

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-
standing; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Proverbs 9:10-12 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For by me your days will be multiplied, And years of life will be added to you. If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, And if you scoff, you will bear it alone.”

Quote: Don’t live needing to one day say, “What might have been if I had only...?”

Young people have an innate desire to be “out on their own,” or out from under their parents’ “control.” This “wander lust” can fester into a rebellious attitude when they see peers whose parents may give them more liberties than their parents give to them. Too much liberty given too soon can be unwise on the part of parents and devastating in the long run for teens. To some degree, the craving for independence is natural, but when it comes at the expense of honoring parents, it is dangerous. It may not take sitting in a pigsty like the prodigal son in Christ’s parable for young people to come to their senses, but great and lasting harm can be inflicted upon relationships by letting their flesh be in control. James reminds us all that “each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and *sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.*”¹ Whether you are a Christian or not, “use your head!” Actions have consequences that can be devastating and life-long in consequence!

Solomon was no teen when he wrote our text. Nor was he a teen when he wrote of pursuing the good life as he imagined it to be. His unlimited resources enabled him to have anything that he wanted, yet his conclusion in the end was that gratifying the flesh was like “grasping for the wind.” He even got to the point that he “hated life!”² Departing from the fear of the LORD, he catered to his flesh and did despicable things that he never dreamed he was capable of doing.³ His final conclusions offer wise counsel to any young person. “Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment.

Therefore remove sorrow from your heart, And put away evil from your flesh, for childhood and youth are vanity.”⁴ He is calling for the common sense of enjoying the good gifts of life without “reckless, sinful abandonment” of what you have been taught by others.”⁵ Although he himself tried “the good life” to “the max,” Solomon finally “wised up!” He wrote, “Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, ‘I have no pleasure in them.’”⁶ In other words, don’t wait until you are “older” to guide and guard your thoughts, words and deeds by the fear of the Lord. If you are not a Christian, flee to Christ. Entrust your soul to Him by faith in Who He is and what He accomplished

The Restlessness of Youth

in His death as evidenced by His resurrection. If you are a Christian who is “pushing the limits at home” or “playing with the fire of your flesh,” then realize the truth that “there is a way that SEEMS right to a person, but its END is the way of death!”⁷ Heed Solomon’s final advice as though your future depended upon it because, in great measure, much of it does! “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: *Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.*”⁸ For every person there is a future judgment coming that is personal and permanent. When will it take place? After one’s heart stops beating, or the Lord returns. That could be today!

The last stanza of a poem about teens involved two Eaglets in a nest on a lofty height. One stayed away from the edge of the nest while the other flirted with disaster until the winds that he craved plunged him to his death. To those young people who flirt with the “winds” of this world, or who passively or actively rebel against their parents, I would warn that—

Like Eaglets who long to soar free,
You may, too soon, seek the sky.
Wait patiently to leave your nest.
When the time is right, you’ll fly!

The restless and rebellious can end up ruined!

1 James 1:14-16 2 Eccl.2 3 I Kings 11:1-14 4 Ecc.11:9-10 5 MacArthur 6 Eccl.12:1 7 Prov.14:12 and 16:25 8 Eccl.12:13-14