

Truth for Teens

Volume 6 - October/November 2007 - Issue 5



God's Beauty

Make Satan Mad!

A lot of everything we see and everything we hear is becoming more and more corrupt in our society. The "freedom of rights" and the "freedom of speech" has become an excuse to display actions and conversations so despised by God that souls are in jeopardy and are destined to an eternal life of damnation.

Excerpts from an article by Johnny Ramsey, <http://thebible.net/modules.php?name=WC>, bring significant information from God's Word pertaining to "morality & ethics" that should be taught over and over again. He writes, "We ought always to do our very best to please God, and at the same time we should concentrate on giving the devil trouble. Our great enemy constantly seeks to devour us: *"Be sober, be watchful: your adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour"* (1 Peter 5:8). May we never give him a moment's pleasure!"

Brother Ramsey continues, "When one reads the magnificent and challenging parable of the talents in Matthew 25, it becomes exceedingly clear that all of us must live up to our potential and never be guilty of living beneath our privileges. We should always strive for excellence and flee mediocrity as we go forward to greater endeavor in the cause of Christ. We shall give account some day, not only for presumptuous sins, but also for what we could and should have done (James 4:17).

Purity in an Age of Corruption

"Satan desires to have us in his evil web, just as he wanted Peter: *Simon, Simon, behold, Satan asked to have you, that he might sift you as wheat: but I make supplication for thee, that thy faith fail not* (Luke 22:31-32). One of the realms of his devious and clever enterprise is the moral decline that runs rampant in modern society. When Christians lead morally pure lives, it gives the devil fits. When we do not surrender to debauchery and shameful acts of licentious behavior, a clear dent is found in the schemes and plots of hell. Television, movies, pornographic magazines and such filth, must be put aside by Christians who wish to think on better things (Philippians 4:8). The smut industry must be overcome! * * * Let's apply ourselves to live for the Lord, and make the devil really mad!"

Be modest in your dress and pure in your speech. Gain respect by applying your Christian characteristics in all you do. Reflect on the words of Paul to the saints and faithful brethren at Colosse, *And whatever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him,* (Colossians 3:17).

Make Satan Mad!

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CENTRAL TEXAS TEEN LECTURESHIP – NOVEMBER 17, 2007

*For we are his workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus unto good works,
which God hath before ordained
that we should walk in them.*
Ephesians 2:10

**A PUBLICATION
FOR
TODAY'S TEENS IN TOMORROW'S WORLD
"Truth for Teens" – Our Mission**

Truth for Teens is a bi-monthly publication with a circulation of over 500 to youth throughout the United States. This is possible because a group of men and women feel a need to provide healthy, helpful information to our youth as they deal with daily situations.

This publication is supported and funded by contributions of individuals and congregations of area churches of Christ. By their support we are able to continue the publication and mailing without charge to our youth. This missionary program is non-profit and tax deductible. All contributions are used appropriately for the printing and mailing of the issues. Financial help from those who would like to join in this outreach program to our youth will allow us to continue publication. Most important are the prayers of Christians for the success of this endeavor.

An account has been set up in the name of Truth for Teens Publication. Checks can be made to that account and mailed to P. O. Box 581, Manor, Texas 78653. This is a non-profit publication.

If you would like to advertise an event, or include an article for the publication, please mail it to our publication address or email to tftpub@austin.rr.com. To send this publication to a friend, please complete the form below and mail to TFT Publications, PO Box 581, Manor, TX 78653. Please print clearly.

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Articles and Reviews

Truth for Teens is an avenue open to anyone desiring to write articles or reviews for the Teen features. If you would like to publish a message to your peers, inspirational, spiritual or covering everyday issues, you can send it through our web site, www.truthforteens.org, or mail to P.O. Box 581, Manor, Texas 78653, or email to tftpub@austin.rr.com. Space is limited to one column length [approximately 600 words in 11 point type]. It must include your name, address, school classification and place of worship.

Editor's note: We reserve the right to exclude items we deem unacceptable, using God's Word as our guide.

