to go out into the Lord and they wouldn't have come back from Babylon, not at all. Just read those books and you'll see they were just like ourselves, a poor, failing lot. What was it? That was the glory. Oh, the Lord was there. And oh brethren, as we think of this, then we look on, there is a future ahead. Let us not measure things by what we see now, but have before us that time when everyone, every member of the body of Christ, will be gathered there around the Lord Jesus to sing His praises. I'd like to turn to just one more young man in First Timothy, First Timothy and the 4th chapter and the 12TH verse. Let no man despise thy youth, but be thou an example of the believers in.

In conversation, in charity, in spirit and faith, in purity, till I come give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given me by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things, Give thyself

holy to them, that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself and unto the doctrine. Continue in them. For enduring this, thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee. Now, what we have been Speaking of about these other young men seem to be in connection with their own souls that we were particularly dealing. But here, perhaps we could say about Timothy that he he became a useful young man. And as I look over you young people, how often I think if the Lord leaves us here, how we desire that as we see young men and sisters too, with real ability that you would seek to be useful for the Lord Jesus. Useful because the Lord Jesus said in the 4th chapter of John say not there four months and then comest harvest and then it's in other words, it's quite a little while. There's plenty of time. He says, say not there yet four months and then cometh harvest. But I say unto you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are quite already to harvest. There is something for each young person to do. Timothy was a young man, and there was some. For Him to do, as we have been noticing in our Bible reading this morning. And notice what it tells us. First of all, before saying anything about Timothy's usefulness in the Church of God, we see his own personal character brought before us. Be thou an example of the believers in Word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. What a what a standard is brought before us here. No, their God has no lower standard than His own beloved Son. How often we hinder what we say by our own lives when we are not walking in the good of these things practically. How often our service is spoiled because as people look at us, they say, well, I've watched his life. And I know he does quite a few things that I don't think a Christian should do. And so here is a young man, and he's exhorted first of all about his own life. And dear young people, can I pass this exhortation on to you? My desire is that you should be useful. I'm sure there would be great blessing in our assemblies if our young people saw it in this way to be examples. And that our whole manner of life, that love emanated from us, that there was a characteristic and motivating principle in our lives, and then that we showed the right spirit. How often we get annoyed and upset about things we don't show the Christian spirit. And then he says in faith, we have to learn to count upon God, many of us. And I think God allows it when we're young. The Bible says it's a good thing for a man to bear the yoke in his youth. And I believe the Lord allows a lot of reverses to come in use because he's preparing us while we're young for what he has for us to do. And then in purity that we're living in a very, very impure age. We're living in a day when conversations, pictures, everything possible is put into the minds of youth to try and. Destroy purity all your young people. May the Lord keep us. May the Lord keep us not only faithful to Him in many other ways, but all from those kind of snares that would spoil the very testimony that we would seek to render before the people of God in purity. Then he tells them about his habits. Reading exhortation, doctrine, what precious volumes of truth we have. I have a lot of very good books in my library and I haven't read them all yet. There's there's such a volume of truths for us and how thankful we can be for it. Here's a young man exhorted was mentioned this morning. How often there can be in our assemblies a lack of teaching. And perhaps it's because.

