

(Youth Week) -
(Publish)

S. W. Nov. 19, 77 P.M. WXRJ
Lake Drummond May 5, 1964
Sp. Miss. Mark & Judy

THE BEST YEARS OF YOUR LIFE

I Kings 18:12, Ecc. 12:1

Shamzing - (5 grains each meal)

" I Thy servant, fear the Lord from my youth.

There are some, no doubt, who would question exactly the period in life

School Graduation

making up the time of opportunity, of purpose, of choice, as well as the time that seems to be the most delightful.

Friend I see by paper, daughter to marry soon - Do you think she is prepared for "The Battle of Life" - Well, said father she ought to be. She has been in engagements already.

Lovell

With the coming of Youth Week, I wish to direct my message to Youth.

We don't realize what we have on earth until we leave it. Student days are wonderful days.

Preacher also pregnant Play something - small ch - Not know, well March couple started cycle organ healed out "The fight is on"

Life will never again pack so much happiness into so little time.

Thrills, colorful parades, games, even examinations.

Memory is quicker in youth than afterwards.

T. Carlyle - as I grow older and I am now on the brink of eternity, the more

comes back to me the first sentence of the catechism which I learned when a child - what is the chief end of man? To glorify God and enjoy him forever.

Make the best of these years.

Dr. Leo K. Bishop said after his survival from the attack upon his life by a Negro teenage gang bent on robbery, that today's youth do not cherish that heritage which is being handed to them.

The values of youth - thrift, industry, initiative are not a real part of their lives.

Extravagance, once considered a vice has become virtue.

Hard work, aggressiveness has given way to take it easy.

Desire for security replaced for a drive of independence.

Little regard for patriotism, integrity.

The message of a young man - spoken by Obadiah to the prophet Elijah.

V. 5 During cruel rule of Ahab

Heavens shut and it rained not for 3 years 6 months. Drought - famine.

V. 13 Jezebel had cut off the prophets of the Lord - Obadiah interceded. Hid 100 prophets of the Lord in caves and fed them bread and water.

Famine, brought pressure on Ahab.'

V. 5 - He told Obadiah to look for new lakes and grass - he needed horses, mules, and cattle. Ahab was to go one way and he another exploring the country.

Obadiah came face to face with Elijah, recognized, sent - tell Ahab, Elijah is here. He not believe - Elijah wanted to go into the King's presence. He said he did not know about this - I fear the Lord from my youth.

I. First - Think of Estimation God Places Upon Youth.

Many command of God.

Promises - Youth - Those that seek me early shall find me - search as one searches for wisdom.

Entreaties - Invites, come ye children, harken unto me. I will teach you to fear the Lord.

Warnings - Rejoice, o young man, in Thy youth, and let Thy heart fear walking in Thy own way.

Philosophical, a little boy at a rural school
Don't Fume Nor Fuss
Nor Fret Nor Cuss,
For Bad As 'Tis
It might be Wuss!

Examples:

David - Friend of God while he tends his father's flocks.

Samuel - Little child in midst of corrupt age and degenerate priesthood is favored with message from heaven - God addressed him.

Obadiah - I fear the Lord from my youth up.

King Josiah - 16 years old - devoted to cause of God. At 20 a spiritual veteran. Abolished high places.

Jeremiah - Set apart before born.

Daniel - captivity - young - made impression for God.

John Baptist - filled, spirit wfrom Birth.

Timothy - knew Scriptures from a child.

God points youth toward Heaven.

Good soil and favorable climate plus intelligent tilling will, with the fewest exceptions, produce good grain and fruit. An occasional bad plant or instance of underdeveloped fruit may occur, but these instances are almost negligible in comparison with the abundance of good, wholesome products.

The soil and climate in which parents will cultivate children, the fruit of marriage, are *the character and atmosphere of the home*. Although the impact of the makeup of the home may have been expressed in more technical, sociological, and psychological terms, it has never been expressed more meaningfully than in this statement which has appeared widely in bulletins, magazines, and newspapers:

If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn;
If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight;
If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy;
If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty;
If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient;
If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence;
If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate;
If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice;
If a child lives with security, he learns to have faith;
If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself;
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to find love in the world.

Dr. Charles Wahl, an eminent professor of psychiatry, is reported by Associated Press to have made this significant declaration in a Los Angeles address: "Personal maturity and the capacity to love and work are primarily developed, not through sociologic factors directly, but through a loving and secure relationship within the biological family."