**--- CHECK IT OUT ---
www.thegospelofchrist.com
www.truthforteens.org**

Bible Quiz

Old and New Testament History and Geography

- Who was the queen during most of Elijah's mission?
 Queen of Sheba Jezebel
 Maachah Esther
- What was another name for the Sea of Galilee during the time of Jesus' ministry?
 Dead Sea Red Sea
 Gulf of Aqaba Lake Gennesaret
- In what town did Jesus perform his first miracle?
 Bethlehem Cana
 Bethany Capernaum
- After whose death was the kingdom of Israel divided into two parts (Judah and Israel)?
 David Jeroboam
 Solomon Rehoboam
- In what city were the disciples first called Christians?
 Antioch Bethlehem
 Cana of Galilee Jerusalem
- From what city did Paul escape by being lowered over the city walls in a basket at night?
 Damascus Jericho
 Jerusalem Derby
- What were Horeb and Nebo?
 Rivers Mountains
 Countries Cities
- What group of Jews in Jesus' day believed in Moses' laws, but not in resurrection, angels, or spirits?
 Sadducees Hebrews
 Pharisees Israelites
- What does "mammon" mean?
 A time when there was no rain and very little food.
 A great beast that had wooly hair
 Riches or money
- To which Israelite clan did Moses belong?
 Judah Benjamin
 Naphtali Levi

Answers on back page

The recipe for perpetual ignorance
is to be satisfied with your own opinions
and content with your knowledge.

Your Life Is Jesus to Someone

Your life is Jesus to someone,
Though tattered and torn it may be.
Though often times weak and unstable,
You're all of God someone will see.

Your tongue is Jesus to someone.
That idle, insensitive word
Reflects to at least one searching heart
An idle, insensitive Lord.

Your goals are Jesus to someone.
What you put first, they believe,
Are the goals of God for a Christian
Your life is all they receive.

Your faithfulness — that's Jesus to someone.
Their judgment of how God is true,
Rests unquestionably in the faithfulness
They see day by day in you.

Your love is Jesus to someone —
That someone who is seeking to know
That Jesus will follow and guide and
Befriend wherever in life they might go.

So beware lest others blaspheme God
By what YOU say or do,
For the only Jesus that someone knows
Is the Jesus they see in you.
Author Unknown

LISTEN UP

Cigarettes have about 4000 chemicals in them. Among them are several poisons:

Nicotine: a poison used to kill sharks. Drop for drop, it is more lethal than strychnine and three times deadlier than arsenic.

Arsenic: used in rat poison.

Methane: a component of rocket fuel.

Ammonia: found in floor cleaners

Cadmium: used in batteries

Carbon Monoxide: part of car exhaust.

Formaldehyde: undertakers use to preserve body tissue.

Butane: lighter fluid.

Hydrogen Cyanide: the poison used in gas chambers.

www.youngwomenshealth.org/smokeinfo. Give Your Tobacco to a Billy Goat, tract, by Allen Webster

'Nuf said! 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

Lord, Prop Us Up

Every time I am asked to pray, I think of the old deacon who always prayed, "Lord, prop us up on our leanin' side."

After hearing him pray that prayer many times, someone asked him why he prayed that prayer so fervently.

He answered, "Well, sir, you see, it's like this — I got an old barn out back. It's been there a long time, it's withstood a lot of weather, it's gone through a lot of storms, and it's stood for many years. It's still standing, but one day I noticed it was leaning to one side a bit. So I went and got some pine poles and propped it up on its leaning side so it wouldn't fall.

"Then I got to thinking 'bout that and how much I was like that old barn. I've been around a long time, I've withstood a lot of life's storms, I've withstood a lot of bad weather in life, I've withstood a lot of hard times, and I'm still standing too. But I find myself leaning to one side from time to time, so I like to ask the Lord to prop us up on our leaning side, 'cause I figure a lot of us get to leaning, at times."

Sometime we get to leaning toward anger, leaning toward bitterness, leaning toward hatred, leaning toward cussing, leaning toward a lot of things that we shouldn't, so we need to pray, "Lord, prop us up on our leaning side," so we will stand straight and tall again, to glorify the Lord. Author Unknown

So What's the Danger?

Just like smoking cigarettes, chewing smokeless tobacco can eventually rip apart your body and kill you. It's that simple, really. There's no such thing as a "safe" tobacco product.

