**How Shall the Young Secure their Hearts?**

**Introduction:**

Three thousand years ago the wise man Solomon wrote this: Ecclesiastes 12:1 “Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, ‘I have no pleasure in them.’ ” Two thousand years ago the inspired apostle Paul wrote this: I Timothy 4:12 “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” NKJV While you are young is the time to anchor your life in God and His Word, to honor Him who made you and gave you life. The Bible informs young people how to secure their hearts; it provides principles by which to glorify God in this life and enjoy the next.

This song was based on Psalm 119:9 with words by Isaac Watts and music by Beethoven.

**How Shall The Young Secure**

1. How shall the young secure their hearts, And guard their lives from sin? Thy word the choicest rules imparts To keep the conscience clean, To keep the conscience clean.
2. Tis like the sun, a heav’nly light, That guides us all the day; And, thro’ the dangers of the night, A lamp to lead our way, A lamp to lead our way.
3. Thy word is everlasting truth; How pure is ev’ry page! That holy book shall guide our youth, And well support our age, And well support our age.

**Text:** Psalm 119:9-16 “

**Body:**

1. **By Taking Heed to the Word** Psalm 119:9 “How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.” NKJV

* This means listening to and obeying God’s Word. This is the only means to cleanse your way, your life. (Psalm 24:3-5) “Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the Lord, And righteousness from the God of his salvation.” NKJV
* The Bible never becomes obsolete or irrelevant. It’s just as vital today as when it was first written. It is a book for all ages. No one is too young or too old to learn and profit from its teachings.
* Timothy was reminded of the fact that he had known the Sacred Scripture from the time he was an infant. (II Timothy 3:15) “and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” NKJV The basic principles of God, Christ, and the Bible can begin to be taught to babies. From the beginning teach them how to say ‘God,” “Jesus,” and “Bible.” As they grow from infants to toddlers to preschoolers, continue to teach them Bible fundamentals as well as the great stories in the Bible. Their capacity to learn is enormous. Make sure they learn the right things. Remember I Timothy 4:8. “For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.” NKJV Bodily exercise profits for only a little time.
* Young people need to learn the Word. They need to learn how to teach their religious friends the truth.

1. **By Being Totally Committed to the Lord** Psalm 119:10a “With my whole heart I have sought You;” NKJV

* Partial allegiance is in many ways, worse than no allegiance at all. Youth need to seek God while they can. (Isaiah 55:6) “Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near.” NKJV Wholehearted dedication is what Christ desires of His people. (Matthew 6:33) “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” NKJV

1. **By Not Backsliding**  Psalm 119:10b “Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!” NKJV

* At times, especially during one’s younger days, it seems so easy to stray from the Bible’s teachings. This is seen when one misses the services of the church on a regular basis, or being disobedient to their parents, or associating with the wrong people, or starting to drink or do drugs. Listen to Isaiah’s advice. (Isaiah 55:7) “Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.” NKJV

The apostle Peter informs us on how best to keep from wandering from the ways of the Lord. (II Peter 1:5-10) “But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble;” NKJV

1. **By Filling Your Heart with the Word** Psalm 119:11 “Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.” NKJV

* If you don’t fill your heart with the Word, every type of philosophy and false religion will fill it. A young person is bombarded with humanism, naturalism, evolution, secularism. . .
* The importance of filling your heart with the Bible is seen in that it helps us keep from sinning. You should memorize verses dealing with specific sins so that when temptation comes along, you can resist it. This is the method our Savior used to defeat Satan in the wilderness. “It is written.” (Matthew 4:7) “Jesus said to him, ‘It is written again, You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’” NKJV

1. **By Being A Serious Student of the Word** Psalm 119:12 “Blessed are You, O Lord! Teach me Your statutes.” NKJV

* You must be more than a casual reader, but one who diligently applies himself to the Bible. (II Timothy 2:15) “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” NKJV Begin today a life of serious Bible study. (II Timothy 3:14-17) “But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” NKJV

1. **By Declaring Your Faith Courageously** Psalm 119:13 “With my lips I have declared All the judgments of Your mouth.”

* The writer mentions this again in Psalm 119:46. “I will speak of Your testimonies also before kings, And will not be ashamed.” NKJV

Regardless of who you are with, never be ashamed of being a Christian, a member of the church of Christ. (Mark 8:38) “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.” NKJV

1. **By Forming A Proper Set of Values** Psalm 119:14 “I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches.” NKJV

* The psalmist realized the importance of God’s Word as compared to the riches of the world. (Psalm 119:72) “The law of Your mouth is better to me Than thousands of coins of gold and silver.” NKJV
* Keeping God’s Word gives eternal life. (John 6:63, 68) “it is the Spirit who gives life, the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.’ ” NKJV

1. **By Realizing that the Bible Is the Word of God** Psalm 119:15 “I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways.”

* We should respect it when it is being read because it is God speaking to us. (I Thessalonians 2:13) “For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.” NKJV
* The Bible is unique among all books.

1. **By Finding Joy in Keeping His Commands** Psalm 119:16a“I will delight myself in Your statutes;” NKJV

* The writer affirms how comforting God’s Word is. (Psalm 119:18, 24, 50) “Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law. 24 Your testimonies also are my delight And my counselors. 50 This is my comfort in my affliction, For Your word has given me life.” NKJV There is joy, comfort, and real lasting happiness to be found by obeying God’s commands. (I John 5:3) “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.” NKJV

1. **By Always Remembering God’s Word** Psalm 119:16b “I will not forget Your word.” NKJV

* Start young with this determination to always obey the Bible. How? Focus on the grace of God that sent His Son to die on the cross and the mercy of God which He continues to shower on us every day. Be able to say with the psalmist these words. (Psalm 119:112) “I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes Forever, to the very end.” NKJV

**Conclusion:**

Young people I urge you to start to remember God in your youth – to secure your hearts by seeking God first in your lives and never putting anything or anyone above Him.

Bobby Stafford December 3, 2017