

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth."—Eccl. 12:1



Youth's Living Ideals

A Magazine of Christian Guidance



Vol. 6. No. 4—January, 1966

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Youth's Living Ideals

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Learning From Maggie

"Maggie is a real WILDCAT. You should hear her berate her friends. And her poor mother . . .! Honestly, the way Maggie talks to her you would think she were dog! Of course, her mother and father should have trained Maggie better when she was a child and should train her even now. But she is old enough to correct herself. I don't see how they put up with her. She's a terror to anyone who crosses her path."

"Do you know Jane? Isn't she the *sweetest* thing! I have never met any young person so patient, so kind and understanding of everyone. She sees your faults but she loves you in spite of them. And I just *love* that sincere smile she has for everyone! She is really an inspiring example. The man that gets her for a wife will really have a treasure."

HERE WE HAVE two types of people. Both are true-to-life. It may surprise you, but both are valuable to us. We can learn from *both* of them.

In life we should be ever on the alert to learn from other people and from circumstances. We should keep a constant campaign going to improve ourselves. To do this we learn both positively and negatively. In everything and in everyone, we seek to understand and to improve our own characters. We ourselves want to be *positive* and inspiring examples just as Jane is. By so being, perhaps we will be used to help the "Maggies." But just because we want to learn by Jane's example does not mean that we cannot learn much from Maggie.

Jane (and also her splendid brother Joe) inspire us to acquire heights of kindness, patience, understanding, thoughtfulness. Truly great traits to be diligently sought after. But let us look at Maggie.

The way she talks to her friends and parents at times, you would think there was no love in her. Well, *I* don't want to be like that. I speak crossly sometimes, too. Do I sound like

Maggie? No doubt there are good traits in Maggie just as there are bad traits in Jane. But since Maggie's bad traits outweigh the good, I am going to apply her case **NEGATIVELY** to my life.

Maggie has a snarl on her face. I want a **SMILE** to offset her snarl. Maggie has an unkind word to say about everybody. I don't want to be like that, because when we see this trait in someone else, it really looks ugly. I want to have a kind word for everyone to offset the unkind things that are said. I know I will be happier and will make others happier if I am kind and patient.

Maggie tries to shun all her responsibility. She wants others to do all the work. I could be that way, too, but it sure is an ugly trait. And ugly traits always look worse in others than they do in ourselves. (That's because we are a little blind when we look at ourselves.) So I want to learn from Maggie. I don't want to cause anyone to shoulder *my* responsibilities. In fact, I had rather go too far the other way and shoulder mine *plus* some of *theirs*. Yes, Maggie is teaching me a lot.

Jane and her brother Joe inspire me to be more thoughtful in *little* things. Maggie is so *thoughtless* that she inspires me **NOT** to be *thoughtless* with her.

One thing about Maggie, though. In her own way she is not selfish. She has a sister who has a bad trait called greediness and selfishness. So I can even learn *negatively* from Maggie's sister. Greediness is one of the worst traits one can have. It is about as bad as jealousy. And some poor people are plagued with *both* of these evil traits. I hope that I, by the grace of God, will never have these traits. It is so much like human nature.

Maggie and her sister, believe it or not, do have good traits also. But as I said before, I am just pointing out that I can learn lessons that will make me a better person from Maggie's bad traits as well as from her and Jane's good traits.

We should always be aware of the great truth that we can learn from large things and from small things; and we can learn from bad traits in others as well as good traits.

There is one thing I want to be cautious of, however. In selecting my companions, I want to associate with the Janes and the Joes who are like the Jane and Joe I know. We tend to become like the company we keep. And since it is more natural to learn bad traits than the good ones, it would be dangerous for me to select the Maggies for my companions. Since I know the Maggies, I will learn from them, but the Janes and Joes will be my constant companions. Evil companions corrupt good manners, you know.

I hope any good trait I might have will inspire others to good thoughts and actions. But I also hope that others will learn **NEGATIVELY** from *my* bad traits just as I learn from Maggie.

—Editor

It is with thankful hearts that we enter 1966. We are well into our sixth year of the publication of *Youth's Living Ideals*. Our circulation reaches into about 40 states and 15 foreign countries. We **NEED** to expand and gain a larger circulation. If *Youth's Living Ideals* is good for one it is good for another. We appreciate the help, interest and faithfulness of all our readers. If *Youth's Living Ideals* helps you, would you do a good deed and introduce it to someone who has never heard of it? We (and they) need your help, because—as you may realize—only a small percentage of people are interested in the type of material printed in these pages. Yet there are countless thousands who *do* appreciate such things and would be glad to learn of *Youth's Living Ideals*. Will you help us reach them?



STATION Y. O. U.

"If someone could and should invent
Receivers, catching thoughts as sent,—
Would you be satisfied,—be proud—
To have yours magnified out loud?
What would you think,—what would you do
If people could tune in on Y.O.U?"

How a Young Couple Solved a Problem

How often is the happiness of many a well-meaning couple marred by their forgetfulness of the duty enjoined upon us, to "bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

How often, when John comes home from work, a little put out because things have not gone quite smoothly at the workshop, or Sally is just a wee bit out of temper because the children have been rather more troublesome than usual—how often, we say, in such a case, instead of gentle words to make things pleasant, is some such remark as this indulged in: "Why, how cross you are tonight!" This leads to the retort: "I'm not cross a bit; it's you that are always trying to make a body angry."

One word of course brings on another, and a most uncomfortable evening they spend, you may be sure.

Now, we know a couple with whom this difficulty not infrequently occurred, and very wretched for the time it made them. But they were really very fond of one another, and had more common sense than many people we have met with. What wonder, then, that they should put their heads together, and try to find some means by which this state of things could be overcome?

They did, and now we will tell you the experiment they tried, and what was the result. It was agreed between them that if things had gone unpleasantly with John during the day, when he came home he was to wear his cap a little on one side, and Sally then must do her very best to make all smooth at home. If, on the contrary, her temper had been ruffled by little household troubles in the day, a corner of her apron was to be tucked up on John's return, and he was then to be more amiable than usual. The plan was tried, and answered admirably. Many a pleasant evening was enjoyed, which otherwise would have been passed in great discomfort.