Take Bill Tuttle, for example. An outfielder for the Detroit Tigers, the Kansas City Athletics (before they moved to Oakland), and the Minnesota Twins, Tuttle chewed tobacco for most of his career. In fact, a lot of Tuttle's baseball cards over the years pictured him with a cheek bulging with chewing tobacco. Thirty-eight years after the end of his baseball career, Tuttle had a more ominous bulge in his cheek — a huge tumor that was so big that it came through his cheek and extended through his skin. Doctors removed the tumor, along with much of Tuttle's face. Chewing tobacco as a young man had cost him his jawbone, his right cheekbone, a lot of his teeth and gum line, and his taste buds. Cancer caused by his chewing habit finally claimed him in 1998, but Tuttle spent the rest of his life trying to steer young people, as well as grown athletes, away from smokeless tobacco.

Other baseball players have met a similar fate. Even one of the greatest of all time, Babe Ruth, was fond of dipping and chewing tobacco. He died at age 52 of an **oropharyngeal** tumor, which is a cancerous tumor in the back part of the throat. [editor: This information is taken from www.kidshealth.org/teen/drugs_alcohol, and reviewed by Steven Dowshen, M.D. 2004]

WHY SHOULD I REGULARLY ATTEND CHURCH?

Inquisitive minds continually seek answers or reasons for things. With an onrush of various polls, studies and surveys, information is generated, sometimes for good, but most times resulting in the question, “why did we need to know that?”

God’s Word is replete with answers and reasons for attendance and participation in local congregations. The ultimate reason Christians should participate in a local congregation is because it is **specifically commanded by God**. Hebrews 10:25.

From the beginning of the church, members gave in to temptation to absent themselves from services.

It’s an Obligation – Members owe a debt to one another. They are to provoke one another to good works and to exhort one another to live consistent lives worthy of God. Hebrews 10:25 reads, *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another.*

There are Benefits – There are seven benefits of participation in your local congregation listed in Acts 2:42-47:

1. **instruction** – “continuing stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine” [v. 42];
2. **fellowship** – “and fellowship” [v. 42];
3. **observance of the ordinances** – “breaking of bread” [v. 42];
4. **shared prayers** – “prayers” [v. 42];
5. **effective outreach** – “fear came upon every soul” [v. 43];
6. **common cause** – “had all things common” [v. 44]
7. **mutual assistance** – “parted them to all men, as every man had need” [v. 45]

The scriptures give four other benefits of participation:

1. **worship** – “Praising God, and having favour with all the people” [Acts 2:47]
2. **discipline** – “Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother” [Matthew 18:15-17, and “examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves” [2 Corinthians 13:1-10].
3. **oversight of elders** – Paul gives direction to elders as they feed the flock, [1 Peter 5:1-3.]
4. **obedience to God’s command** – “not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together” [Hebrews 10:25].

Ever-present participation in your congregation is not an option for Christians. It is imperative and yields eternal benefits – “And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” [Acts 2:47].

Questions I Must Ask Myself - - -

How much progress have I made spiritually thus far this year? What bad habits have I conquered? What new talents did I develop? What places in the kingdom can I now fill which I could not fill at the beginning of this year? Second Peter 3:18 says, *Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

Have I placed other interests ahead of my interests in God? Do I belong to an organization or club? How often am I absent from its meetings? If I am sincerely trying to serve the Lord, would I invite friends into my home for a meal or entertainment on Sunday or Wednesday and miss worship? Hebrews 10:25 reads, *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another... .*

Have I ever been self-centered and self-willed? Have I spoken words thoughtlessly or in haste that have injured another? Have I used words that were barbed and cutting? Have I ever been sincere to gain selfish ends? Do I consider myself a self-appointed critic to find fault in others? Do I think of myself more highly than I ought to think?

Have I engaged in things that will make my influence for Christ less? Am I pure in speech? Am I pure in my association with those of the opposite sex? Have my attitudes toward them been those of a Christian? If every member of the church were just like me, do I honestly believe those who know me would want to be a Christian?

Have I ever been irreverent in the worship? What does it mean when the Bible says in Psalm 89:7, *God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him?* Do I talk or by my actions distract those who are sitting near me during the singing or the sermon? Do I know that the Lord is in our presence and observes my attitude? Do I always pray during the prayers? Am I easily disturbed by the surroundings? When the audience stands to sing the invitation song, do I always sing, thus encouraging the unsaved and the wayward to answer the invitation? Or do I, by my indifference and lack of attention, let them know that I DON’T CARE?

How many souls have I led to Christ during my life as a Christian? How many neighbors and friends have I ever invited to worship? If everyone did what I have done, how rapidly would the church grow? Have I ever talked to anyone about his or her soul? Have I ever talked with my own family about their soul?

