

Popular Series

On Vital Subjects for Today

BY WILLIAM W. ORR

These booklets of 32 pages each are extremely popular for distribution among young people. They are appropriate as special occasion gifts, for radio use and by pastors, teachers and parents. Each book in colorful paper cover.

- WHAT EVERY CHRISTIAN OUGHT TO KNOW
- HOW TO KNOW THE WILL OF GOD FOR YOUR LIFE
- GOD'S ANSWER TO YOUNG PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS
- ANSWERING COLLEGE STUDENTS' QUESTIONS
- A SIMPLE PICTURE OF THE FUTURE
- TEN REASONS WHY I BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD
- GOD IS
- HOW TO BE A HAPPY CHRISTIAN
- LOVE, COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE
- CAN HIGH SCHOOL YOUNG PEOPLE THINK?
- THE KEY TO SUCCESS IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
- WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT DIVORCE
- HOW TO PRAY AND GET THE ANSWER
- SEVEN RULES FOR A HAPPY CHRISTIAN HOME
- BIBLE STUDY IS EASY

Above booklets 25c each

Published by

Wass Kampborn Press
INC.
Wheaton, Illinois

GOD'S

ANSWERS

To
Young
People's
Problems !

A Handbook of Christian Conduct!

God's Answer to Young People's Problems

by

WILLIAM W. ORR

AB., Th.B., D.D.

*Presented to Phil News by the
Mission Covenant Church,
Bellingham, June 7, 1953*



Published by

Van Kampen Press

WHEALTON, ILL.

THE FIRM BOOK STORE

1426 CORNWALL AVE.

BELLINGHAM, WASH.

Printed in U.S.A.

Hello Young People!...

- Please read this page first.
- I'd like to chat with you about some of the problems that are found in our lives as Christians. While they may seem high as mountains to you let me assure you that our Heavenly Father knows *all* the answers and they are listed in His Book. But remember this thought, that when we find God's answer, it's final. There's no appeal. Then comes our responsibility to conform our lives in glad obedience to His will. Do you agree?
- Now the basis of our chat must be that we're all Christians. I mean real, *honest-to-goodness* Christians, not just reasonable facsimiles. There's so much misunderstanding on this point. But when I say Christian I mean a young person who has had a personal, heart-to-heart transaction with the risen Christ. Whose sins are under the blood, who is born again and is a new creature because of the miracle which God has wrought in him.
- You see we just can't talk to unsaved people as we talk to you. It's useless to discuss with them the problems of the Christian life for they haven't even begun the Christian life. Their problem is how to be saved.
- In order to make you use your own Bible, I've inserted Bible references in small type at the bottom of each page. I want you to promise me right now that you'll pause in your reading and look up the verses referred to as you come to them. Promise? If you do, this booklet will not only contain words from my poor pen, but that of infinitely greater value, the voice of your risen, living Lord speaking to you out of His Word.
- Now you may read on . . .

Christians Are Born . . .

- That's right, they're not self-developed, not home-grown, nor manufactured, but born from heaven. This cardinal fact *must* be realized before you can begin to understand the Christian life. God alone² makes Christians. The new birth is a miracle. The Christian is entirely and completely a divine undertaking. I mean you can't make yourself one.
- This fact needs emphasis because of the satanically inspired confusion in the mind of the average person on this important subject. Too many good people think that a Christian is anyone who is not a pagan, and anyone who is not a fool. The term Christian is wrongly applied to every organization that deals even slightly with the milk of human kindness. And becoming a Christian is universally thought to be a process of self-development cultivated by good works and watered by high ideals.
- Listen, my friend, if you never listened before. Good works,³ even in prodigious amounts, will *never, never* make one a Christian. Not charity, benevolence, penance, church attendance, abstinence from evil habits, keeping the law, good citizenship, baptism, community service, burning of candles, prayers, doing the best one can or a hundred and one other things, nor them all together. Salvation simply is not⁴ obtained by what you do or do not do. If you understand this you know more than literally millions of your neighbors.
- God's *one and only* basis of saving sinners like you and me is by the sacrificial⁵ death of His Son. If we could be saved by any other way there was no reason for Christ to die. But there is no other⁶ way. However, thank God, this way is sufficient to save every last person who desires⁷ to be saved.
- There are literally millions and millions of otherwise intelligent people who do not understand this matter. They are trying in a thousand and one different ways to save themselves, not realizing that there is but one way . . . God's way.