In the quiet of our own lives. We haven't given attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. People say all activity is the great thing, but all in these days doctrine is so important. The devil is at work to destroy the foundations of the faith. May God give us to value the truth of God and to walk in it. And then he says neglect not the gift that is in me. Many of you young people have real ability. Are you using all your ability to get along in this world, or are you seeking to use the ability God has given to you for Him and for His glory? There are many lost gifts to the Church of God. Timothy had to be stirred up. Paul had to say in Colossians and say to Archippus, take heed to the ministry that thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfill it. And so here was a gift that had been communicated to Timothy, and it was a gift with which he had when that expression says with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery, the presbytery is simply the elderhood, and it simply means that. Where there is a gift, why there is the recognition of that gift and the fellowship of our brethren in seeking to use it for the Lord. What a nice thing we see here in this young man. And then he says meditate upon these things. They've heard it said that meditation is a lost art. And, you know, I really think that it is more difficult to meditate. Now, when we think a few years back when people didn't have motorized vehicles or if they did, the roads weren't as busy. Now as you know, when you get at the wheel, you can't meditate. You have to watch what you're doing. If you're working in a machine, you have to have all your wits about you. Working at that machine. It's very hard. The only way you'll ever have any time for meditation is to get away from all the activity and get along. And that takes spiritual energy. That one brother used to say, well, I could go behind the plow and all the horses were going along. I could meditate on Scripture. But you can't run a truck to that way, can you? And you can't, you can't do these things so easily today. We're living in difficult days. But we just read this morning, perilous times. It is difficult. But greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world. Dear young people, I know it's going to take spiritual energy. I know it's not going to be easy. But may I exhort you meditate upon these things. Give thyself wholly to them. In other words, we belong to the Lord. We're his body, soul, and spirit. May we seek to recognize His claims over us and give ourselves to Him, and that his interests become our interests. That's what I take from that expression. Give thyself wholly to them. In other words. When you're some person's interests become your interests, then you give yourself wholly to them. And you know, we haven't really given ourselves wholly to the Lord until his interests become ours. What is he interested in this world? I hope you and I are interested in everything that he's interested in. Is he interested in the gospel? Is he interested in our dear young people? Is he interested in the assembly? Oh, he's interested in everything that. Concerns His glory and the blessing of His people. And then He gives a little warning here. Take heed to thyself and unto the doctrine. Continue in them. For in doing this thou shalt both save thyself and them not hear Thee. We've been talking about youth. We've been talking about starting out. We've been talking about those decisions that are made in use. And there's so many momentous decisions that are made in use. But after we've made these decisions. And after we have really said, well, I do want to please the Lord Jesus. I do want to live for him. I do want to acknowledge his claims. Can we just rest on our oars now and say, well, I've made my decision. Everything's going to go along all right? Oh, no, the devil's never going to leave you alone. Never, never. But neither is the Lord, neither is the Lord, he says. And lo, I am with you always. Even unto the end of the age, or as another translation is. And lo, I am with you all the days. O dear young people, may the Lord not only give you the grace to start out, but all to walk each day, to get up in the morning, look up to the Lord, seek His preserving grace. Oh, as I think of many dear young men that I knew when I was young.

Know how nicely they started out, but all only the Lord can keep any of us. And if he doesn't keep you and I, what will we be tomorrow? We don't know unless he keeps us. And so surely there's something for us in these different young men that we've had before us. And I hope they'll speak to your heart. Dear young people, not only man, but sisters form a valuable part. And I just like to say in closing that. That the sisters have a tremendous part in. Because in my observation, I've noticed over and over again that when a young man seeks to go on for the Lord and gets the right partner, it's a true helpmate. And you may say, perhaps you sisters, well, we don't have a public place to fulfill, but you influence the person who takes the public place far more than you think, far more than you think. And so I pray for you too, dear sisters, that the Lord would preserve and keep you. And make you useful and help you to be a true helpmate to the one who may be your partner, if such is God's will for you. But May God grant that as we think of these things that we will realize the importance of youth. I just have been struck, and perhaps I've commented this before, but perhaps it bears repeating, that if you turn to I think it's the 27th of Leviticus, you'll find the value at different ages. And tells us up from. Five years old up to 20. I think the value of a man was 20 shekels. From 20 years to 60 years is valued up to 50 shekels, and when he passed 60 years old, his drive value dropped to 15 shekels. I tell you young people, you don't know

how important you are. What a blessing you can be. Some of us are getting a little bit older. We feel that we don't have the same push as we used to have. But you can use your use and your energy for the Lord Jesus. May the Lord grant that His love will touch your heart and constrain us. It says, The love of Christ constraineth us, because we thus judge that if one died for all, then we're all dead, that we which live should not henceforth live unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again. May his claims stir our hearts for the rest of the time until he comes.

clickbible.org