Two parents whose son was being tried for a series of dastardly crimes said to a reporter: "We can't understand why he did these things. We always gave him everything he wanted." It is entirely possible that they did just that, but that they did not give him everything he needed in character development. The home which does not have genuine character strength is a poor prospect for producing children of strength and joy.

Since the two people who will determine the quality of home-

"well, son", said his dad, "if that's -3 what you want to do, I certainly won't stand in your way."

II. Second, It is Natural That Parents Help Make Youth The Best Years

Youth is a period of dependence and ought to become years of holy living.

Parents are instruments to watch over tender years and direct our steps.

They have had experience with life. Youth sometimes resents advice.

We learn from authority and from experience of others.

You take a journey to Europe or across country - folly to refuse the advice of others who have taken the trip. Say, I must learn by experience. I must live my own life.

Parents, teachers, preachers have a right to advise youth.

Rehboam refused advice of older men and took advice of younger men - made great blunder wrecked his Kingdom.

Never forget the importance of learning from the experience of those who have already had experience facing the dangers, privileges and opportunities of life.

Rolan C. Doll, prof. Ed. N. Y. Un. "There was a crisis 1946-56 - Adolescence had gained knowledge. Curiosity, political insight, more concern for the present - less concern for the future, less respect for adults. Feeling that young people were superior."

Exactly as Daniel prophesied - knowledge increasing printed word surround us. Reinforced by T. V, radio.

Substitute - Little wisdom that comes down from above. Schools are secularized.

Most youth aspire mostly to material gratification. Wink at morals, self-centered.

Evan Hill said this "cool generation" have become house plants. Rather compromise than stand on convictions. He is old before his time.

Major Mayer - only 5% American prisoners resisted brain-washing during Korean conflict.

"Give-up-itis" results in death.

Wisdom of parents plus knowledge.

*Adams River
Moms are they expect you to think so!
John Brown
was on the way*

No Christmas in some towns

estimation and more on
Parents help of But you
y - usefulness

III. Third, Youth Is A Great Time For Usefulness

Obadiah.

Judge, Phillip B. Gillan - Denver

Often hear teenagers complain what we can do, where can we go?

Ans. "Go home hang the storm windows, paint the woodwork, rake the leaves, mow the lawn, wash the car, scrub the floor, help the minister, the red cross, the Salvation Army, visit the sick, the poor, study your lessons, and when you are through, if you are not too tired, read a book".

Your parents do not owe you entertainment. Your city doesn't owe you recreation every minute. The world does not owe you a living.

You owe it your time, talents.

You are supposed to mature enough to (accept the responsibility) your parents have carried for years.

They have nourished, protected, excused, and tolerated you.

They have denied themselves comfort so that you could have luxuries.

Now - some may not like that kind of medicine. But teenagers can be useful, if you will take up the cross and deny your self.

Every man is related to his fellowman.

International incident - world Congress of Youth in Stockholm.

Group young people traveling to Amsterdam.

Pullman car reservations. Number of Dutch people (standing) vestibule.

Youth crowded into 3 or 4 sections and offered the last section to those standing. Not want to accept. Interpreter explained they were welcome.

Opened a box of candy and passing it around - back to the Dutch people.

Next day - leading newspaper, Amsterdam story of Baptist College Students. Pullman car that they had paid for - shared the space - shared candy with total strangers and asked nothing in return.

What a different world it would be, the reporter said, if all people were like these Baptist College Students from Southern state of the U. S. Sharing instead of seeking return.

Christian young people had something to share - can be useful.

He can be useful, man who works, serves, to save the youth of today is one of the most important task before us as parents and churches.

Serve God with Thy best days and not with the dregs of them.

Young People charge the past generation with hypocrisy - but today sin is committed with the shades up.

Openly sin unashamed.

Tenn. - Story - Mother washing, at the well - house fire - seized with terror - rushed in save feather bed and few quilts - in her madness forgot her own baby and the child burned to death. No harm saving featherbed, saving these half worthless things she lost the primary.

In our interest we become blind.

Need to be saved against temptation.

Tides of infidelity, vice, power against Sabbath breaking, profane swearing blasphemy, intemperance, gambling.