¹ John 3:1-8
² Romans 3:24-26
³ Ephesians 2:8, 9

⁴ Titus 3:5
⁵ John 3:36

⁶ John 14:6
⁷ Acts 16:31

(2)

- You see God's salvation has to start with our condition¹ as lost and condemned sinners. Not a very happy condition but nevertheless true. Before we met Christ we were dead in trespasses and sin, utterly unable to help ourselves, enemies of God and alienated from the tree of life. To such creatures God offers a marvelous salvation on one condition,² if condition it be, that the sinner accept. Such acceptance includes receiving Jesus Christ as Saviour, trusting Him, relying upon Him, depending upon Him for time and for eternity.

• Quite naturally Christians are different. They're born again. They have new life, the life of God. New aims are theirs they seek to live for Christ. New strength and wisdom are from heaven. New pleasures, they love things of God. New friends are made among those who have this precious faith too. Everything is changed because the Christian is a new creation³ in Christ. Please don't expect the Christian to look and act like the rest of the worldly crowd. He can't.

• A happy heart comes from the realization of this truth. The born again Christian who attempts to continue going with the worldly set finds intense dissatisfaction and even misery. True and unadulterated joy comes only when one cuts clean from the world, the flesh and the Devil, and walks⁴ daily by the side of his wonderful Companion.

• I believe that we ought to pause here for a moment to inquire if you are a real, born again Christian. Are you? There's no use reading the rest of this booklet unless you are. It simply doesn't apply to you. However, if you're not, you *can* be right this very minute. Just get on your knees, look up into the face of God and tell Him you want the Lord Jesus Christ to be the Saviour of your soul. If you will do this and mean it, you'll be a child of God instantly for God has so promised.⁵ Then you can read⁶ on.

• When you're saved, then God gives you an entirely different outlook on life. Deep down in your heart of hearts you *want* to really live for Christ. And what's more . . . God gives you a new "Heart-Guest." He's the blessed Holy Spirit of God who comes to lead us into God's ways of true happiness and blessing.

¹ Romans 3:9-23
² Acts 16:31
³ II Corinthians 5:17

⁴ II Corinthians 6:16, 17
⁵ Hebrews 13:5
⁶ John 3:16
⁷ I Timothy 4:13

(3)

The Promise Stated . . .

- The basis of the whole matter of Christian conduct is this, that as Christians we just don't belong to ourselves¹ anymore. For when we by faith received the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, not only did He become ours, but we became² His, entirely and completely His. Whereas we had been slaves to sin, Satan, and unrighteousness, we are now redeemed by the precious,³ priceless blood of the Son of God. This is the reason why Christ desires to direct our lives, we're His, we belong to Him!
- I want that we should understand this thoroughly, for here is the foundation of New Testament teaching concerning the Christian life. We belong⁴ to Christ, body, soul and spirit. Our body is the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. Our life is no longer ours to direct or misdirect, but is to be guided⁵ by the omniscience of the risen, living, loving Lord Jesus Christ.
- What a whale of a difference it makes when we understand just how God views this matter. After all, now it's not our job to decide the question that arises in our lives. We don't have to worry or debate concerning our participation in this or that. All decisions are now to be referred to Christ. For it's no more a question as to what pleases us, but will it please Him? It's not our success but his glory. And He is wonderfully⁶ able to guide us. Who in heaven or earth is better able to direct us so that our lives will truly count? Are you?
- You see this is one of the things Christ rose from the dead to accomplish. Just as He wonderfully guided the lives of His twelve disciples while He was here upon the earth, so He desires to direct our lives from the vantage point of heaven's clear atmosphere. It is just senseless folly not to allow Him to do so.
- We know so little . . . He knows so much. And more than that, He loves us with a tremendous love, and earnestly desires our highest, our best, our true success.

¹ 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20

² Galatians 2:20

³ 1 Peter 2:24

⁴ Romans 5:8

⁵ Philippians 1:21

⁶ Colossians 2:3

(4)

• I'm very anxious that you should get this straight right from the very start. Before we met Christ we didn't amount to a cipher with the rim knocked off. We were dead¹ in trespasses and sins. We were under the condemnation of a just God, and were awaiting the day of execution. We were without hope² in the world. In short, we were nothing at all. Isn't a very encouraging picture, is it? But it's God's solemn truth.

