

How Shall the Young Secure Their Hearts

Ps 119:9

1

9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word.

2

I sometimes think that we make things more complicated than it should be when it comes to finding God's answers to our burning questions. Book after book has been written telling us how to raise our children. From the infamous Dr. Spock to every pseudo psychologist who thinks that they know more than anyone else, or worse, than God, about raising kids. Why do you think that so much has been penned concerning the subject? Why do you think so many people are so willing to give us advice on what we are so obviously doing wrong? Could it be that children and their ultimate growth is truly one of the most important and commonly held goals thru out the world? If you ever want to cause a problem with someone, attack their child. You don't even have to make it personal to their child. But if they think that even in a peripheral way that you are somehow talking poorly about their children, you most likely have trouble on your hands. Keep these thoughts in mind for a minute.

Let's get back to our original question, how do the young secure their hearts? For that matter, how does anyone secure their hearts? God tells us how...

Hebrews 6:15-20

3

15 And so, having patiently waited, he obtained the promise. 16 For men swear by one greater than themselves, and with them an oath given as confirmation is an end of every dispute. 17 In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, 18 so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. 19 This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, 20 where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

This hope that anchors the soul, that secures the heart, that is so sure and steadfast, where do we find it, how do we generate it, how do we help it to grow in the hearts of our young and be the Ebenezer, the stone of help, that is raised in their souls, that becomes the anchor of their faith and the foundation of their lives? Where do the young turn? Where do we turn, to help them?

Rom 15:4

4

4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Through the perseverance and encouragement of the Scriptures, Hope is given, Hope that supports us, that carries us, that builds us up, that exhorts us, that leads us to heaven, Hope that is found in, based on, and grounded in The Word of God.

How do the young secure their hearts?

1 Thess 5:3-10

5

4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; 5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; 6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. 7 For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our

Lord Jesus Christ, **10** who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.

How do the young secure their hearts? The answer is by coming to an understanding that they need to put on God's helmet of protection, which is our Hope of salvation, this Hope being the anchor that secures the heart.

This helmet is the Hope of Salvation, but what does that mean. Most people will tell you that they have a hope of salvation. Seriously, think about it, how many do you know that have a hope of damnation, regardless of how they live their lives. So, what is this hope?

1 Tim 1:1 6

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, who is our hope,

Christ is our hope. In Christ, through Him, we have our Hope.

Again, exactly what, by scriptural definition, is this **HOPE** that is in Christ, and that anchors the soul, but what does it mean to us, to our young, or to anyone else we are trying to talk to?

Titus 1:1-2 7

1 Paul, a bond-servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the faith of those chosen of God and the knowledge of the truth which is according to godliness, **2** in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago, **3** but at the proper time manifested, even His word, in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of God our Savior,

How do the young secure their hearts?

They do so by being shown how to establish and build faith in their hearts...

Rom 10:17 8

17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

- A) Faith in God and His Love
- B) Faith in Christ and in His Sacrifice
- C) Faith in the Spirit and the Purity of the Message He brought

How do the young secure their hearts, by being helped to discover that Jesus is the Hope that can secure their hearts in this world of sin, against the temptations of Satan, who wants them to fail...

1 Tim 1:1 9

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, who is our hope,

And just as important...

10 11 ***BY LIVING FOR THEM THE EXAMPLE OF COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION THAT TEACHES JUST AS EFFECTIVELY AS ANY WORD EVER SPOKEN***

The example of living a commitment to God, the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost, and dedication to the Word and obedience to its commands may be the greatest tool we possess in helping others develop a faith and Hope in God.

Titus 2:6-8 12

6 Likewise urge the young men to be sensible; 7 in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, 8 sound in speech which is beyond reproach, so that the opponent will be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about us.

Now the second part of our lesson.

13

“Modern Day Israelites”

Just exactly what is a modern day Israelite?

To best answer that question, let's look at the Old Testament Israelites. They were...

14

1) Grumblers

1 Cor 10:6-13

6 Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved. 7 Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written, "THE PEOPLE SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK, AND STOOD UP TO PLAY." 8 Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in one day. 9 Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. 10 Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. 12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. 13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

15

2) Complainers

Num 11:1-3

1 Now the people became like those who complain of adversity in the hearing of the LORD; and when the LORD heard it, His anger was kindled, and the fire of the LORD burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp. 2 The people therefore cried out to Moses, and Moses prayed to the LORD and the fire died out. 3 So the name of that place was called Taberah, because the fire of the LORD burned among them.

A quick thought here are two different things. A complainer is constantly carping about their situation, never happy or content, while a grumbler goes through the actions of pretending to be content but never being satisfied.

16

3) Unfaithful

Lev 19:4

4 Do not turn to idols or make for yourselves molten gods; I am the LORD your God.

Deut 32:19-21

19 " The LORD saw this, and spurned them Because of the provocation of His sons and daughters. 20 "Then He said, 'I will hide My face from them, I will see what their end shall be; For they are a perverse generation, Sons in whom is no faithfulness. 21 They have made Me jealous with what is not God; They have provoked Me to anger with their idols

17

4) Prideful

Hos 7:10

10 Though the pride of Israel testifies against him, Yet they have not returned to the LORD their God, Nor have they sought Him, for all this

18 5) **Divided**

Acts 5, 15, 24

Pharisees, Sadducees, Nazarenes

Some believe one thing, some others, couldn't even agree on the resurrection

Are we modern day Israelites?

19 **Do we Grumble ?**

Grousing to ourselves and to others about anything and everything. Do we use as our excuses, that we just need someone to vent to, or that we are very careful who we say something to, or we never let the children hear. RIGHT....

20 **Are we Complainers ?**

Do we have a snide remark for most everything that anyone else tries to do, maybe about the decisions that are being made by the Elders. We never like what we are asked to do, asked not to do? Are we fault finders, or exhorters. Are we problem solvers or are we the problem? Are we involved or just in a spiritual coma.

21 **Are we Unfaithful ?**

Do we confess Christ in our daily lives? Do we attend the services? Do we send the message to others that being a Christian is a labor of love as opposed to just labor?

22 **Are we full of pride?**

Do we accept God's truth without putting our own interpretation to it?

Remember...

2 Peter 1:20-21

23

20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God

Do we listen to God for correction, discipline, and for building up?

24 **Are we divided?**

Do we have cliques? Are there fellow Christians that we don't associate with? Do we hold grudges for a perceived wrong?

25

Are we Modern Day Israelites?

Even more to the point, what do our children, grandchildren, the young of this congregation, neighbors, friends, or any that we have an influence with, both in age and in spiritual growth, see in us. Do they see the Israelites of old?

26

Do they hear us grumble about things or people, then we get on to them for rolling their eyes when we talk to them?

- 27 Are they the recipients of our incessant complaints, or do they hear us when we are chewing on someone or complaining, then they get in trouble for griping about cleaning their rooms?
- 28 Do we exhibit our faithfulness in their presence in all things? Or do they see us waffling about going to services, all services? Do we bring them to Bible Class? Do they see us go out of way to attend when we are on vacation? Do they see us compromise our faith for relatives, or work, or recreation?
- 29 Do they see us acknowledge God's truth, and correct ourselves when needed? Do they see us search the scriptures daily to know what God would have us do, and then do it?
- 30 Do they see us accepting our fellow brethren without running them down? Do they hear us giving our brothers and sisters the benefit of the doubt? Do they see us attending classes or home study groups or do they hear us trying to set up classes and know that we are doing these things because we have a hunger for the truth and a love for each other?

Or do they see a...

“ Modern Day Israelite ”

- 31 How shall the young secure their hearts? For the most part and with just a few rare exceptions, just exactly the same way that their parents, grandparents, preachers, elders, deacons, teachers, and every other example that has an influence on them does.
What example are we living?