## Do Teenagers Need God? B. W. Cheney

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After reading the newspaper and noticing time after time the many young people who are losing their lives in car wrecks, wars, riots, and many other ways, we believe a message directed straight to teenagers is in order, to help them realize how much they need God and His wonderful salvation.

You know, teenage friend, the Word of God tells us in Hebrews 9:27, "... it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Romans 14:11-12 informs us: "For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

You may be thinking this talk about the Bible and God is not for you, as you are too busy with the pleasures of this present world; but have you ever given it any thought that someday you won't be too busy to leave this life, and if it should be while you are still a teenager, would you be prepared to meet an angry God who is angry with your sins?

Do you know, young person, that God loves you? Yes, He loves you so much that He has provided a way that you can know Him personally. God's Word says in John 3:16-17: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

The Bible also points out that if you refuse Jesus Christ His rightful place in your life, you are condemned and will receive the punishments of all sinners in the eternal pits of hell when you die, even though you are a teenager. John 3:18 says, "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Ecclesiastes 12:1 says to "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth ...." The devil is luring the young people of this day into all forms of sin such as drugs, liquor, tobacco, nudity, and lusts of the flesh. He is doing his very best to keep them from thinking of God, their Creator, by keeping them busy with worldly pleasures.

Teenage friend, can you honestly admit to yourself that you are truly happy and contented with the life you are living at this present time? Do you long for a deep, settled peace in your soul? Would you like to face the world, yourself, and most of all, God with a clear conscience void of offence? If your answer to each question is a hearty yes, then we are more than pleased to tell you how you can become a child of God and be prepared to meet Him at the great Judgment Day, which isn't too far away in the future.

First, when you come to the age of accountability before God, you are held responsible for every sin you commit, for the Scripture states in Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Romans 4:7-8 continues in this manner: "Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin." You may be asking, "How can I be blessed in the sight of God and know that all my sins are forgiven?" There is only one way, and that is to repent.

There is no need to join some church or to try to do better on your own, and there is no use to try to put God out of your mind, because you are still going to stand before the judgment seat of Christ. Second Corinthians 5:10, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

The Bible tells you in John 3:3, "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Also, John 3:7 says, "Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." These Scriptures let you know you must have a divine work of God done in your life if you are to become one of His family. First John 1:9 gives this promise: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and

just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Teenager, here are some more Bible truths you can claim for your very own from Romans 10:9 and 13: "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.... For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." After you have put these promises in action, you will understand what the Apostle Paul meant when he wrote these words to the saints at Corinth in 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

In closing, we would like to make it clear that Jesus Christ died upon the cruel Cross of Calvary and shed His precious blood for the payment of sin for the teenager as well as the adult. The Word of God points out in 2 Corinthians 6:2 that "now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

If you are not saved at this present time, friend, why not humble yourself before God, confess your sins to Him, and acknowledge His dear Son Jesus Christ as your Lord and Master. We are fully persuaded that teenagers do need God to live clean, righteous lives, but how much more they will need Him when they step through that door called death.

As a teenager, you need God to help you through the various trials you go through. You need God in helping you choose your life's occupation, and you definitely need Him to guide you in choosing a life's companion.

There are only two places for a soul to go when it departs from this life: one is Heaven and the other is hell. Which place are you preparing to go, teenager? Romans 6:23 sounds out this warning that all should take very seriously: "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

May God bless every teenager who hears or reads this message, and may many be able to say as David of old did in Psalm 71:5, "For thou art my hope, O Lord God: thou art my trust from my youth."

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