

Old proverb "Don't complain about flies when screens will keep them out"

This is a remarkable text & it comes from a great Book & at the close of the Book, this Book is a perfect illustration of the fact that

The man who has found the world at its best & has tried the best & has realized v. 8 all the world is vanity.

IF YOU COULD BEGIN AGAIN (COUNCES of Prevention)

Ecc. 12:1

1:14-15 I've seen all works under the sun - crooked cannot be made straight!
What a mighty thought! If you could begin again. This is a question

that all people are interested in. If you could begin again - where would you begin. What would you undertake. What would you change.

women - funny about this age - some woman not tell - later discovered her social security No is No if

Did you not know that we are very strange people. We talk about prayer but some people never pray. There are people who talk about giving something to God's work, but they never give a dime. There are other people who wish to belong to a church but they never attend or support the church program. There are people who say that the Bible is God's Word to man, but never read it. There are people who say that eternity is more important than time but who lives a present life. There are people who criticize others for things they do themselves. There are people who stay away from church for trifling reasons, and then sing "Oh How I Love Jesus". There are people who follow the Devil all their lives, but expect to get to Heaven! All of which makes us think of what Solomon wrote. The way of man is forward and strange. Prov. 21:8.

When I think about the text which I have chosen tonight and the man who wrote this remarkable passage, it must have come after some eventful or some tragic experience. The writer of these words has been called by some the "wise preacher", the teacher.

He is a Jew of noble birth, trained in the law of Moses, familiar with the Proverbs, and now feeling the inevitable results of a misspent life - he is prematurely old.

In youth, he began well but was surrounded with very little to encourage or sustain his religious fur.

Formalism and hypocrisy abounded everywhere and he was swept up in it.

Social life was impure. Women were light in character and not held in great esteem. In his manhood he went abroad enjoying the glittering type of life. But he found it all infinite and ashes. He turned to friendship and love, he turned to art, pleasure, and culture. But these things failed him.

So he returns to the lands of his fathers. Paralysis has set in. Age creeps on and life seems to have no love, nor joy, nor peace, nor help for

his pains. Tombstone, England "Here lies the body of

Elizabeth BROWN who lived 42 years with her husband and died in the hope of a better life" that was probably the truth!

At last he comes to a better state of mind. He experiences a religious reaction. And sitting there before the (portrait) of his own experience, with its light and darkness, it's bright and it's blue times. He hurries and writes it down on a piece of paper. And he sounds a warning for every youth at the (crossroads) by saying --"remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh when thou shall say I have no pleasure in them."

The warning is don't let the excitement of your being young cause you to forget about your creator. Honor him in your youth before the evil years come and you will no longer enjoy living. It will be too late then to try to remember him when the sun, moon, stars, and light are dim to your old eyes and there is

no silver lining left among your clouds.

V.3 For there will come a time when your limbs will tremble with age. And your legs will become weak. Your teeth will be too few to do their work. And there will be blindness too. *like the old T model, you had to make a complete half-turn on the steering wheel before you got any response on the wheels - you felt you were totally out of control like driving on ice -*

V.4 Then let your lips be tightly closed while eating when your teeth are gone. And you will waken at dawn with the first note of the birds. But you, yourself, will be deaf and tuneless. You will be afraid of heights and of falling. A white haired, withered old man dragging himself along without sexual desire, standing at death's door and nearing his ever lasting home, as the mourners go along the street.

3:11 "TO Everything There is a Season" Purpose under heaven = 14 (complets)

V.5 Yes, remember your creator now while you are young before the silver cord of life snaps. And the golden bolt is broken. And the pitcher is broken at the fountain. And the wheel is broken at the cistern. And the dust returns to the earth as it was. And the spirit returns to God who gave it. All is futile says the preacher - utterly futile.

V.6 But then because the preacher was wise, he went on teaching the people all that he knew. He had collected Proverbs, he was a wise man and a good teacher, because he taught them in an interesting manner about the things that they needed to know. So he wanted to nail down some important truths. That his students might be wiser than he was.

V.7 It is the same old story of the spend-thrift who begins to economize after he has spent his fortune. Or the person who has ruined his stomach, beginning to

diet. It is the story of the man who began to think about his (character) after he has stained his reputation. It is the story of the prodigal who wanted to return after he has wasted his substance on riotous living.

It may be too late. If he teaches us anything, it is that we are our own worst enemy. No one spoils things for us like we do ourselves. We travel across the land and the sea to find happiness. We dig and we toil, we fume and we fret, to try to get things to yield up their secrets.

Youth should always be willing to learn from old age. The older we get the more we realize how little we have learned. And how we must revive our former judgements. I really commend this Scripture to every boy and girl, every man and woman. If I could live my life over again, if you could live your life over again. I wonder along what lines would we follow.

6:12 What do we know about life - "Who knows what is good for a man in this?"
We know Life is Very Brief!

Remember it is later than you think. The afternoon speaks to the morning of wisdom. You can not really hold the day. If we were going to set up some guidelines for beginning again - just where would we begin.

I. IF YOU COULD BEGIN AGAIN, I SUPPOSE --

You would want to remember your body. Now there are some people who say to me, well Preacher - that has nothing to do with religion. And I don't see why you talk about that from the Pulpit on Sunday. They do not think properly. Paul said, who shall change this vile body. By the way, the body is no more vile than any other part of the human make-up. It is just as much a part of

*alshut
Dunster*

the divine scheme as the mind and the spirit.

It is just as wrong to sin against the stomach as it is to sin against the soul. It is just as necessary to have pure blood and it is to have a clean imagination. On the day of judgement, there is one witness that will rise up against us, and tell of this sin. And that witness is the body - one form of this is neglect of the physical. Health is a spiritual obligation. As long as possible, it is one of the prime duties of mankind. And for a man to despise his body is to desecrate a temple more divine than any cathedral ever erected on the shores of this nation of ours.

Theodore Parker, a preacher, who put all of his emphasis on studying all the time suffered a nervous collapse and he faced an early grave. He said, "oh that I had known the art of life or found some book or some man to tell me how to live. To take exercise. But I found none. So here I am."

We all should cultivate the normal care of the body. There are gyms, and athletics are good in their place. But many of our ancestors had beautiful serviceable bodies long before the gymnasium and a dumb-bell was every heard of.

Men today ride in their cars to go to a Health Club to get exercise. Now we have a way of developing our automobiles and losing our legs. Christianity and nature should be made to walk hand to hand. To keep the physical powers at a par, there is no chance to avoid physical exercise. It is a natural thing to do. And that is, we ought to drive little and walk much. The most healthy men and good natured men are the men who for the most part have complete mastery over themselves. And they use their legs as well as their heads. They are busy in activity.

In a little town up in northern Manitoba a Baptist preacher lived who was over 80 years of age. He settled there from the parts of the highlands of Scotland where men never see a bicycle or a motor car. Every morning without fail, he sawed his own wood by hand, he walked over the hills for five miles with a swing and a gate that would put a young man to shame, his eyes were bright, his voice was clear, his foot was firm, and his hand steady. And the author telling about him said he looked as though he would live forever.

If I had my life to live over again, and if you had yours, I wonder if we shouldn't give more care to the body. That is, eat carefully, exercise naturally, and sleep regularly. And do it all religiously. You know the Apostle Paul said, whether you eat or drink, or whatsoever you do - do all to the glory of God.

II. IF YOU COULD BEGIN AGAIN, YOU WOULD NEED TO REMEMBER YOUR MIND

V. 12
Many Books

Robert Inglesoll once said, a man who can think is an idiot. The man who can't think is an idiot. The man who won't think is a fool. And the man who dares not to think is a slave.

Matthew 22:27 Jesus said "Love Lord Thy God with Thy heart, Soul, & all Thy mind"

If there is one vice today it is shallow thinking. How much of our system of education is to blame - I really do not know. But every boy and girl should be made to realize that school is a place to love rather than a place to shun. It would be wonderful if every teacher was able to inspire his pupils. In the power of their reasoning, that this was a wonderful opportunity.

Every graduate should leave college not only with a diploma but also with the ability to grapple with the problems in his environment. After all is said and done, the most educated man in the universe is the man who most completely

fits into it.

However, today these are days of specialization. The untrained mind is giving place more and more to the expert. A man of mere opinion is a man of straw. He shouts with the crowd and they are loud. But what the world wants is not brilliance, a genius, or cleverness - but the world wants men and women who have originality in their ideas and are able to present them.

Knowledge is power. We are richer by far to be able to think through our own difficulties. Than we are to pay others to do our thinking for us. Intelligence is at a premium. The world is a play thing in the hand of the man who knows.

Phil 2:5 "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus"

If I had to go back, I would appreciate the school that cultivated my mind. And helped me to think through my problems and by faith, help me to come to my own conclusions.

I would study to show myself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Now that is what we are trying to do a little bit of in our (church training) here in the church. It is to help you develop your mind. Now if you have reached the place that your mind does not need further development, then this text has nothing to say to you. If I were going to begin again, I would want to give attention to the development of my mind and to my body.

Article on "Christianity & The Academic Mind."

- IS Beethoven on trial Before The High School Fide Club?*
- IS Shakespeare to be Judged by The Little Theatre Volunteers in Bdrunk U.S.A.?*
- IS BA phed to be evaluated by The local outdoor*

AST Committee?

Is Jesus Christ to be written off by
Grandfather Jones who tells his grandchildren
that religion is a myth?

How funny can you get?

Rom 8:27 "Knowing what is the mind of the spirit"

Coleridge, Reading the story of the Prodigal son!
his mind, & his heart greatly moved,
his throat full of sobs, said:

"It finds me, It finds me,
This Divine Book is a mould that fits
my heart"

The Bible is a book like the needle
to the North Pole - it points to heaven.

"Thy word have I hid in my heart
it is a lamp unto my feet and a light
unto my path."

Rom 12:2 "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."

Only a rheumatic brain would be
guilty of not believing that —
use your MIND !!

1 Chro 28:9 "Solomon my son serve God with a perfect heart and
A willing mind"

III YOU WOULD WANT TO REMEMBER YOUR VOCATION

I think generally speaking, a man thinks about his vocational choice
between the age of 14 and 28. And once the choice has been made, it is
exceedingly difficult for him to make a change.

Too frequently, through carelessness in youth, a man wakes up to find that he is on the wrong job. That his gifts are along another line. And drudgery his work must be. To go to his task every morning as a slave.

The old adage, a poor beginning makes a good ending. A better maxim would be, a good beginning is a half task done. The success in anything depends on consecration.

As humble as Jesus was, he worked in a carpenter shop. There was a task to be done. A man's opportunities comes along. When he feels that his occupation is of no account. A man who is faithful in simple tests, can expect for himself future trusts. A pastor of one of the largest churches in the country told the story how he jumped from obscurity to eminence as a preacher. He was serving a little rural church in New York State. A tornado had hit the district, and chaos was everywhere. Because of this the church was poorly attended on Sunday. The preacher said, I preached as though there were a thousand people present. There were 15 in the congregation - but two were strangers. Engineers from across the country, to investigate the damage done by the tornado and arrange for reconstruction work to be done. After the service, one of the two men said to the other, this is the kind of preaching we need in our church. Three months afterwards, this man was called to one of the outstanding churches in California. And since then, his success in the realm of religious leadership has been tremendous.

If I could begin again, and if you could begin again, wouldn't it be wise under the guidance of your parents, your teachers - to chose a vocation and then to pour all the forces of your being into that work. And to pray, O Lord, help me to put myself into my task. Help me to fill each moment with something that is of value. Help me to be careful with my gifts which thou hath endowed me

with to use them in a Christian way.

IV. YOU WOULD WANT TO REMEMBER YOUR NEIGHBOR

Now this is a point that if you could go back again, the thing that Jesus made so attractive was the warmth of his personality to the multitudes. He never judged people on the surface. He always looked beyond the externals.

To the prodigal son away from home, he said, God is on your side - speak to him.

To the woman caught red-handed in her sin, he whispered - Neither do I condemn thee, go and sin no more.

He even called Judas his friend after the traitor had betrayed him.

The soldiers who nailed him to the cross - he prayed, Father, forgive them. For they know not what they do. I think an active, emotional interest in our neighbors is essential. If we would have friends in this world, we should take time on our street, or on our road, to sit down occasionally on the door step and see things from his point of view. Now the person who lives close to you may be a sinful person. But nevertheless, God will help you to get a viewpoint. We should have sympathy for all who sin and especially for all who suffer.

There is always somebody weakening, or weeping - next door or near your home. Now at the outset of his ministry, Jesus stood up at the synagogue and he read. The spirit of the Lord God is upon you. But he hath appointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor, he has sent me to heal the broken-hearted.

To preach deliverance to the captives. And recovering of sight to the blind.
To set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of the
Lord.

Now that was a great beginning but that is where we should all begin if
our religion is to have any quality in it. The depth of our piety will be
measured by the intensity of our service.

Too frequently, the average Christian assumes that the words were intended
only for Jesus, or only for the preacher. And that these were intended only
to the exclusive duties for the Christian as far as service was concerned.

The only kind of service that really is acceptable to God comes spontaneously
from the heart. You really don't have to wait until you have some special garment
on or you have had some seminary training.

Every man, woman, and child is ordained at birth, to visit the fatherless
and widows in their afflictions. To give a cup of cold water to those in need
and to keep himself or herself unspotted from the world. This is pure religion
and undefiled before God and the Father.

Now when I come to the end of life's road and I face my own record, it
will not matter very much how many businesses I have run. Or how many ships I
have built. Or how many pictures I have painted. Or how many automobiles I
have constructed. Or how many books I have written. Or how many songs I have
sung.

It will matter very much what I have done for people. Is the balance of
my life on the side of sympathy or against it. Have I been more critical,

more helpful than hurtful. Have I been more gracious. Do I have a clean heart.