• Then one day we came to know that Jesus Christ died³ for us, and as we received Him as our Saviour we were fully pardoned of all our sins, and given the immeasurable gift of life eternal. We were clothed in shining garments of perfect righteousness and heartily welcomed⁴ into the family of God. We were given a responsible position and made heirs of wealth incalculable. Tell me, my friend, does the Lord Jesus Christ have any just claim on your life?

• Too many young people take entirely the wrong attitude toward the Christian life. They see it only as an endless series of "don'ts." But this is opposite of the truth. It's not "don't" but "do." It's not negative but positive. It's not prohibition but glorious adventure with Christ. It's not empty, it's full. It's outliving the inliving Christ and it's wonderful!

• Do you begin to get the idea? Christ Jesus wants to answer all your problems. In your life He desires to be the center⁵ and the circumference. In your thinking He covers the place of the great Ideal. He wants to be all in all⁶ to you. And all this is His rightful place. Your life belongs to Him. He earnestly desires for you to understand this, and make Him the Director.⁷ Have you? Or if not, will you?

• The problems of young people suddenly dwindle into nothing at all when we recognize this one great and all important fact. Christ has redeemed us, we are now His and our exalted task in life is to follow His blessed will. Consequently everything in our life must gladly bow to this one purpose.

• But don't bow sadly or resignedly. This is the most wonderful thing that ever happened to us. Honest it is.

¹ Ephesians 2:1-6

² Ephesians 2:11, 12

³ 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4

⁴ Romans 8:14-17

⁵ Philippians 3:7-10

⁶ John 15:16

⁷ Colossians 3:1-4

(5)

Bornagainer's Main Job . . .

- The Christian's main job in life is to *be* one, all else is secondary. Why the very word Christian means "Christ-Man."¹ God desires to show the world the excellencies of His Son through us. That's the reason He has left us in a world that's antagonistic. Our lives are to glorify² Christ, and do it every day. If we fail in this we're failing in everything else, and I mean everything³ else.
- Please understand that our job in life is more than warming a seat in church or leading a young people's meeting once in a blue moon. We have a battle⁴ to win, a race to be won, a faith to be kept. Christianity is active, not passive. It's expression, not repression. It's doing, not don'ting. Some of God's children get into lots of trouble simply because they're idle. They say that a mule who's interested in pulling well won't either kick, run away or stop to munch daisies. Christians should take a lesson from the mule.
- New Testament standards⁵ all take the positive view in relation to young people's problems. That is, they judge the elements in the Christian life not only on the basis of the harm they do, but will they do any good? You see, it's not "can I do this or that and still be a Christian?" but will participation in this pleasure or that amusement deepen⁶ my love for Christ, and enlarge my testimony before my friends? This is the proper attitude. We have only one life to live, and we must pack every day to the full with joyful service for Christ. We'll never pass this way again. We must make every opportunity⁷ count.
- Here's the thing. God has a plan, a heavenly blue print for the life of every child of His. Our interests should center in this plan and its execution. I tell you the questions about pleasures and amusements will seem picaresque when we catch a vision of our parts in the divine task which God is accomplishing today.

¹ Philippians 1:21
² 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20
³ Philippians 4:19

⁴ II Timothy 4:7, 8
⁵ I Corinthians 10:31

⁶ Colossians 3:17
⁷ II Timothy 4:2

(6)

- While a good deal of our activity for Christ quite naturally centers in and about the Church, it is not confined there. Christ desires to be our steady companion¹ from Monday to Saturday as well as all day Sunday. He wants to be at our side in our school work. He wants to be the honored Guest in our homes, go with us in our fun and pleasures, meet all of our friends. He wants to bless and beautify the labor of our minds and hands. In other words, this job of witnessing² for Christ is a steady job.
- Don't think that you can be a born again Christian on just a part-time basis. Living for Christ calls for every ounce³ of your energy, every beat of your heart. It just can't be, "Well, I'll do all that I want to do; then, if there's any time left, I'll serve Christ." This is suicide as far as success goes in our labor for God. We're called to be full time Ambassadors.⁴ Ours is the greatest job in the world. We must put into it all we've got.
- Nor does this mean that we should all be missionaries, preachers or Christian workers. If God wants us in this type of service He'll make it known. But most certainly we're all full time workers whether we're students, street sweepers or bank presidents. And our privilege is to witness for our Lord everywhere⁵ we go. To the salesman who calls at the door, to the service station man who fills our gas tank, to the chum who sits next to us in school,—to everyone we meet. And far from being drudgery or irksome toil, it's glorious adventure as we watch what wonders and miracles our Christ will do in other hearts and lives, and as we watch the guaranteed Word⁶ of God accomplishing its purpose.
- Say, we won't really worry about a lot of little petty things if we're head over heels in this greatest task of time and eternity, will we?
- We'll be too busy endeavoring to make the moments count for Christ. We'll be sowing the seed which is the Word of God. We'll be cultivating it with additional contacts and watering it by our prayers. And we just won't have either time or inclination to bother about things of lesser importance. Isn't that right?