Take away Christian restraints and your son and your daughter are liable to become curses to their parents, scourges to the world.

Becoming a Christian in youth.

John Randolph I thought about becoming an atheist. He wrote a friend shortly before his death. But he said it was the recollection of my mother when I was a little child, who is now a saint in Heaven that saved me.

She used to make me kneel by her side, and then taking my little hands in hers, taught me then to say "Our Father, which art in Heaven".

Sir George Williams, founder of Y. M. C. A. - youngest of 8 sons, poor farmers family. Left school at 13 - Debate in family if he would be equal to becoming a farmer.

Settled one day, George way home load of hay, the hay, horse, and William tumbled into the ditch.

Sent to walk at draper's shop.

Church, knelt back of shop. Yielded life to God.

4. To develop courage.

In contemporary life parents need a very real courage to stand by convictions for child-rearing which are imperative to rearing children with strong character principles. So many other parents will not stand firmly by those same principles, and this creates the situation in which the children of the courageous ones may pressure their parents to "be like Johnny's parents."

Surely, you have read somewhere the tongue-in-cheek and inspiringly delightful article, "World's Meanest Mother." In a rollicking sense of mock criticism, but of infinite implied admiration for that mother, the writer of the piece pointed out that her mother had the courage to rear her children by the wisest ideals, despite what the other children's parents permitted them to do:

My mother insisted on knowing where we were at all times. . . . She insisted that if we said we'd be gone for an hour, that we would be gone one hour or less. . . . She made us work! We had to wash dishes, make beds, learn to cook and all sorts of cruel things. . . . She always insisted on our telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. . . . None of the tooting of the horn of a car for us to come running. She embarrassed us by making our dates and friends come to the door to get us. . . . While my friends were dating at the mature age of 12 or 13, my old-fashioned mother refused to let me date until I was 15 or 16. . . .

My mother was a complete failure as a mother. None of us has ever been arrested. . . . Each of my brothers served his time in the service of his country. . . . Look at the things we missed. We never got to take part in a riot, burn draft cards and a million and one things that our friends did. . . . She made us grow up into God-fearing, educated, honest adults.

The anonymous woman writer who composed this delightful essay concluded it with these challenging words: Using this as a background, I am trying to raise my children. I stand a little taller and I am filled with pride when my children call me mean. You see, I thank God that He gave me the meanest mother in the world.

The *Phoenix (Arizona) Gazette*, which carried the foregoing article, added this editorial comment: "From this, I would say the country doesn't need a 5-cent cigar; it needs more 'mean' mothers . . . and dads."⁴

God gave wisdom - founded Y. M. C. A. which has girdled the globe.

Behind - buried with honor St. Paul's Cathedral - London. He did not leave.
God out.

You some day stand by bedside of a brother, sister or follow your Father to the
grave, or wipe the cold sweat of death from an expiring Mother.

Has the parental help led you to God - can you lean on the arm of Christ when
the storms roll in.

Every youth is exposed to the shaft of death - some go to an early grave.

- membership without fellowship -

*inst. and plans
Parents help
infirmity
Peril*

IV. Fourth, Remember Youth Filled With Peril

Therefore it should not be irreligious.

Disease comes exposed to death.

Footsteps of a young man without God. Instructed by his parents, conscious,
tells the truth, trembles at death - turns pale at thought of the cross. Refuses
the Bible. Grows older - proud of heart - free of restraints. First oath passes
his lips, alarmed him, soon follows all vice - enemy of God.

Bible says good for that man if he had not been born.

What answer will you give?

Obadiah said to prophet what shall I tell the King.

Will you reject another message of the King.

God will send another message ~~of~~ the pale horse named death will come!

Statesman - reporter to interview - interested in account of his disease.

My dear sir I am suffering from an incurable disease - what disease - old age.
Decay, failing powers. Think of what you might have been. Now a failure. Old
age without God.

Gov. Pat. Neff - Youth has hope, old age memory.

Cardinal Wolsley - If I had been faithful to my king, he would not have
forsaken me in my old age.

I. WE ARE ALWAYS ON THE BRINK OF POSSIBILITY!

You are pulled beyond what we would define as "poverty" if you have no possibilities before your lives at this moment. If we are alive, there is usually a possibility available to us! The children's choirs have a song that they sing, and as they sing they are saying:

"... I'm a possibility!"

Every child is a possibility! If you want to look into the face of the future, look into the face of a child.

Maya Angelou talked about that in her poem, "On the Pulse of Morning," which she read at the inauguration of President Clinton. She says, in that poem, that "the horizon leans forward." With enough courage, she said, the pains of the past need not be repeated, for:

*Each new hour holds new chances
For a new beginning.*

There are always possibilities before you and me. If you are parents or grandparents, it may be your best opportunity to impact the future in how you relate to your children and to your grandchildren. When I get away from the flux and fury and the involvement of things for the summer with some perspective and some new daily opportunity to read, to write, and to reflect, I look at this church with some distance, and I come up with the same staggering thought every year: what possibilities we have as a church... and as a people! My great dream is, somehow or another, to unleash for Christ and for his glory, all of the possibilities that are inherent in this talented and multi-faceted congregation. Just think, for example, of the impact of our people possibilities. We have as of today 11,100 members, and when you add to that number 2,400+ children -- that's 13,500 people. That is more people than live in Moultrie, Georgia! When you begin to bring down the categories of people, it gets even more interesting:

who are "Unidentified." You may be known to God, but you aren't known to us. That happens in various and sundry ways -- we can't read your handwriting, you don't tell us anything about you, you put "BLD." What does that mean? We want to know who you are! The people possibilities of this church are immense.

When you think of all of the possibilities we have before us and around us, it just makes you want to get up and do something! It makes me want to live long enough to see all of our possibilities come true. Now, that will not happen for you or for me, and we will have to wait, work, and observe!

I love the story of the little girl who walked next door where one of the neighboring farmers was selling watermelons at a roadside stand. When she picked out a huge watermelon that she liked, the farmer said, "It will be \$3.00."

The little girl said, "I've got only thirty cents!"

The farmer pointed to a tiny melon in the field near the road and said, "How about that one?"

She was delighted and said, "I'll take it!"

But then she added, "Would you please leave it on the vine. I'll come back in a month to get it!" (3)

She had an eye for the possibilities! Faith Popcorn, the originator of the *Popcorn Report*, has been reported as saying that western civilization is in decline because . . .

. . . for the first time in intellectual history, we are more inclined to think that something is finished, than that something new has begun. (4)

I love the story of Beethoven, who in the latter years of his life, hearing impaired, spent hours playing a broken harpsichord. (5) Why was he playing a flawed instrument? It was because he was still believing in the possibility that out of that broken instrument, beautiful music could be found. We are always on the bring of possibility -- in your life and my life and in the life of this church.

Robert Browning

"Grow old along with me!

The best is yet to be.

The last of life

For which the first was made.

Our times are in his hand

Who saith a

Youth

Trust

There is more

Charles Dickens

advising him to

upon you the pri

as one unfailing

and you cannot ge

I impress upon

morning.

These things h

tried to render th

were a mere baby.

what young &

Who would
decided

Loose God & not miss him -
and worry about poverty etc - sex morality -
Nebuchadnezzar - This is Great Babylon -
Where B. today -
Materialist - where solar system came from
Elyon clock is set time by star -

Father Wm Barclay

dad - finished his course for the Ministry
was to be licensed as a preacher.
Tragic suddenness of his father, who
had been proud of him deed just
2 days before the service was done,
could postponed -
dad didn't the service goes
on dad will have a front
seat in the grandstand tonight.
Not very theological but speaks
of the reality of faith
as all around us there is the
massive cloud of witnesses still
looking down in pride upon
those they loved.

Robert Browning

"Grow old along with me!

The best is yet to be.

The last of life

For which the first was made.

Our times are in his hand

Who saith a whole I planned,

Youth shows but half;

Trust God; see all nor be afraid."

There is more to life than the grave. Remember now Thy Creator.

Charles Dickens once addressed a letter to his son Henry while in college, advising him to stay out of debt. "I must strongly and affectionately impress upon you the priceless value of the New Testament and the study of the book as one unfailing guide in life. Respect it and bow down before the Saviours and you cannot go very wrong and will preserve your heart true.

I impress upon you the habit of saying a Christian prayer every night and morning.

These things have stood by me all through my life, and remember that I tried to render the N. T. intelligibly to you and loveably to you when you were a mere baby. And so God bless you!"

*what young person would love to follow Jesus today -
who would come & declare from this moment, at home
decided to follow God on -*