At last they found themselves in this dilemma: One evening John returned with his cap extremely cocked to one side, and what was his dismay on entering the house to find that Sally's

apron was also tucked way up! Now, what was to be done? Whose duty was it to give way and try and make things pleasant to the other? The difficulty lasted only for a moment. Looking at each other strangely, they both burst out into a hearty laugh. John gave his wife a long and loving kiss, and they have since been heard to say it was one of the happiest evenings they ever spent.

More than this, that very night they lifted up their hearts together in thanks to Him who enabled them to overcome the wicked one, and in prayer that He would ever keep them steadfast in their love to Him, and to each other.

We are sure that for twenty miles around there is not a happier couple to be met than John and Sally.

—The Beautiful Tree of Life

NOTHING TO FEAR

The Christian just cannot be hurt, ultimately, by anything or anybody that would seek to harm him. Whether others persecute him, steal from him, or even kill him, he should have no fear. We are told NOT to fear those who can kill the body, but Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. All things—even a martyr's death—work together for good to those who love God, the called according to His purpose. See "The Guide Book" in this issue.



THE WEAVER

"My life is but a weaving, between my Lord and me;
I cannot choose the colors, He worketh steadily.

"Oftimes He weaveth sorrow, And I, in foolish pride,
Forget He sees the upper, and I, the underside.

"Not till the loom is silent, And the shuttles cease to fly,
Will He unroll the canvas, and explain the reason why.

"The dark threads are as needful in the weaver's skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver in the pattern He has
planned."

—Selected

The Waiting Years

DOROTHY BEST RAINS

"In the spring a young man's fancy . . ."

Angela's fingers were busy pleating the net for her bridesmaid's halo-veil. Her mother was rechecking the list of presents received. "A relish dish from Phil? I didn't know Phil sent you a present. Where is it?"

"Over there. The crystal one. Pretty, isn't it?" Angela asked

"Yes. But I'm surprised. When I think of the two years you wasted going with that boy!" The older woman shook her head ruefully.

Angela's eyes had a faraway look. "Those years weren't wasted, Mother. They were—well, years of preparation. My relationship with Phil helped get me ready for falling in love with Doug."

The mother smiled but her eyes were moist. "You look at everything with rose-colored glasses, Angela. I hope you will always be this happy."

Angela hugged her briefly. "Since I was a tiny girl you've been preparing me for a happy marriage. Of course I'll be happy!"

Angela demonstrated a rare perception for a twenty-three-year-old girl. She recognized an important truth. Preparation for a happy marriage begins in childhood. All of life's experiences mold you into the sort of husband or wife you'll be.

Take a realistic look at yourself. You already have certain characteristics which will serve you well in your married state. But you also have some others which could work havoc with happiness. Begin to work on eliminating those obvious faults right now.

"HOW DOES ONE OVERCOME IMMATURITY?"

Bob's sloppiness was a kind of household joke. Every day he came home from work and began undressing as soon as he entered the front door. "Getting comfortable" he called it. His tie landed on the mantel. His coat reached a dining room chair. His shoes were shed by the ottoman in front of his favorite easy chair. When his mother remonstrated, he'd laugh good-naturedly and say, "Relax, Mom; the house looks lived-in." It was no joke to Marcia after the first month of marriage, however. Her earliest training had taught her that nice people were *tidy* people. Bob brought into his marriage a fault which shattered the honeymoon-glow of the first year.

Sometimes we are unaware of our shortcomings which could spoil our marriage. A good eye-opener is to check how many times the family nags about the same matter. "Mom's always yelling at me about coming home late for dinner," Ralph confided to Grace, his fiancée. "She lives her life by that clock."

Grace gave him a questioning glance. "You mean you're frequently late for dinner and you haven't even *called* her?"

Defensively Ralph answered, "I forget. Time just slips up on me."

There was silence in the car. Finally Grace remarked with good-natured candor, "Well, now I know what to get you for a wedding present, dear. A watch!"

Ralph realized his little inconsiderate habit of being overly casual about time needed to be overcome.

In addition to correcting faults there are some positive things you can do.

Develop a sunny, outgoing nature

God's word tells us, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine." Determine to be that "merry heart" in every environment, both before and after marriage. Charles paid his wife the supreme compliment when he told his fellow workers on his fifth wedding anniversary, "Marrying Sally was the smartest thing I ever did. You see, when Sally was a baby she

swallowed a 'happiness pill'—no matter what life hands us, she comes up smiling!"

Gain maturity in facing life's problems

This involves many things. Mature people can accept life's frustrations and limitations without resorting to childish behavior. Dick and Linda seemed ideally matched. They were ecstatically in love. Dick's job had a real future but his present paycheck kept them on a strict budget. Linda alternated between wild spending sprees and living on corn bread and cabbage for a month. When Dick chided her she pouted, cried, raged at him. Dick was driven to accept a better paying job which held little opportunity for advancement. Inability to live within the framework of life's limitations is a mark of immaturity.

How does one overcome immaturity? By recognizing it in oneself and determining to grow up in this area. "I thought I was ready for marriage," confided Stan, a college junior, "and I wrote my folks that Betty was the girl for me. But a letter from Dad really opened my eyes—not about Betty—but about being ready for marriage. At first I was sore. But later I had to admit he was right." Stan's father had listed objectively all the evidences of Stan's immaturity. He had never successfully held a job. Even his summer jobs usually ended in disaster. He couldn't live within his allowance for spending money in college. He hadn't settled on his vocation. Stan had a lot of growing up to do. However, his maturing process developed much faster after he faced his immaturity honestly. . . .

Learn to empathize with others

Psychologists tell us that empathy is seeing life from someone else's point of view. We *feel with another* in a given situation. This is an invaluable quality to take into marriage. When two people truly love and empathize with each other, the result is a wonderfully satisfying relationship.

People who possess the ability to empathize are "giving" people. Friends and family look to them for understanding and

support. They lend stability and comfort to their environments. An empathizing person does not seek his own satisfaction but looks at life through the eyes of compassion for the need of others.

Dave smoothed out problems in his college dorm by putting this quality into practice. "Don't needle Chuck, you guys. Sure, he's a little loud and braggy, but inside he's pleading for friendship. He has no family. No security. Go easy on him."

