

Milk & Honey

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Spiritual Food and Encouragement for Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ

Let No Man Despise Thy Youth

Carl Knott

“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.” (1 Timothy 4:12)

Young believers are often conscious and critical of the example of those older than them. But our text reminds the young man Timothy of the importance of *his* example. It begins with a well known but often misunderstood phrase: “let no man despise thy youth.” Misunderstood? Yes, read it carefully. It doesn’t say: “let no man despise youth,” but rather, “let no man despise *thy* youth.” It is not speaking of youth in general, but of a certain young man. Timothy’s youth should not be despised because he was a godly, consecrated, devoted young man who was committed to serving and glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ. The emphasis is not on youth in general, but godly, consecrated youth in service to Christ. It is great to be young, everyone is once in life! No one earns his youth. It is freely given to all and will disappear as time marches onward. It is nothing to brag or feel superior about. If you are young, remember, those older people around you were once your age! The question is what we do with our youth. Some use it for selfish or worldly ends, throwing it away on things of no eternal value. Others, precious few, use their youth for the Lord. Timothy was such a young man and the inspired Apostle said his youth should not be despised.

When a young person is godly rather than worldly, serious or soberminded instead of frivolous, spiritual instead of carnal, he should be encouraged and taken seriously. Let no one say he is a runny-nosed kid, or wet behind the ears, or green, or a novice. Older believers shouldn’t remind him with an air of superiority that they have more years in Christ than he has alive. If their years in Christ haven’t given them more discernment than this, then they ought to be ashamed. They shouldn’t sniff at his sound exposition of Scripture nor refuse to be exhorted or taught Biblically simply because the messenger is younger. “*Let no man despise thy youth.*” The words “*no man*” are an absolute. We need to remember that God can speak through young people and has often done it throughout history. (And young people need to remember that the Lord can and does also speak through older people!). Daniel was a young man when he purposed in his heart not to defile himself (Dan. 1:8), and the rest of the book of Daniel

shows what God did with him and his three young friends in the midst of ungodly surroundings. Such youths are not to be despised, but appreciated and encouraged! It has often been pointed out that our Lord chose young men as His twelve disciples. James and John, for example, worked with and for their father in the fishing business. A young life has a lot of potential that should be channeled for the Lord. Let no man despise thy youth. But don’t let the devil have it either, or the world. The devil would like for young people to live in a selfish and worldly way, and waste the energy of their youth. Don’t fall into the trap, and if you have, get out of it now! Give your life, your youth, your first and best to One who gave His all for you.

And the rest of us should esteem godly youths and covet them for the Lord. We should do all in our power to encourage them, disciple them, and help them gain the wisdom and experience they need for a life of godly service. Paul disciplined Timothy; he taught him and trained him “on the job.” His life was accessible to Timothy, they were together serving the Lord. He esteemed him and desired him for the Lord’s service. Later, to the Philippians (2:9-11), Paul wrote perhaps his greatest commendation of his disciple. “But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ’s. But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.” He speaks of the fruit of discipleship, Timothy, a servant of the Lord who at this point had Paul’s entire confidence. Are we preparing the next generation to serve the Lord or just making them sit still until we die? Are we following Paul’s example or despising godly youth in our midst?

One final word. Young people, remember, you are not to be esteemed because you are young, but because you are godly. So are you? If your desire is to godly, not worldly, to be faithful, not fashionable, live every day close to the Lord Jesus Christ and be often in His Word! Don’t follow the crowd and the fads and fashions, but the Lord! And don’t despise the older saints either. Seek to be disciplined by godly faithful servants who’ve been a few more miles down the road. Don’t try to “go it alone” or learn only from those who are your own age. Remember, Timothy went with Paul, observed and learned from him, served him and with him, and thus made the most of his youth for Christ. May there be more young people like him in the assemblies! The greatest thing anyone can do with his life is use it for the Lord Jesus Christ. *

He Gave Himself

Barry Kirk

Speaking *poetically*, Messiah spoke through the Psalmist when He said, “they pierced my hands and my feet.” Isaiah *prophetically* foretold of His wounds and bruises and chastisement. Peter remembered that Christ suffered and was reviled, and he also spoke of our sins that He personally bore in His own body on the tree and of His stripes—ugly stripes. Paul variously describes the cross—work of the Lord Jesus—“Delivered for our offenses,” “Became obedient unto death,” “Made peace through the blood of His cross” and “Reconciled in the body of His flesh through death,” etc. And the Gospels all say in unison that they “Crucified Him.” And so, many are the inspired “attempts” (I speak as a man) to communicate the very personal cost connected with the ultimate and most valuable sacrifice made by the Lord Jesus. But none is more personal and none is of higher value than when we read these moving words, “**He gave Himself.**” Not so much that He was given – though He was and we would never belittle the truth that ‘God gave His only begotten Son,’ but what did it ever mean for that Son to give Himself personally and freely and without reserve? His precious word by the Holy Spirit just describes it this way—“**He gave Himself**” —and uses that simple, yet inspired, terminology five times in connection with five titles of the Lord Jesus along with five different objects.

1. “**Christ...hath given Himself...a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.**” (Eph 5:2) Oh how we thank Him for the Godward character of His sacrifice. It took the Christ, the Anointed One, the Promised One, the Messiah Himself to satisfy all the demands of an Outraged Holiness. No other was found who could wholly meet God’s requirements of a sacrifice without spot on the outside and without blemish on the inside that would pay sin’s penalty. Only the Christ would do. Blessed be His name.

And though His sacrifice was primarily for God, we need not even leave our chapter and verse to see the manward character of His sacrifice as well when we read, “Christ also hath loved us, and hath **given Himself** for us an offering” and “Christ also loved the church, and **gave Himself** for it.” (Eph 5:2,25) What a lovely truth that all that Christ gave when he **gave Himself** to God, He also **gave for us!** The One chosen aforetime to satisfy God is the selfsame One who **gave Himself** for us. Blessed be His name.

2. “Our **Lord Jesus Christ...gave Himself for our sins** that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.” (Gal 1:3,4)

Here He is not only the Promised, Chosen and Anointed One but also the Sovereign, Controlling and Omniscient Lord whose name is “Jesus (Jehovah saves) for He shall save his people from their sins.” (Matt. 1:21) It must be “our Lord” for He must have the power and authority to save. It must be “Jesus” for He must have the heart of Jehovah to save. And it must be “Christ” for He must be worthy to save us from our sins. Oh our sins! Sins that have wreaked havoc on lives, sins that have caused so much damage, sins that have cursed, sins that have enslaved, sins that have caused so much hurt and trouble. It was sins—our sins which gave power to this present evil system and it was our sins which had consigned us to an empty separation from a holy and loving God. Oh how desperate our need, but oh thank God that our Lord Jesus Christ knew all my sins and **gave Himself** for them all. Blessed be His name.

3. “**The great God and our Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us**, that he might redeem *us* from all iniquity.” (Titus 2:13,14) “Amazing love! How can it be that Thou my Lord shouldst die for me?” Who is it that **gave Himself** for us? It was none other than the Great God. That is Who our Savior is. Oh dear brothers and sisters, we must be absolutely, uncompromisingly dogmatic on this very fact—our Savior Jesus Christ is the Great God! It took full, one hundred per cent deity to fully pay the awful price of “all iniquity.” Any other payment would fall pathetically short, but “the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” Nothing left undone—nothing left unpaid. Our Great God and our Savior Jesus Christ has **given Himself**. Blessed be His name.

4. “The **man Christ Jesus; who gave Himself a ransom for all...**,” “and without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh ...” (I Tim 2:5-6; 3:16) Oh dear brothers and sisters, we must be absolutely,

Continued on Page 4

25 Years of Milk & Honey

We are bundling three anniversary books containing articles from the last 25 years of *Milk & Honey*.

All three books together—the 10th, 20th, and 25th Anniversary books—are \$13.00US plus \$3.00US shipping within the U.S. (**\$16.00US total**). Outside of the U.S. add \$8.00US shipping (**\$21.00US total**). For multiple orders email for shipping rates.

25th Anniversary book is \$6.00US plus \$2.00US shipping within the U.S. (**\$8.00US total**). Outside of the U.S. add \$6.00US shipping (**\$12.00US total**).

The Perilous Hour Is Upon Us

Louis T. Talbot

“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron.” (1 Tim. 4:1,2)

The perilous hour to which the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit referred is upon us. There has never been a time in which there was such a tendency to depart from the faith as there is in the present days. The days in which you and I are living are days in which Christians need to know their Bibles, for the only way by which we know whether or not a system of teaching is of God is by viewing the system through the lens of Holy Writ - reading the system in the light of the Bible and not reading the Bible in the light of the system.

The Holy Spirit, coming on the day of Pentecost, heralded through Paul, Peter, James, and John, and the other inspired writers, the same warning, making it know that toward the end of the age the great foundational truths of the gospel will be denied. The word “DENIED” will characterize the religious condition of Christendom when those closing days become reality. Let us observe several instances wherein this is evidenced.

1. There will be a denial of God and the Savior. “For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Jude 4)

2. There will be a denial that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. “And every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.” (1 Jn. 4:3)

3. There will be a denial of the Lord “that bought them,” referring to the *atonement*. “But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.” (2 Pet. 2:1) These false teachers may possibly acknowledge Jesus as a man, but deny His purchase of mankind, and His redemptive work through the blood.

4. There will be a denial of the power of godliness. “But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come; for men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lov-

ers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness, but denying its power. And from such people turn away!” (2 Tim. 3:1-5)

5. There will be a denial of sound doctrine, and the substitution of fables. “For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.” (2 Tim. 4:3,4)

6. There will be a denial of authority. “Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority and speak evil of dignitaries.” (Jude 8)

Our imagination may be occupied with applying these conditions to countries bound by heathenism, but the Scripture reveals that these warnings and descriptions apply to professing Christendom at the end of the age. *

Shepherding Conference

September 22-24

Conducted by Spread The Word
Greenwood Hills, Fayetteville, PA

Scheduled speakers:

**Randy Amos; Mike Attwood, Larry Price
Bruce Hulshizer, Steve Hulshizer**

The conference starts with a light lunch on Thursday (22nd) and ends with lunch on Saturday (24th).

Conference is for men of all ages.

Call (717) 352-2150 to register

York Bible Study

The York, PA Bible Study will begin its 24th year on September at 10AM. It always meets on the 2nd Saturday unless announced differently.

Sept 10	Rightly Dividing the Word	Randy Amos
Oct 8	Preparing Messages (3) To Be Announced (TBA)	Craig Skarkji TBA
Nov 12	Glory of God in Ezekiel	Mike Attwood
Dec 10	Restoration of Israel	Tom Irwin
Jan 14	Divine Titles	Bruce Hulshizer
Feb 11	TBA	TBA
Mar 10	TBA	TBA
Apr 14	TBA	TBA

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...*the Son of God, who loved me, and gave
Himself for me. Gal. 2:20*

September, 2011

Continued from Page 2 — *He Gave Himself*

uncompromisingly dogmatic on this very fact, too: God became fully Man! In the work of redemption, the complete and impeccable humanity of Christ Jesus is equally as indispensable as His essential deity. If He were not Man, He could not have died and the wages of sin would not and could not have been paid. If He were not Man, there would have been no identification with Adam's race (though sin apart). Many lovely and essential truths concerning His humanity could be dwelt upon but no lovelier than this: The Man Christ Jesus **gave Himself** and paid in full the corresponding payment for the release of those enslaved by sin. Oh that mighty stoop. We will never know the depths to which He stooped until one day when we see the heights from which He came. Blessed be His name.

5. "The *Son of God* loved me and **gave Himself for me.**" (Gal 2:20) Think of it. Dwell on it. Meditate on it. Be occupied with it. Try to exaggerate it. Proclaim loud wherever you can. The Son of God **loved me** and **gave Himself for me!!** He would forego all the rights and privileges that he had enjoyed and always had deserved at His Father's right hand to come down here. And in utter completeness...in calculated abandon...all the way to the uttermost...withholding nothing He gave himself for me. *The Son of God gave himself in stead of me. The Son of God gave himself as me. The Son of God gave himself because of me.* Why His stoop? Why His sweat? Why His scorn? Why His stripes? Why His shame? Why His spikes and spear? *It was me! It was me! The Son of God loved me and gave Himself for me!* Yes, there can be no doubt that we marvel that **He gave Himself** for the church and that **He gave Himself** a ransom for all and that in a broader

sense **He gave Himself** for us and our sins...but as long as eternity rolls, I will never be able to get over this fact: that, even though He knew me through and through before I was ever formed, He knew all my failures and rebellion and total depravity, **the very eternal Son of God loved me and gave Himself for me!**

Blessed be His name! ✱

Quote

Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest. Ps. 55:6

The dove is swift in its flight; and it ever hides before a storm. What a picture of timid innocence! How often do we suppose we should find rest in changed circumstances! But the restless heart would be restless everywhere. The words of Jesus are the true answer to this cry for rest (Matt 11:28, and Heb 4:3). F.B. Meyer

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matt. 11:28

For we which have believed do enter into rest... Heb. 4:3

Looking Ahead

Lord willing, Spread The Word will again be directing the 2nd Family Conference at Greenwood Hills in 2012 (July 21-28). Scheduled speakers are: Randy Amos, Brian Gunning, and Bruce Hulshizer. This conference has been booked early in the past and early reservations are suggested. Call 717-352-2150 for more information on all GWH conferences & camps.

www.STW1982.com
Check it out!