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⑥ YOU WOULD WANT TO REMEMBER YOUR CREATOR (as our text indicates).

The writer was wise. And had he had the full light as you have it and I have it - and had had the privilege of sitting at the feet of Jesus, but his thought of God as a creator certainly would be something. That is, if you could back up, I am sure, and begin again. You would want to remember this very early in your life. *Your SOUL!*

For you know that God comes to you in the morning sun and stays with you until sundown. He is the one who never leaves nor forsakes you. He is your shepherd even though you stray. He is your Saviour when you stumble. He is your deliverer when you sin. He is your Comforter when you have sorrow. He is your Guide along life's road.

You know there are some tragic things in life - a face without eyes. A desert without water. A sky without a sun. A night without stars. A house without love within it. A church without worshippers. I think the most tragic thing on the earth tonight is a man without Christ.

If I could begin again, I would begin with Christ.

The honorable J. Edgar Hoover, who directed the F. B. I. for many years, said the Godless forces are attempting to lure our boys and girls into fearing the injustice and misery of slavery under dictatorship. Wherever they go they

they are contaminated by indifference and apathy, on the part of citizens. He said America is at the crossroads. This teaches that youth must be won for the cause of righteousness. And this is what we are talking about tonight.

Dr. Wilbur Chapman once tested a meeting where 4500 people were present. The results showed that 400 became Christians before they were 10 years of age. 600 became Christians between 16 and 20. 25 became Christians after they were 30 years of age. Now this meant that 1875 were unsaved under that total congregation. And this teaches that youth must be won.

19 out of every 20 who become Christians do so before they reach the age of 25. After 25 years of age, only one in 10,000 every accept Jesus.

After 35, one in 50,000.

After 45, one in 200,000.

After 55, one in 300,000.

After 65, one in 500,000.

After 75, one in 700,000.

Now this teaches that youth must be won for God. Lord Byron once weepingly said, untrained in youth, my heart to tame. My springs of life were poisoned.

This heart cry warns that youth must be won to devotion to right living while like Rehoboam of old. 2 Chron. 17:7. They are young and tender.

We must win our youth to fear the Lord from their youth, to trust God from their youth, Psalms 71:5. Remember their creator in the days of their youth, as our text commands.

Now if you could begin again, where would you begin.

There are some people who tell me and perhaps they have told you - why you look like your father. You look like your mother. But really has anyone every told you that you look like Christ.

I can be - if I am willing. If I am willing to exult him in my life. If I am willing to do all of the time, what Jesus did all the time, he is the explanation of my being. And to follow him is to follow Christ. To follow Christ is to serve God. And to serve God is to be fully like Jesus was.

Hilda Ward, of the Detroit Press, recently visited Hanna Bennard who was the wife of the man who wrote "The Old Rugged Cross". He had run across a news story that Mrs. Bennard, now (80 years) of age, and a widow for 14 years had received her first Social Security Check for \$48.30. He found her living alone with her memories in the 100 year old house which she had been born of Swedish immigrant parents. For Hanna, arthritis, and a healing broken bone - had made life very difficult.

Ward asked her if she still played "The Old Rugged Cross". She turned to a piano - her thin knotted hands limbered up along the keys, and rolled through the familiar strains. Her head swayed in her memories as the harmony parts rose into the great emotional refrain. Oh, I'll cherish the old rugged cross, until my trophies, at last I lay down, I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it someday, for a crown."

Hanna's memories of her husband are sharp. She hopes someday to hear his beautiful tenor voice in Heaven. George Bennard made only a bit more than \$5000 out of the hymn. Which has been a standard since it was written and published in 1913. In fact, he left his beloved widow very little of this world's goods when he died. But then, there is more to life than money. What joy must fill George Bennard's heavenly life because of the millions of lives who have been blessed by "The Old Rugged Cross".

And I suspect if he had the opportunity to go back and begin again, he would want to write "The Old Rugged Cross".

To every boy and girl, and every young man and young woman, let me say whatever you do or do not do - be sure to remember thy creator in the days of thy youth while the evil days come not nor the years draw nigh when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.

My Closing Story is Taken from days of World War II
The late King George of England, did visit a famous
Pottery plant. He was shown plates as they were ready
for the kiln. They were still pliable - The King picked
up one and examined it. Put it down. When the King
left, the owner rushed to the Dept. Took the plate, said we
will take care of this plate. The finger prints of the King are on it,
we will place it in the kiln and it will go down through the ages as
the plate that bears the marks of King George VI of England,
passed by & touched a common ordinary plate & made it a thing
of lasting value -
Something like that happens to a human life when Jesus touches it,
Common men touched by King of Kings, Lord of Lords -
we can feel that touch -