Dave's roommate declared Dave "the greatest. He senses when I feel like talking and listens to me by the hour. He's just as alert to the times I feel like being alone. Then he disappears. He helps me to do my best in my studies."

This quality will make Dave an excellent marriage partner. It is a quality that can be developed by anyone. Simply place yourself mentally in the other person's shoes. Ask yourself, If I were he, how would I react to this situation? or, What solution would give me greatest satisfaction if this were *my* problem? It takes practice to become adept at this, but it's well worth the effort. . . .

Don't waste the waiting years. Use them wisely to improve yourself. Develop those qualities which make for a happy marriage. Meanwhile, explore the minds of those of the opposite sex. Learn to empathize with everyone who crosses your path. Be a giving person, a loving person.

Into your marriage you'll take the priceless gift of yourself. Use these years to stretch that self into the person your marriage partner prays that you'll be.

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Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord.—Prov. 18:22

"Funny Books"

In the matter of reading material, how sadly have parents failed their children. How shamefully have they neglected their sacred charge in guiding the reading habits of their children. There is a great evil in our land, and it is being craftily designed by evil and ungodly men and organizations. It is the publication of the so-called "comic books." They are not funny! A little funny story for the childish mind once in a while would do no harm; but these things that are called comic stories are in many cases filthy, murderous, lustful, and almost obscene *tragic* stories. They have been craftily inserted into the children's reading material so that the parents will look at one astonishingly if he mentions it. "Why, what possible harm is there in a child reading a 'funny book'?"

Have *they* read them? Have *they* seen the pictures in garish colors, the spilled blood, the nearly nude bodies, the wicked-looking women, the language of the gutter? To say nothing more, what kind of literary taste could we expect one to gain from reading such things?

Reading such literature gnaws at the very vitals of our youth. It even turns them into discourteous, inconsiderate people. If one is disturbed while sunk in the excitement of some lurid story, he is often impolite. The parent can say, "So-and-So is here Johnnie—can't you speak?" To which he may look very angry and mutter something, not even arising to offer his seat to the guest. His whole mind is lost, carried away into some unreal, wicked land where all kinds of indecent and violent acts are committed.

Because the reading of "funny books" is so prevalent, and because so many parents fail to see the harm, we find the book stands filled with the horror of thousands of filthy, gruesome stories. This makes it difficult to keep them from our homes. If our own children do not buy them, some other child will bring them to him, and thus he may become infatuated with the evil thing. It is our sacred duty to fill our home with clean

literature. But if children's minds are filled with rubbish, there just is no room for clean literature.

Many of our law enforcement officers are becoming alarmed and are putting the blame on much of our juvenile delinquency upon the bad influence such reading material exerts upon youth.

We must be heard crying out against the pollution of the clean minds of our children, and each of us doing all he can to see that at least one home will be free of this evil influence.

We cannot help but believe that there is an evil scheme behind the publication of such material. [The Communists admit it!—Ed.] And that scheme is to gradually, slowly, but surely bring about a deterioration of the morals of the young people culturally, intellectually, morally and spiritually.

While our children's bodies are forming, we would not consider allowing them to eat unclean food. We provide and prepare for them the best, most wholesome, tasty food we possibly can afford, and give much thought to a well-balanced diet. Yet the same persons take no thought of the food of the mind which is consumed through the formative years, when ideals and attitudes toward life are being developed.

If I were allowed to make just one plea to parents today, above all else I would say, "Look well to the diet you are serving your precious children. They may be consuming poison filth by reams."

—Mrs. W. J. Berry



MEMBER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO POLICE COMMISSION SAYS:

"The most dreadful aspect of crime is violence. If parents schedule a teen-age party in their home, and if the word gets around in the high schools, those parents run a serious risk of having their home invaded by a mob of young people who will launch therein a reign of terror and destruction until the police can be summoned.

"These young people are not criminals. Most of them come from normal, reputable homes. But there is something lacking in those homes. What is lacking is an aversion to violence which would fortify those children against such instincts.

"Well, what is the answer? I think the answer is plain. What we need is a moral revolution. What we need is character, morals and a way of life that makes crime disreputable."—H. R. McKinnon, Lawyer

Who Is To Blame?

You hear many comments made about the youth of today. Teenagers are so often referred to as juvenile delinquents, or the beat generation. Many of the remarks said about the youth of today are both uncomplimentary and unfair.

But just whose fault is it that the youth of today are digressing morally as well as spiritually? I don't think all the blame can be placed upon the youth. It's not the teen-agers that produce lust-filled movies that are shown on the television and movie screens. Surely the teen-agers can't be blamed for the publishing of the filthy magazines that are displayed on newsstands. Neither can the teen-agers bear the guilt of making and selling alcoholic beverages. There are many things that help tear down the principles of today's youth.

"How can these things be stopped?" you may ask, and "Surely, you don't expect movie-making to cease, book publishing to cease, and the selling of alcoholic beverages." Maybe these things will never cease, but with the proper guidance and training the youth can be stopped from using them.

—Winnifred Averett in *The Free Will Baptist*

THERE VERY DEFINITELY IS BUT ONE WAY

Some prominent religious leaders of today say "that Christ is not the **ONLY** way to salvation." Now salvation is coming to God, or being reconciled to Him. So either Christ is the **ONLY** way to God or He is **NO** way at all. He says, "No man comes to the Father but by Me." If this statement were not absolutely true, then Christ would be a liar and an imposter and unworthy of being a Savior. If He were an imposter, there would be **NO** salvation through Him at all. But these blasphemous religious leaders of today who deny Him as the **ONLY** way will some day see themselves as thieves and robbers and will hear the fearsome words of the only Savior, "Depart from Me; I never knew you."

From the Congressional Record

Congressional Record, September 1, 1964: "I was shocked recently when mobs robbed and destroyed hundreds of stores and threw stones and 'Molotov cocktails' at policemen. Many policemen were seriously injured. I also was shocked that many of our 'bleeding hearts' condoned this action by saying that the police are 'unkind' to these 'misguided' youths.

