

How Shall the Young Secure Their Hearts

The last lesson, *Everything I Needed To Know Was in the Bible*, we pointed out how children and young adults ignore teachings from the Bible, only to be burnt hard in later life by the devastating nature of those very sins spoken of by parents and teachers in Bible classes.

Keep the young from harms way.

We saw three direct commands that will keep both young and old from harm's way.

- **Abstain from Every Form of Evil.** 1 Thess 5:22 tells us directly to "abstain from every form of evil."
- **Evil company corrupts good habits.** We are taught in our youth to avoid evil companions. Watch out for the companions that are doing things that are wrong. They will corrupt us: "Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits'" 1 Cor 15:33.
- **Pride Goes before a Fall.** It is so easy for us to think more of ourselves than we ought. We think we are smarter than our parents and teachers. We think we know more than we do. It is often our way or no way. But the wise man warned in Prov 16:18: "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling."

The word of god will secure the hearts of the young.

In 1719, almost 300 years ago, Issac Watts, a poet, wrote the words to our song, *How Shall the Young Secure Their Hearts?* The answer is the same today:—God's word. Look carefully for the meaning in Watts' song. God's word is the answer to the problems of youth. Indeed,. everything we need to know is in the Bible

How shall the young secure their hearts,

And guard their lives from sin?

Thy word the choicest rules imparts

To keep the conscience clean.

'Tis like the sun, a heavenly light,

That guides us all the day;

And thro' the dangers of the night,

A lamp to lead our way.

Thy word is everlasting truth;

How pure is every page.

That holy book shall guide our youth,

And well support our age.

(Emphasis added)

In the words of Jesus: "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." John 17:17-18. Only the truth has the power to sanctify our young people. Only the gospel can save them: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek." Rom 1:16-17

You Are Just a Vapor.

For young and sometimes the older people too, life seems endless in its opportunities for redemption. We think there will always be time to fulfill our good intentions. The future lies before us: *I will obey the gospel; I will start going to church; I will quit hanging out with those guys; I will start doing what my folks tell me to do.* These are good intentions voiced against the uncertainty of life. Beware! "For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away." James 4:14.

Conclusion.

How shall the young secure their hearts? Remember everything we need to know is in the Bible! May our young people learn the word of God and live by the word of God.

Study questions.

1. What three things will keep our young from harm's way? _____

2. What is central to securing the hearts of the young? _____
3. List the references to God's word in the Isaac Watts song. _____

4. What is God's power to save? _____
5. Why is it urgent for young people to obey the Lord now? _____
