

INTRODUCTION

We are very thankful that the Lord has blessed us with all of these dear young people. We believe that children are an heritage from the LORD; that the fruit of the womb is a reward from Him. We are very happy to have these little children and big children and young adults.

Lately, it seems there has been even more blessing from the Lord in the young people.

There are three babies on the way among us even now.

There has been one young person after another professing faith in Christ and being baptized, or making a credible profession of faith and being accepted as a church member.

Young people have mostly taken over the responsibility for getting the fellowship lunch ready and cleaning up afterward.

Several of you have reached the milestone of turning 13.

Some have just turned 16 and got their driver's license.

Some are just now graduating high school or college.

Most personal to me among all these things, as you know, is my oldest son Andrew's big progress.

-Yesterday he graduated college.

-Then his girlfriend and his sister went with him to move most of his things into his new apartment in Fort Worth.

-This week he will move down there.

-Next week he starts his new job.

With all these things happening these days, it is in my heart to speak to you children and young adults in particular this week. Wednesday evening, I spoke to some of you from Ecclesiastes 12, exhorting you, "Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth."

Today I speak to the whole congregation, but especially to you who are young. I am speaking to you, but in one sense I am speaking for you. There is something on your mind, on your heart. I know it is in you, because it is a big part of every young person's thinking. But the Lord knows you perfectly, and He has put it into words for you. You might already know to think of such things in those terms, or you might not have. Either way, it will help you today for me to speak those words that God has put into the Bible for you. Then you will know to frame your thoughts and feelings in this way, and so be greatly helped by the Lord in just the way you most need it at this time in your life.

TEXT

Psalm 119:9-16

BODY

I. Excellent Question v. 9a

KJV 9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?

NKJV 9 How can a young man cleanse his way?

A. I expound this scripture as “cleanse his way”

1. Isaiah 1:16-18 "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, 17 Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow. 18 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.

B. How; wherewith; wherewithal

1. The Hebrew word is an interrogative, a word used to form a question
2. from the context, the translators know it means “how,” or “with what” or “by what means”
3. it is good for the young to ask, “How?”
4. it is nothing to be ashamed of, especially when you are young, not to know how to do something
5. it is something to be ashamed of, not to know how to do something important, and be too prideful to ask

C. Focuses attention on the right priority

1. there are several good, wholesome things about which the young may rightly ask “how?”
 - a) e.g. How can I find a good match and get married?
 - b) e.g. How can I get an education and a good job?
2. but good as those things are, they are not the top priority
3. the right thing for you to prioritize is cleansing your way

D. Rightly assumes that a young man’s way needs to be cleansed

1. this is not at all the popular sentiment
2. How can David have sinned so terribly in the episode where he committed adultery and murder? Psalm 51:5 Behold, I was shapen [or brought forth/born] in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

E. Rightly assumes that a young man’s way can be cleansed

1. with God there is forgiveness of sins
 - a) it is in the blood of Jesus Christ
2. there is an initial cleansing
3. there is also an ongoing cleansing

- II. Correct Answer v. 9b
- A. It is popular today to suggest that there is no right or wrong answer
 - 1. even that it is racist or bigoted to insist that there is a right answer and a wrong answer to questions
 - 2. popular to say, “whatever feels right to you” or “whatever you feel good about”
 - B. Take heed
 - 1. I looked at the use of the word *shamar*, and it seemed to mean something like “guard or preserve by watching over”
 - a) someone was keeping the sheep
 - b) an officer in the army was watching over the supplies
 - c) a soldier was to be guarding the king while he slept
 - 2. our expressions “Watch where you’re going!” and “Watch out!”
 - C. We all know that if you don’t look where you are going, you can trip and fall
 - 1. you can even fall to your death
 - 2. e.g. our young drivers
 - D. Take heed according to the word of God, the scriptures, the Bible
 - 1. to watch out, you have to know what should be there, and what shouldn’t be there
 - a) IFF
 - b) identification cards
 - 2. to watch out, you have to have some way to see
 - E. see Psalm 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.
 - 1. e.g. our young drivers again, as to their headlights

III. Effective Method v. 10-11

- A. Both exertion and prayer v. 10
 - 1. I will seek You, O God, with my whole heart
 - 2. O God, do not let me wander from Your commandments
- B. Use of Means v. 11
 - 1. illus. to find your way
 - a) you need to study the map
 - b) or today, you need to get your phone ready
 - (1) download the map
 - (2) make sure it’s charged and you have a car charger
 - 2. to cleanse your way; to avoid sinning against God, you hide His word in your heart

IV. Identification of Worthy Example v. 12

- A. You see someone who seems to be happy, successful
 - 1. he must really know how it’s done
 - 2. you want to find out how he achieved that successes
- B. God is the most blessed being; the Lord Jesus Christ is the most happy, the most successful, the most blessed man
 - 1. identify Him as the One to be followed
 - 2.

CONCLUSION

The world around us is running as fast as it can into extremes of wickedness, in which it is destroying its happiness in this life, and heaping up guilt for itself to be punished on the great day of judgment that is coming.

By nature, you are drawn to them. Your flesh wants to go along with them.

But when you see so many hurrying down that path, do not follow them. To not pollute your way as they are doing.

When you won't go with them, they will think it strange, and will speak evil of you.

Don't listen to their words, as they say that anything you do is good, as long as you approve of anything and follow your heart.

Instead, let these words from the scriptures ring in your ears:

Psalm 119:9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.

Psalm 119:16 I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.

Alex - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - John 1:1-14

Alvin - Scripture Reading - 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Jeremiah - Congregational Prayer

Haven - Prelude - your choice

Journey - Trinity 27 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" - Andrew lead

Angie - Trinity 726 "Saved By Grace" - Andrew lead

Journey - Trinity 188 "There Is a Fountain"

GEN 9 Beth. Wherewith shall a yong man redresse his waie? In taking heede thereto according to thy woorde.

KJV 9 BETH. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

NKJV 9 How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.

A very important question to ask!

10 With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!

It is for us to seek Him with our whole heart
Yet it is for Him to keep us

11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

It is common for us to want not to sin, and try not to sin, and ask Him to help us not to sin
But what is needed that we not sin? Hiding His word in our heart
-believing it
-reading it and listening to it
-meditating on it

12 Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes.

13 With my lips I have declared All the judgments of Your mouth.

14 I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches.

15 I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways.

16 I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.