"There seems to be a concentrated effort to change the basic thinking of the American people. For many years the youth of America, even in their games, have considered the criminals the 'bad guys' and the law enforcement officers the 'good guys.' Now too often the cops are the bad guys and the criminals the heroes. A maudlin cult has been growing—as yet still small but vocal—which would have us class the criminals as the good guys and the policemen as the bad guys.

"Organized mobs are becoming more and more immune to punishment by law. This is not a civil rights matter. It is not confined to Negro or Caucasian; it is organized violence against law and order. Allowing violence to go unpunished, be it organized mob violence or individual violence, has destroyed more countries than have invading armies.

"Of course the corrupt and brutal policeman must be removed. But let us spend more time protecting the interest of the citizen and encouraging respect for the honest policeman and less time crying over unkindnesses to the rapist, the robber, the murderer or the rioter. The American citizen obeying the law seldom meets with police brutality."

—Representative Bray. Reprinted from *The Bible Advocate*



THE WOES OF BEING ALIVE

According to a Chicago doctor, Americans are the most over-medicated, over-operated, over inoculated, anxiety-ridden people in the world and are "flabby, overweight, have a lot of dental cavities, can't sleep, can't get going when we are awake, have neuroses, high blood pressure and suffer from a plethora of diseases of civilization." Other than that, though, we're in pretty good shape.

—The Pittsburgh Press

Notes from Mom



It is sad, but true, that there are people who do not *know* HOW to respond to kindness. Isn't such a person in a pathetic condition!

It is more serious, though, for those who are responsible for such a condition. A poor dog may be so accustomed to being kicked and beaten that he will bite the hand extended to pet him. Knowing only cruelty, naturally he shrinks from any movement in his direction. Some dogs will run away, afraid of a kindly person. Others are more vicious and will fight even one who would be kind and gentle.

We have seen poor unhappy people who behave the same way. Some may act sullenly suspicious, not recognizing nor responding to a kind word or deed. You can't "fool" them! You are out for no good! Just *what* is your "racket"? they ask, if not in words, then they do in actions. No matter how hard one may try to be kind to such a poor person, there is no response. Another may actually strike out at the kind person with harsh words. This poor person is in need of a real friend! Someone must penetrate that hard shell and find the loving heart within. Like some poor tormented thing, it has grown this exterior to protect a lovely character which has been hurt too much.

A person like this may not himself realize his pitiful condition. If, since infancy he has known only harshness and unkindness, he thinks this is only his own disposition. He is just too wise to be taken in by any soft hypocrisy, (as he thinks). It is second nature with him to doubt any kindness offered.

How do we treat such a person?

I read a touching true story one time of a very bad boy being placed in the care of a kindly man. He was what is called "an incorrigible." And this kind man was about to become discouraged. Sadly he had almost concluded that the boy indeed

was incorrigible, though he had always believed there were no incorrigibles. He believed that with *enough* love the worst boy could be helped. But now he didn't know. Either he had been wrong, or his love was not great enough. He was most unhappy to have to accept either as the sad fact. But it seemed the more loving and kind he was, the more viciously the poor child reacted. He just could not reach him!

One day, after the "incorrigible" had tried every bad behavior he could think of, after he had said the most shocking bad words, this kind man sat down discouraged and literally forced the little fellow into his arms. He struggled for awhile, kicking and screaming. To which this kind man said, "There, there now—put your head on my shoulder." Suddenly the fighting stopped and the poor little fellow clung to him sobbing, and thus finally exhausted, fell asleep. Never was a man happier than this man was as he tenderly held the poor little "incorrigible"—ten years old—in his arms.

He had never known the tender love of a mother's comforting arms, and it was hard for him to accept that love from any but a mother. He did not understand this of course, so he could only fight. How sad it would have been if this kind person had not understood this! How many there are who grow up without ever meeting a love this great. We may not know how many such ones there are who have become criminals.

This is, of course, an extreme case. But all of us no doubt know someone who, in varying degrees, is the same. And too often we give up too easily. If our kindness meets continued rebuff, we think the person is just all bad. And so we give up, leaving him to his or her unhappy tormented fate.

How rich we might be if we could only see through the outward "bluff" to a fine person deep inside. How precious the reward, if we can by a great love and patience, bring that finer character to the surface!

We have seen a certain kind of wild flower on a very prickly plant. The beautiful blossom is itself surrounded and protected by thorns. What a happy surprise it is to see its beauty shining through its fortress of thorns!

See you next month, the Lord willing.

Round Table Discussion

• YOUTH PROBLEMS ANSWERED BY OUR READERS •

This department is mainly for the views of you the readers.
Please send in any questions you would like to
see discussed in this department.

QUESTION: "Is it possible to always be happy and live away from God?"



Patricia Sandifer, 17, Jackson, Miss.: "The man or woman who knows nothing of God is perfectly satisfied and content to live away from Him. I use the word 'perfectly' very loosely in this sentence. If a man knows nothing of God, he is happy away from Him; after all, to him the man who lives a good life is "square." To say that he will "always be happy," however, is to err. For after the great judgment day of God when this man is sent to eternal damnation, he will not be happy. But so far as this mortal life is concerned, yes, he can be happy away from God if he knows nothing of Him. [But what a vain happiness!—Ed.]



Cheryl Lois Vass, Floyd, Va.: "No! How could anyone be happy and live away from God? The Bible plainly states that 'Without Me you can do nothing.' [But many are content and satisfied not to recognize this truth.—Ed.] When you live away from God you will be living in your sins and may burn for the rest of your life!" [Receive eternal punishment in the lake of fire.]

Barney Owens, 22, Cincinnati, Ohio: "I 'obeyed the gospel' four years ago. Until this time I lived a somewhat riotous life, doing things that were at that time pleasant, but after a time I saw that this was not happiness, neither had I anything to look forward to. Only real happiness is that which shall last forever. But aside from my personal life, let us look at what God says. 2 Peter 1:3, 'According as His divine power has given unto us all things that pertain to life and godliness . . .' This is the life that God gives the believing sinner. It does not narrow as many think (especially young people) but it expands the providence of life. Instead of narrowing it it is for us the 'absolute fulness of life.'"

Minnie Jones, Richlands, N. C.: "There is no true happiness outside of God. The poet truly said 'Religion never was designed to make our pleasures less.'"