¹ Matthew 28:19, 20
² Acts 1:8

³ Romans 12:1, 2
⁴ II Corinthians 5:20

⁵ Mark 16:20
⁶ Isaiah 55:11

(7)

Music and "Swing" . . .

- Music belongs to God.¹ He created our ears, fixed the ether waves and passed the laws of harmony. God loves melody and has bestowed upon us the capacity to love and enjoy it too.
- In music God has implanted great power to inspire, comfort and to stir the depths of men's souls. It is wrong to divorce music from God, for its highest function² is to act as a vehicle of the praise of men's thankful hearts.
- Music is a universal language, but how different is that language in lands dark with paganism and superstition. There the music is minor, sad and fearful, clearly showing the darkness of hearts which know not the God of light and love. On the other hand, in Christian lands where the story of Christ has come, the music is vibrant,³ joyful and triumphant. Christ and music are inseparable.
- The mechanics of music testify to the creative⁴ hand of the Great Composer, God. The notes of the scale are all related on the basis of exact mathematical precision. Middle "C" has just 440 vibrations per second, while the "C" above middle "C" has just twice that number or 880, and so up and down the scale. Each note has its own distinguishing characteristics. *Do* is basic and restful, while *sol* is soul stirring and military. *Me* is romantic and idealistic, while *la* is pensive and sometimes sad.
- Only recently have we come to discover the fascinating relationship between light⁵ and music. If our ears were properly attuned we could hear the sunset as well as see it, or we could see the harmonious color of the song of the meadow lark as well as hear it. Some day,⁶ God willing, we shall. But even today music is one of life's choicest joys. How dull our years should be without melody. How wrong to take this delightful creation of God and misuse it.

¹ James 1:17
² Psalm 105:1-3

³ Psalm 150:1-6
⁴ Psalm 104:23

⁵ Job 38:7
⁶ 1 Thessalonians 4:17

(8)

- Swing and its older brother, jazz, is a strange new madness in music. Born in the corruption of evil minds, this foul plague has literally swept the world. The air today is filled with it as radios blare it forth, juke boxes grind it out and dance bands sell it. Swing is difficult to describe for sometimes it is subtly, sensuously sweet, and other times blatant with harsh discord. But always there is present that underlying beat of lawlessness and unrestraint. Absent is the nobility and inspiration of true music. Certainly, this is *not* God's music. Shun it.
- No one will deny that swing moves in bad company. Its bosom companions are a well known infamous trio, the dance, the movies and liquor. Its effect seems to be to promote a frenzy of emotional excitement which with some becomes a delirium. The jitterbug demonstrations connected with it amount to barbaric shamelessness and the contortions vile and suggestive. Swing is nothing less than a satanic seduction of music for sinful purposes. Those who love their Lord Jesus should have *absolutely* no part¹ in it.
- But music is ours!² Its majesty, melody and rhythm belong to the Christian. It is ours to thrill to the dignity and stateliness of the grand old hymns.³ It is ours to sing the psalms of David⁴ or the songs of evangelism. It is ours to carry in our hearts constantly the easily remembered choruses of today. Christians should employ music to its fullest. They should play and sing and never stop. This is a power in the Christian life.
- Here's the criterion if you want one. Let your music constantly honor⁵ your Lord Jesus. That's the antidote for the devilish attraction of modern perversions of music. Let your music always be in harmony with the melody of your blessed Saviour's voice.⁶
- This applies to radio and television too. Christians must keep a strong hand on the control knob. Many things will appear there which are good, clean and helpful. Then there will be programs that are definitely out of harmony with Christian growth and testimony. The answer must be . . . turn it off . . . and fast.

¹ 1 Thessalonians 5:22
² