

HOW SHALL THE YOUNG SECURE THEIR HEARTS?

The words of the song commonly sung should be ones that are emblazoned in our hearts and minds, young or old. It certainly is one that should make us think. How shall the young secure their hearts? What do we do to have security of mind? What would we look for as youths ourselves? These very questions are those that will to an extent determine the salvation of our souls and the souls of others.

Paul in writing to, at the time, a young man named Timothy wrote in I Timothy 4:12, "*Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*" We see that Timothy as a youth himself gained security of the heart by constant encouragement from Paul, and in the same manner Timothy was to encourage others by being that example of a strong Christian. Certainly what better example could one have, save Christ himself, than the apostle Paul. A man who had, at one time, been the biggest opposition to the church having turned into one of the greatest gospel preachers to have ever lived. Certainly we need more today who have the zeal that Paul always showed. From these types of examples the youth of the church, as well as the rest of us, would be encouraged and exhorted into stronger Christians helping the church to grow as God desires.

Security is defined as *a feeling secure, and freedom from fear or doubt* (Webster's New World Dictionary). Security of the heart allows one to live their life in consistent knowledge of their salvation if their life remains consistently faithful. Isn't this something that we all wish to have; the knowledge that our names are indeed written in the Lamb's Book of Life? But how is it that we gain this security?

Parents, you must raise your children in an acceptable way unto the Lord. The book of Proverbs perhaps gives us the most proficient advice by which to raise a child. Proverbs 23:13-14 commissions, "*Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.*" In a society that completely frowns upon the physical discipline of a child, we contrarily see the Lord telling us otherwise. Why is the youth of the church merely turning into another statistic within the studies of our country? What other reason is there other than the fact that there is no longer discipline within the home? Is discipline taken to an extreme? Yes, some parents take discipline to an unhealthy extreme and that leads to an injury of the child. But within the binds of God's law we do see a necessity for physical discipline within the home.

Children, you must continue in the ways of our Lord. On the same note God has given clear principles for which children to follow in order to gain the needed knowledge by which to live a faithful Christian life. Proverbs 23:22-23 also states, "*Hearken to thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old. Buy the truth and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.*" It is your place to submit to your parents, because if they love as they should they will tell you the righteousness of God's law in application to life. Through this knowledge you will grow to be not only an upstanding citizen of this fine country, but a faithful Christian hearkening the commands of God.

Our Lord held the characteristics of children in high regard in comparison to the church (Matthew 18:3-6; Matthew 19:13-15). The question at hand is where are the children today holding Christ in their lives?

-Andy Brewer