Cheri Baldwin, 15, Fort Worth, Texas: "You can never ALWAYS be [perfectly] happy except in heaven [or with God]. You would be happier in this life living near God than living away from Him." [Happiness and joy comes with walking with God in this life and the life to come.—Ed.]

Agnes Rcmeyn, 15, B. C., Canada: "No. For to live apart from God is death, and in Psalm 73:27 it says, 'For lo, they that are far from He shall perish.'"



Winnie Seward, 17, Jackson, Miss.: "One may be happy living away from God in a worldly sense, but he cannot be happy in a Christian sense. When this world is destroyed the children of God shall be filled with joy. Everyone who shall have been living away from God will be sorrowful."

Kathy Bledsoe, 15, Fort Worth, Texas: "The Bible says in Heb. 24:25 that Moses chose to suffer with God's people rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season. Evidently one cannot enjoy and be happy living in sin 'but for a season.' And if one lives away from God he is living in sin."

WE INVITE ANY OF OUR READERS TO ANSWER THESE

"Is it all right to kiss good-night after a date?"

"Will money and fine clothes bring lasting happiness?"

"For whom should we pray?"

"How can we overcome Satan?"

"I would like a certain amount of security in life. How can I know what to plan for my life?"

IMPORTANT: Can you list some questions young people ask?

THANK YOU!

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM MORE OF YOU

Send us your thoughts on these questions and ask some of your own:

January, 1966

The Richest Prince

Back in the middle ages there reigned a prince called Eberhard the Good, who was a grand old man. He was just, wise and true, and his little principality was the envied corner of Europe. Though he was only a grand duke he ruled so justly and well that his subjects were happy, and they loved him as a father.

There was a feast one day at the city of Worms and all the German princes were at the banquet table when a dispute rose as to which of them was the richest and most prosperous.

Prince Ernest, of Saxony, boasted of broad domains brimming with gold and silver mines and his great palace filled with golden treasure.

"I am richer than he," said Elector Frederick, of the Rhine. "From my grand castle at Heidelberg I can look over the leagues and leagues of hillsides covered with vineyards and valleys rich with golden grain fields."

King Louis of Bavaria claimed the palm of sovereignty "because," he said, "prosperous cities and rich old cloisters filled with works of art are greater treasures than gold or silver mines, vineyards or ripened grain fields."

Then they all looked at the old lord of Wurtemberg, whose hair and beard were white as the snow on Alpine peaks and whose blue eyes were shining with a smile.

"I have little to boast of," he said meekly. "There are but few cities in Wurtemberg and no silver mines, no famous vineyards and no great store of treasure and precious stones. But I own one rare jewel—I can wander anywhere in my dominions without fear and lay my old head in peaceful slumber in the cot of my humblest subject."

"It is enough," they cried in chorus. "We yield the palm to thee for there be no richer treasures than a people's love and loyalty."

Duke Eberhard was one of the the great heroes of the feudal times. His little country of Wurtemberg was one of the most prosperous in Europe and the proudest kings counted him

their equal. When he was laid in his grave the Emperor Maximilian of Germany declared: "There lies a prince who has left no equal in the German Empire in princely virtues."

Nor has time been able to blot out his fair name, and though half a thousand years have passed away, dividing the living from the dead, it is always pleasant and refreshing when we look back upon those times to find the name of him they called the richest prince.

—The Rochester Herald

"MISS MARY AMERICAN ELECTED QUEEN OF THE HOMECOMING PARADE"

This life is short and full of "vanity"—full of things of no lasting value. The important thing is to be the elected of God to the homecoming parade in heaven.

Youth, think deeply. The important thing is not popularity in this short life but "popularity" in the life that is eternal. It is not a matter of life or death that you are not elected president of your class or club, but it is a matter of life or death whether or not you are elected to serve in the courts of heaven. DO YOU CARE?

An ancient city was besieged, and at length obliged to surrender. In the city were two brothers, who had helped the conquering general, and received permission to leave the city before it was set on fire, taking with them as much of their property as each could carry.

The two youths appeared at the gates of the city, one of them carrying their father, and the other their mother.

A SCIENTIST SPEAKS:

"The probability of life originating from accident is comparable to the probability of the unabridged dictionary resulting from an explosion in a printing shop."—Edwin Conklin, quoted in Reader's Digest

January, 1966

The Guide Book

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS FOR DAILY LIVING

BY THE EDITOR

THE GRIPE STOPPER

DO YOU have days when nothing seems to go right? Do you go through life spouting off "gripes" and complaints about obstacles in your path? Maybe some Miss Hopeful has turned you down when you asked for a date. Maybe Mom has said you couldn't buy a certain dress. Maybe . . . maybe a thousand different things.

One reason we complain is because we have the attitude that we are not getting what we deserve—we deserve something better. If a friend or enemy ill-treats us, then we get hurt and complain because deep down inside we feel we didn't deserve such treatment. (The fact is that the worst that we receive is better than we deserve.)

We need to get a higher, more realistic view of life. We, in the letter of it at least, believe that "all things work together for good" to them that love God, to the called according to His purpose—but we don't put the spirit of this belief to practical use in our everyday lives. Just to the extent that we do, then we will be relieved of fretting, anxiety about future provision and trials, grumbling, "griping," complaining, etc. We will indeed "give thanks to God for ALL things," to Him making our thanks and supplications known. We will not be bothered and upset by disrupting circumstances in our lives because, as Jim Elliot expressed it, "we believe in the God Who pulls the strings of ALL circumstances"—and *that* to the ultimate good of those who truly love Him.

No matter what transpires in the person's life who truly loves God through Christ Jesus—whether he is assailed, cursed and ill-treated by friend or foe—ALL things work together

to his ultimate good. Maybe he needs the trial to test his patience and increase his understanding. Maybe the rod of chastisement is being laid upon him for not walking close enough to his heavenly Father; sin in his life needs to be burned out as dross, and his Father is the Master Refiner, purifying His gold—conforming it to the image of His only begotten Son. He is to look for God's purpose in everything that transpires in his life. He is to seek diligently for the lesson God might have in it.