If my salvation depended on my answers, would I be welcomed in Heaven by my Savior?

WHY SHOULD I SHARE MY FAITH?

It's been said to never discuss politics or religion! Discussions on these subjects may result in disagreement among parties because of different beliefs and opinions. Friendships and family relationships may be damaged, feelings and closeness upset.

Christians are **commanded** to "go ye therefore, and teach all nations," Matthew 28:19. Following are six undeniable reasons for sharing our faith in Christ with those who are outside the church. Jesus tells Christians to "teach all nations" – that includes everyone we can communicate with. Why should we share our faith?

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations."
Matthew 28:19

1. Because God has commanded us to do so. Jesus' final words while He was on earth, speaking to His Apostles, were: *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth,* Acts 1:8. John restates Jesus' purpose in Revelation 22:17, *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say Come....*

2. Because it shows our love for God. Christ said, *If ye love me, keep my commandments,* John 14:15.

3. Because all are lost. *As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one,* Romans 3:10. Verse 23 states, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

4. Because sharing is God's chosen method to tell all people. Redeemed sinners (Christians) can tell lost sinners about Christ. Romans 10:14-17 reads, *How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? *** So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

5. Because God's desire is to save all people. *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among me, whereby we must be saved,* Acts 4:12. In 2 Peter 3:9, we are told, *The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.*

6. Because someone once shared his faith with us – a Bible teacher, a praying parent, or a caring preacher.

*If you love me,
keep my
commandments.*
John 14:15

It is essential that we are truthful in our faith – that we speak the truth, *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God,* John 1:1; and in John 17:17 Jesus prays to His Father before His crucifixion, *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.* Our example is a great way to share our faith. Galatians 5:23-26 speak of the fruits of the Spirit, listing characteristics that a Christian should exhibit.

So You Think Parents and Grandparents Are "Behind the Times"!!

Everyone makes fun of the '40's and '50's and maybe, as a teen, you think they were really "behind the times." Following is a "look-see" of some things that just maybe the teens of "these" times are missing:

In 1953 the United States population was less than 150 million – yet they knew more people then, and knew them better – and that was good! The average annual salary was under \$3,000 – yet parents could put some of it away for a rainy day and still live a decent life - and that was good! A loaf of bread cost about 15 cents – but it was safe for a five-year-old to skate to the store and buy one – and that was good!

Prime-time meant I Love Lucy, Ozzie and Harriet, Gunsmoke and Lassie – so nobody ever heard of ratings or filters – and that was good! Most homes didn't have air-conditioning – the windows stayed up and half a dozen mothers ran outside when you fell off your bike - and that was good! The teacher was either Miss Matthews or Mrs. Logan or Mr. Adkins – but not Ms. Becky or Mr. Dan – and that was good. The only hazardous material you knew about was a patch of grass burrs around the light pole at the corner – and that was good. Climbing into a fresh bed was nice – sheets were dried on the clothesline – and that was good. People generally lived in the same hometown with their relatives – "child care" meant grandparents or aunts and uncles – and that was good! Parents were respected and their rules were law – children did not talk back – and that was good! Television was in black-and-white – but all outdoors was in glorious color – and that was good! Your dad knew how to adjust everybody's carburetor – the dad next door knew how to adjust all the TV knobs – and that was good! Grandma grew snap beans in the back yard and chickens behind the garage – and that was definitely good!

And just when you were about to do something really bad – chances were you'd run into your Dad's high school coach, or the nosy old lady from up the street, or your little sister's piano teacher – or somebody from church – all of whom knew your parents' phone number and YOUR first name – and even that was good!

This was taken off the internet – which wasn't in existence at that time – but, properly used – this is good!!

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 may see your good works, and
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 Matthew 5:16

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JUST FOR TODAY

I WILL NOT STRIKE BACK. If someone is rude, if someone is impatient, if someone is unkind, I will not respond in that way (Romans 12:19).

I WILL ASK GOD TO BLESS MY ENEMY. If I come across someone who treats me harshly or unfairly, I will quietly ask God to bless that individual (Matthew 5:44). I understand my enemy could be a family member, a neighbor, a co-worker, or a stranger.

I WILL BE CAREFUL ABOUT WHAT I SAY. I will carefully choose and guard my words, being certain that I do not spread gossip (James 3:1-6).

