

What is Wrong With Today's Youth?

By Bill Hall

All along we hear questions raised as to what has gone wrong with today's youth. Recently, a brother expressed his concern along this line and then asked, "What advice would you give young parents to help them avoid mistakes that we have made in our generation?"

The first thing we would say is: All is not bad with today's youth. We see young people in the New Georgia church voluntarily attending special classes conducted for their benefit and studying diligently in preparation for these classes. We see them singing in the worship periods, listening to sermons, following in their Bible, obeying the gospel as they reach accountability, and living conscientiously before God. We see similar interest in young people in other congregations.

But all is not good. We are aware of drug abuse, sexual promiscuity, drinking, gambling, and crimes of all sorts among the youth of our day. We are appalled at the lack of self control exhibited by athletes in both college and pro ranks. What has gone wrong?

An article we saw in a Fort Myers newspaper helps to explain what has gone wrong. The opening paragraph says: "A Fort Myers high school football player who was arrested and charged with hitting a 15-year-old in the face with a crowbar has his coach concerned and his mother worried about his football future."

Worried about what? When parents are more concerned for their children's football future than they are for their character; when they are more concerned for their children's financial well-being than for their eternal well-being; or when they are just not concerned, period, we can expect problems among our youth. Priorities are all wrong. Too many parents, in order to feed their own egos, push their children into positions that will bring honor and popularity, but give little thought to what will build character and integrity and responsibility within them.

"And ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

What advice would we give to young parents? Bring your children to every service of the church; encourage them to form close friendships with other children who attend regularly; do not try to shield them from hurts and disappointments, but allow them to work through their disappointments; hold them responsible for the consequences of wrong-doings; make sure that your greatest desire for them is that they go to heaven and that they are aware that this is your greatest desire; pray with them and teach them how to pray; and love them, love them, love them some more. That's a good start anyway!



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Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

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What did Paul Find at Corinth?

By Robert Turner



Thought to Ponder

He who provides for this life but takes no care for eternity is wise for a moment but a fool forever.

It was on his second great journey that the apostle Paul came to Corinth. What did he find during the year and six months that he remained in that important commercial center? First, he found a Jew and his wife who were tentmakers by trade. Paul abode with Aquila and Priscilla because he was of the same craft. He worked with them in making tents (Acts 18:2,3). Second, he found a synagogue of the Jews. It was the custom of the Jews to build places of worship called synagogues wherever there might be enough Jews to justify the erection of such a house. Paul went into the synagogue each Sabbath to reason with the people and to try to persuade them to follow Jesus (Acts 18:4). Third, he found strong opposition. When the people who assembled at the synagogue opposed and blasphemed, he said, "Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles" (Acts

What would Paul find in your community or mine, particularly among members of the church, if he could pay us a visit today? Would he commend, or rebuke?

18:6). Fourth, he found some who were willing to obey the gospel. Crispus, chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house, and many of the Corinthians heard, believed, and were baptized (Acts 18:8). Fifth, he found encouragement. Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia. Their arrival gave new impetus to Paul's efforts. Furthermore, the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision and said, "Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no

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News and Notes

Let's remember our expectant mothers: Joy Liu, and Amanda Stephens .

We will have our monthly men's business meeting today.

Let's continue to remember Barbara Kicker in our prayers as she is recovering from a fall at home.

Those graduating this week:

**Daniel Golden
Jack Pressnell
Mason Chandler
Rachel Simpson
Phillip Bailey
Ben Fuller
Micah Mauldin**

Audio CD's will be available in the foyer after each service.

December Birthdays

- 1 - Preston Guthrie
- 4 - Justin Padgett
- 5 - Rusty Weldon
- 5 - Charlie Johnson
- 8 - Macy Johnson
- 10 - Kyle Gibson
- 11 - Will Holcomb
- 12 - Hannah Marsh
- 13 - John Henderson
- 16 - Clint Armstrong
- 18 - Tin-Tau Tam
- 18 - Hannah Liu
- 21 - Holly Johnson
- 21 - Alison McFerrin
- 22 - William Herd
- 24 - Jessica Yates
- 24 - Ryan Yates
- 24 - Andrew Thigpen
- 30 - Holly Law
- 30 - Ben Price

Mat 7:1-4 - "Judge not, that you be not judged. ²For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. ³And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? ⁴Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye'; and look, a plank is in your own eye?"

Sick

Fran Snyder (Mother of Carla Humphrey)	Lori Holloway	Chick Wade	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Carrie Chavers (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Jared Nixon	Philip Locke (Jeremiah Johnson's Uncle)
Ross Folmar	Grandparents of Mary Ann Roberts	Joe Perry (Anna Miller's Relative)	Toni Herd
Ed Mort (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Kenn and Ellen Smith (Ken Sullivan's Parents)	Erlene Davis (Walker Davis' mother)	Daphne Whatley (Lisa Lanier's Mom)
Gerald White (Christopher's and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)	Bill Rhodes (Toni Herd's Uncle)	Mike Reed (Friend of the Long's)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Frank Johnson (Debbi Coleman's Uncle)	Herbert Missildine (Toni Herd's Uncle)	Jo Faust Williams (Manna Jones' friend)

Do You Have a Bible Question?
Call (334) 734-2133 or
E-mail:
LarryRouse@aubeacon.com

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

Ask about our home Bible Study Groups!

**Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor**

Check Us Out On the Internet: www.aubeacon.com

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man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city" (**Acts 18:5,9,10**).

Later Developments

After Paul took his leave of the newly-established Corinthian church, Apollos went there from Ephesus and was a great help to the new converts (**Acts 18:27,28**). Many problems arose in the months that followed. A factional spirit was in evidence, discipline was neglected, brethren became involved in lawsuits against one another, dissension arose over eating meats sacrificed to idols, the Lord's supper was perverted, some began denying the resurrection of the dead, and there were abuses in connection with the exercise of spiritual endowments. Paul wrote a letter (**1 Cor.**) designed to correct, instruct, and edify the church at Corinth. That letter was penned during the time that Paul was at Ephesus on his third journey.

From Macedonia another letter (**2 Cor.**) was written by Paul to the Corinthians. In it he expressed uncertainty as to what he might find when he returned to Corinth. "For I fear, lest, when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, and that I shall be found unto you such as ye would not: lest there be debates, envyings, wraths, strifes, backbitings, whisperings, swellings, tumults: And lest when I come again, my God will humble me among you, and that I shall bewail many which have sinned already, and have not repented of the uncleanness and fornication and lasciviousness which they have committed" (**2 Cor. 12:20,21**).

What He Might Find

Note what Paul was fearful that he might find if he paid another visit to the brethren at Corinth:

(1) Debates. This refers to strife, wrangling, or contentions growing out of enmity. It is sad when God's people are found wrangling rather than working; contending against each other rather than contending for the faith. (2) Envyings. "Jealousy" is the word used here in some translations. Paul told the Corinthians in the first letter that envying, strife, and divisions were proof that they were carnal or fleshly (**1 Cor. 3:3**). (3) Wraths. This term points to hot anger or keen indignation. There were heated animosities growing out of the opposing factions in the church. (4) Strifes. Thayer defines the word as meaning a courting of distinction, the desire to put one's self forward, or a partisan spirit. "Disputes" is a good synonym. (5) Backbitings. The reference is to evil speaking especially slandering someone behind his back. (6) Whisperings. This applies to secret gossip that is repeated in hushed tones to defame someone. (7) Swellings. Vine says the word denotes "a puffing up, swelling up with pride." Some preachers are troubled with this kind of swelling. (8) Tumults. The thought is that of disorder, confusion, and disturbance. One can catch a glimpse of the commotions in the Corinthian church by reading Paul's first letter.

It would be humiliating to Paul to find such evils as these in the church at Corinth. It would be more disheartening if he visited them and found that they had not yet repented of other sins to which their attention had been called previously. What would Paul find in your community or mine, particularly among members of the church, if he could pay us a visit today? Would he commend, or rebuke?



Passing Judgment on Others

By Leslie Riffe

"Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Let me remove the speck from your eye;' and look, a plank is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye." (**Matthew 7:1-5**) Here, Jesus is speaking about the matter of judging. Do we have authority to pass judgment on others? If so, what type of judging is being forbidden?

We are all guilty of pointing out the faults of others and overlooking our own. After all, it is much easier to see when others are in error than it is to evaluate the problems in our own lives. It is much more "fun" to point out the faults of others than to admit to my own, and it is much less painful. Also, as with anything else, it becomes very easy to go overboard when we judge another's actions. We forget another very important truth taught by the Lord. "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment." (**John 7:24**) Yet, many times what we are judging is the "appearance" instead of the substance.

A person's actions often represent what is in the heart. "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man." (**Matthew 15:18**) Can any of us read another's heart? Not unless the person reveals that information to us. God alone judges men's hearts. "But the LORD said to Samuel, Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but

the LORD looks at the heart." (**1 Samuel 16:7**) God has perfect judgment--men do not!

Many times, we may pass judgment on someone, and then we add to our mistake. How? We share our opinions and conclusions with others; which in turn, may cause them to form wrong impressions concerning the actions of another. This also "opens the door" for gossip and idle talking. What should we do? Why not go to that person

FIRST and try to work out the difficulty? How can one person work out a problem that belongs to another? "Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift." (**Matthew 5:23, 24**)

If you think a person is in error, or making poor decisions that can endanger the soul, try to help the person, rather than to hurt them more. Can we just assume anything in a given situation? Go to the person, with love and understanding, tell him/her your deep concerns about what is being done. Three things can happen. One, they might not have considered some of the things which you have brought to their attention. Second, you might find out some things you did not know before about the situation. Third, you may come to understand that it comes down to a matter of personal judgment. While you may not agree with their judgment--it is their choice.

Jesus is condemning "hypocritical judging." Sometimes what people really need is a dose of their "own medicine." Would you want others to go to everyone else about a problem they think you have, or come to you first? To ask the question is to answer it! Let us be very careful about how we judge others.



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