WHEN I WAS about eight years old I read a story of a coal miner who was always saying, "God knows best." One day as he and his fellow workers were gathering together to enter the mine, a small dog ran by and snatched the lunch bag out of this man's hand. As he ran after the dog to retrieve his lunch, the other miners entered the mine and were killed by a explosion. The man who was always saying "God knows best" was providentially saved by the small dog.

IT WAS A TERRIBLE thing for Joseph to be sold as a slave by his own brothers. They were jealous of Joseph. They threw him in a pit, and then when the slave dealers passed by they took him out of the pit and sold him as a slave. But this was one of the "all things" working to the good of Joseph. As you know from the Bible story, Joseph rose from the rank of slave in Egypt to become a ruler—second only to Pharoah. Later he was the means of saving his entire family, including his brothers who had sold him. By God's purpose Joseph was taken to Egypt and saved all of his father's family from starvation. Joseph knew the truth of "all things working together for good to them that love God." He later told his brothers, "You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good."

If we can grasp this truth and its practical application in our everyday lives, we will have a better hold on life. We will feel secure, realizing that when we love God we are indeed wrapped in an envelope of His love. And we love Him because He first loved us.

(See lead article.)

The Gaiety of Youth

WALTER ISENHOUR

Yes, they are gone—my sweet children. Seven of my own and four step-children. Time makes so many changes. It doesn't seem long since they were small, then entering school, getting out of school, getting old and going out to occupy homes of their own. Sometimes my heart is sad to realize that our family will never be together again as in other days. However, God would have it this way.

These questions come to me: Was I as patient with my children as I should have been? Did I punish them when I should not have? Did I withhold chastisement and punishment when I should have dealt it out? Somehow when it was necessary to punish I felt like I would rather take it myself. But chastisement was necessary for their good at the time and for their future welfare. They realize it now, and not one of them thinks hard of me. Rather, they appreciate it. Today they love me and love their mother and step-mother. My oldest children's mother passed on to meet her blessed Lord many years ago.

This leads me up to my subject—the gaiety of youth. It is as natural for youth to be gay, when they are in good health, and have good treatment, as it is for the sparks to fly upward. God didn't create them to be long-faced and miserable. Neither did He create them to become wild, disobedient to parents, unthankful, sinful, wicked and mean. He created them for His glory. To them He says, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." (Eccl. 12:1)

Youth can be gay, and not bad; gay and not mean; gay and not disobedient to parents; gay and not untruthful; gay and dependable; gay and good workers; gay and good students; gay and abstain from bad and ruinous habits; gay and yet love the Bible, its Author, and His commandments; gay and love and respect their classmates, their teachers, associates and their elders. It is a wonderful of character for young people to

love and highly respect old people, be friendly and nice to them, kind and patient toward them, and willingly give them a helping hand along life's journey. This is as it should be.

Youth should be careful, however, that their gaiety doesn't run too far and lead them into nonsense and foolishness. Their gaiety must not run away with them. They can have peace and cheerfulness in their hearts that manifests itself in their words, conduct, acts and deeds in life. They can have a gaiety—God given—that cheers parents, neighbors, teachers, classmates and associates. They can have a gaiety that enters into work and makes it lighter; a gaiety and patience that doesn't take insult and resentment if they are cautioned about something, or given some good advice from their seniors, or curbed if they are leaning toward something that might injure their name and character. For this they should be deeply thankful and appreciative.

To be youthful and gay, with good aims, noble purposes and high ideals, with the life yielded to God, is a wonderful time in which to live. This is the period of life when the foundation for future years is being laid. No one ever regrets laying a good, substantial foundation in early life. Upon this foundation the youth can build a great and sublime career. First of all, he builds with the Master Builder—the Lord Jesus Christ. He not only builds for time, but he builds for eternity. His life enriches the earth while he is living, and he leaves an enrichment that lives on and on when God calls him from labor to reward.



DON'TS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Don't turn up your nose in contentment. Turn up your sleeves in determination.

Don't ignore Father. He's had one teacher you never met—experience.

Don't think you're so big. A little bug will get you by and by.

Don't forget that leases expire. Even Ceasar had to die.

Don't go wrong on books. The Bible is still the world's best seller.

—Moody Monthly

Dare To Be a Joseph

GENE WATSON

Purity of body and soul should be the desire of every young person on earth. "Abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." "Flee also youthful lusts."

Of the many sins about which the Bible warns us, perhaps adultery and fornication are mentioned more frequently than any others. In the works of the flesh listed by Paul in Galatians 5 they are placed at the top of the list. On these two words the E. M. Zerr Bible commentary gives the following: "The difference between these words is only technical and legal. The laws of the land define adultery as the unlawful intimacy between married persons (who are not husband and wife—G.E.W.) and fornication is that between the unmarried."

Paul said: "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that commits fornication sins against his own body. What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which you have of God, and you are not your own? For you are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." Then again, "There has no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."

James says, "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempts he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lusts, and enticed. Then when lust has conceived, it brings forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death."

No better example can be found in all the Bible than that of Joseph which we read in Genesis 39. He had been sold by his brothers and was serving an Egyptian master. His master observed that the Lord was with Joseph and that He made all that Joseph did to prosper. Joseph found grace in his master's sight and was made overseer over his master's house. And from this time forward the Lord blessed the Egyptian for Joseph's sake.

Joseph's master (Potiphar) placed such confidence in him that he did not know what he had himself, save the bread which he ate. But Satan is never idle and he was soon to test Joseph. Satan has his servants and they are not always easy to recognize.

Satan's minister in this instance was the wife of Joseph's master. "And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph, and she said, Lie with me. But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master knows not what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand; there is none greater in this house than I; neither has he kept back any thing from me but you, because you are his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

In spite of the fact that she insisted time after time, Joseph did not pay any attention to her. One day when he was working in the house alone, she caught him by his coat but he pulled himself out of the coat and ran. Then this wicked woman called the men of her house and told them that Joseph had tried to molest her. She also told her husband the same story and showed him the garment that Joseph had left behind. Potiphar believed her story and took Joseph and put him in prison.

There are some points in this incident that should be observed.

1. Even though evidence sometimes seems to prove something beyond a shadow of a doubt, yet it may prove nothing. The evidence in this case seemed to be against Joseph but he was innocent.

2. Although Joseph could have committed sin with this woman and perhaps never been caught by man, he said, "How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" Joseph knew that "God shall bring every work into judgment with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil."

3. Those who love and serve God will not sin against Him even though they have a good opportunity. Those who do not love Him will hunt for opportunity to sin.

4. "It is often claimed today that certain temptations are so great that even God would not expect one to resist. But how could a situation ever arise with more 'irresistible' features than this one before Joseph. Here he is, away from all his people, with no reason to think he will ever see them again. The woman who is soliciting him is his master's wife and thus in position to shield him from all others afterward, since she would wish to continue this practice. Thus there would be perfect protection against discovery, and she being a married woman would free him from the fear of the consequences of their act. He is in the house daily by reason of the kind of service that his master assigned to him so that his presence cannot be cause for gossip. Everything in the case was favorable for the yielding to the temptation. If there is such a thing as an 'irresistible' temptation, this is one. Yet Joseph makes complete refusal. Not only does he refuse to comply with her request, but he refuses to be with her. He is taking no chances." (E. M. Zerr Bible Commentary, Vol. I, pp. 87-88)

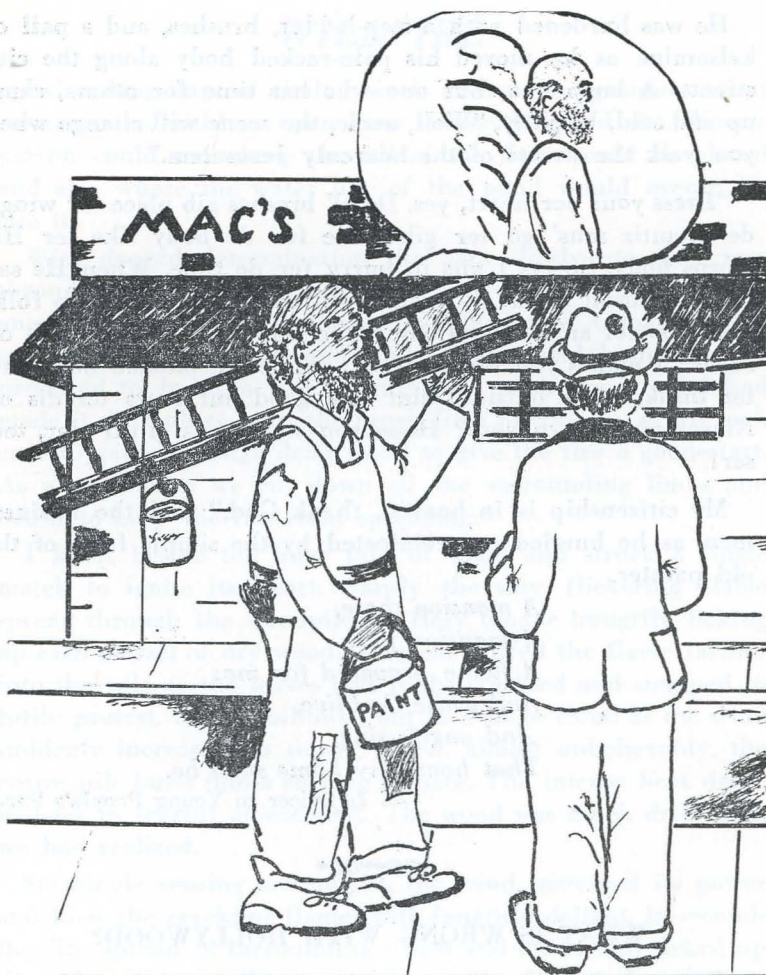
"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." (Rom. 15:4) Paul has reference to the Old Testament which gives the history of God's people for about four thousand years. God always blessed those who were faithful and punished those who were wicked. By God's grace any person, young or old, can follow the teaching of God's Word and avoid the pitfalls along the way. Blessed are those that do.

Dare to be a Joseph!



A ROMAN CATHOLIC SAID IT:

The French writer, Louis Veuillot, said at the end of the last century: "Where we Catholics are in the minority we demand freedom in the name of your principles; where we are in the majority, we deny it in the name of our principles."—Christian Victory



—Art work by Mildred Brock

White Inside and Outside

HE WAS a poor decrepit old black man. His overalls were patched with cloth of different colors. His whiskers looked like tufts of white cotton, and a like fringe of hair showed beneath his broken hat.

January, 1966

He was burdened with a step-ladder, brushes, and a pail of kalsomine as he moved his pain-racked body along the city streets. A busy man, but one who has time for others, came up and said, brightly, "Well, uncle, the scene will change when you walk the streets of the heavenly Jerusalem."

"Bress your der heart, yes. De ol' breshes gib place ter wings, de rocmtiz mus' go ter gib place for de body like ter His glorus body. Spects I gits in hurry fer de time. When He say 'Unc' Johnson I fru' wid you down dar, trying ter keep folks rooms sweet an' white. Come, take off de ol' workin' suit ob brack; I makes you white yu'sel': inside an' outside bof.' Just ter think, white outside! aint that good nuf news ter dis ol' Nigger man down yere? Hope you won' miss gittin' dar, too, sar!"

My citizenship is in heaven, thank God," said the business men, as he hurried on, comforted by the simple faith of the old painter.

*A mansion there,
A mansion fair,
A home prepared for me;
And while God live,
And angels sing,
That home my home shall be.*

—J. L. Spicer in Young People's Paper



WHAT IS WRONG WITH HOLLYWOOD?

The crook is made a joke; stealing is funny; swearing is entertaining; the double meaning is the end of wit; infidelity and illicit love, the spice of life; the home is time; the shop, and story drudgery; prohibition is a calamity, and drunkenness is a lost virtue; the preacher is a fool, and the church a misty memory. Mother is no longer revered, and father is the sly old rascal. God is a convenient swear word, and heaven is the biggest joke of all. The suntanned, bare-backed, cigarette-sucking, poodle-leading, cocktail-drinking, home-breaking female is made the queen. Love is degraded into passion. Children are no longer wanted. The marriage is not binding. This is the warp and woof of Hellywood or Smellywood.