I WILL GO THE SECOND MILE. I will find ways to help share the burden of another person (Matthew 5:41).

I WILL FORGIVE. I will forgive those who hurt me (Luke 23:34).

I WILL SECRETLY DO SOMETHING KIND FOR SOMEONE. I will reach out anonymously and bless the life of another (Ephesians 4:32.)

I WILL TREAT OTHERS THE WAY I WISH TO BE TREATED. I will practice “the Golden Rule” (Matthew 7:12). I will do unto others as I would have them do to me, with *everyone* I encounter.

I WILL RAISE THE SPIRITS OF SOMEONE WHO IS DISCOURAGED. My smile, my words, my expressions of concern and support can make a difference to someone facing a challenge (Romans 14:19).

I WILL TAKE CARE OF MY BODY. I will eat less . . . I will eat healthier . . . I will exercise . . . I will be thankful My body will be a fitting temple for Him who dwells in me (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

I WILL GROW SPIRITUALLY. I will spend more time in study, prayer, and meditation. I will retreat from life’s pressures and distractions and seek to learn God’s will (2 Peter 3:18)

LADDER OF ACHIEVEMENT

- 100% I Did!
- 90% I Will!
- 80% I Can!
- 70% I Think I Can!
- 60% I Might!
- 50% I Think I Might
- 40% What Should I Do?
- 30% I Wish I Could!
- 20% I Don’t Know How!
- 10% I Can’t!
- 0% I Won’t!



– Family Ties, Cottondale church of Christ;
www.housetohouse.com, Vol. 12, No. 5

The Spirit of 1776



November, 2007!! – A time to enjoy school activities and holidays. In looking at the calendar, there are some special days that we should think about. There is a day set aside for thanksgiving – really, that should be “every day.” And there is a day, November 11, that is set aside to honor our veterans and military personnel who give so very much to keep peace in our country. Presently our government leaders are working toward a plan on immigration – a legal immigration. We’ve heard the saying concerning those citizens and immigrants who protest against our nation that if America is so bad why are there so many people trying to come into our lands. All over the world people desire to have the freedom and peace that is found in America.

When we reflect on the cost, human life and financial, we must remember that our country was based on the belief in God as our Creator and Savior. The Second Continental Congress, fifty-six patriots, unanimously co-signed with John Hancock as representatives of the Colonies. The last statement on the declaration states, “And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our Sacred Honor.” This occurred on July 4, 1776, a part of the Revolutionary War between Great Britain and the American colonies [1775-83]. Great Britain recognized the independence of the American colonies on September 3, 1783.

George Washington was the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army during the war and called for a reading of the Declaration by ringing a bell, now known as the Liberty Bell, at Philadelphia.

Wars have continued in the preservation of that freedom – a freedom based on the belief of the signers of God as the Creator. We are told in the Scriptures to “pray without ceasing,” 1 Thessalonians 5:17. There are soldiers to pray for, families of the loved ones to pray for, our government leaders to pray for – “without ceasing.” Thank God for their part in keeping our America free and peaceful. We can worship without threat from our government. That was the result of the Revolutionary War. We aren’t required to pledge our life, our fortunes; we should be proud to pledge our honor and be able to have remembrance on every day of our love for God and our privilege to be an American.

Always remember our military personnel and leaders of our country in our prayers as they continue to preserve the freedom of America – their homes, their mates, their children. It’s our duty to honor them in such a way.



Double Puzzle: hear, believe, repent, confess, baptized – Mark 4:24 – *Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.*

Letter Ladder: (1) Less, (2) Loss, (3) Lose, (4) Love, (5) Move, (6) More

Odd One Out: 34. All the other numbers are evenly divisible by the number 3.

Bible Quiz page 2: (1) Jezebel, 1 Kings 16:19; (2) Lake Gennesaret, Luke 5:1; (3) Cana, John 2:1-11; (4) Solomon, 1 Kings 12; (5) Antioch, Acts 11:26; (6) Damascus, Acts 9:25; (7) Mountains, Deuteronomy 32:49, Exodus 33:6; (8) Sadducees, Acts 23:7; (9) riches or money, Matthew 6:24; (10) Cana, John 2:1-11; (11) Levi, Exodus 2:1.

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We reserve the right to exclude items we deem unacceptable, using God’s Word as our guide.

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