—Voice of Evangelism

WILDFIRE

Exhausting days of timber work at the campground at last rewarded us with an open view across the pond site. Now a person could see where the fill of the dam would be placed and also where the water line of the pond would eventually rise to.

With dogged determination the axes slowly ate their way through the brush and trees. The chain saw roared to life and angrily chewed its way through another tree trunk. Aching muscles piled the logs and limbs higher and higher as we prepared to build a fire. Burning so much green wood had made it difficult to start the brush fires previously, so we took care to gather enough dead wood to give the fire a good start. As a precaution we cut down all the surrounding limbs and brush to keep the fire from spreading.

I knelt beside the huge pile of wood and struck a single match to ignite its heart. Slowly the tiny, flickering flame spread through the woodpile, its fiery tongue hungrily licking up each morsel of dry wood. A breeze puffed the flame farther into the pile as the leaves and limbs crackled and snapped in futile protest. Smoke billowed out in a huge cloud as the wind suddenly increased its power. Then, almost unbelievably, the entire pile burst into a roaring furnace. The intense heat drove us back in fearful amazement. The wood was much drier than we had realized.

Seemingly sensing our plight, the wind increased its power and blew the crackling flames with fanatical delight. In seconds the fire spread to surrounding brush and leaves and licked up the sides of trees. We ran to head it off but the choking smoke and searing heat staggered us backward.

"GET HELP!" I shouted to a young man, "IT'S OUT OF CONTROL!"

An hour later the smoke-saturated fire fighters wearily sighed in relief. At the expense of burning eyes and aching lungs the flames had been subdued. Later that evening I sat alone, guarding the last smoldering embers of the fire. I recalled the

observation of James on the human tongue. "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter (wood) a little fire kindleth!" (James 3:5) Just as a single match can start an inferno, a gossiping tongue can often start a fire that no one can extinguish.

—Lafe Culver in Anchor

NEWS ITEMS . . .

AN AWAKENING CONSCIENCE—The head office of Rexall Drugs has recently issued an instruction to their 11,000 stores to place a sign on their book and magazine racks advising that any customer who finds objectionable material need only say so to the manager, and the material will be immediately removed.

—Concern, via Christian Victory

SAFETY FEATURES—Seeking to build an image as North America's Safety-Built Car, Studebaker announced recently that it has made three changes in its automobiles aimed at making them safer to operate. One change is a new flanged type safety axle that will keep the wheel locked in the axle assembly should the axle shaft fail. Also offered are new "super-safe" door latch assemblies and a new suspended type of accelerator pedal.

—Prevention Magazine, Sept. 1965

A SAFETY CAR VIRTUALLY INJURE PROOF POSSIBLE—In the current issue of Prevention Magazine is an article on Safety Cars. It states that with very little additional expense, the car manufacturers could make a safety car that would virtually be injure proof. Why don't they do it? Because the public is not demanding it. Let YOUR voice be heard.

SHOULD THE COMMUNISTS HAVE FREEDOM OF SPEECH?—

Communists are out to destroy us. Answering the falacious argument that "Communists should enjoy the traditional American freedom of speech, someone has suggested:

—Our medical schools do not invite quack doctors to teach their students about phony remedies and illegal operations.

—Our law schools do not invite representatives of the Mafia to teach students how to evade the law.

—Our schools of business and finance do not invite Billie Sol Estes to teach students how to make money in a hurry.

—Christian Victory

GOOD USE FOR LADIES' POINTED TOES—In Grit for Dec. 19, 1965, we find this comical item sent in by Mrs. E. J. Bogus of Marysville, Kansas. "Two young neighbor girls were playing with their mother's pointed-toe shoes when one said, 'These would be just right for stepping on bugs in corners.'" And from your editor's point of view, this is about the only good thing you can say for the modern pointed-toes.

FOR THE KIDDIES



RALPH WICK

Ralph Wick was seven years old. In most things he was a fine boy, but he was too apt to cry.

When he could not have what he wanted, he would cry for it and say, "I will have it."

If he was told that it would hurt him, and he could not have it, he would begin to fret and cry.

One day, he went with his mother into the fields. The sun shone. The grass was cut. The flowers were in bloom.

Ralph thought he was, for once, a good boy. A smile was on his face. He wished to do as he was told.

He said, "Mother, I will be good now. I will do as you bid me. Please let me toss this hay."

"That I will," said his mother. So they threw the hay, as Ralph wished, and he was very happy.

"Now you must be tired," said his mother. "Sit down here, and I will get a nice red rose for you."

"I would like to have one," said Ralph. So his mother brought the red rose to him.

"Thank you, mother," he said. "But you have a white one, also. Please give me that."

"No, my dear," said his mother. "See how many thorns it has on its stem. You must not touch it. If you should try to pluck a rose like this, you would be sure to hurt your hand."

When Ralph found that he could not have the white rose, he began to scream, and snatched it. But he was soon very sorry. The thorns tore his hand. It was so sore he could not use it for some time.

Ralph did not soon forget this. When he wanted what he should not have, his mother would point to his sore hand. He at last learned to do as he was told.

—McGuffey's *Second Reader*

Words Fitly Spoken

"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver."—Proverbs 25:11

"Love can afford to wait, for truth and love will conquer in the end."—A. S. London

Engineers calculate the number of blasts that will come from auto horns in a traffic jam is equal to the sum of the squares at the wheels.

The ships that come in while we sit and wait are mostly hardships.
—Harvey H. Springer

"He who loves will follow with enthusiasm as well as lead with humility."—A. S. London

We all have weaknesses. But I have figured that others have put up with mine so tolerably that I would be much less than fair not to make a reasonable discount for theirs.—Wm. Allen White

Changing one thing for the better is worth more than proving a thousand things are wrong.—Odd Moments

That laughter costs too much which is purchased by the sacrifice of decency.—Sunshine Magazine

"Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favor."—Proverbs 14:9

"The reckless sinner trying to think of some new way to express his love of iniquity can do no more than imitate others like himself, now long dead. He is not the bright rebel he fancies himself to be, but a weak and stupid fellow who must follow along in the long parade of death toward the point of no return."—A. W. Tozer

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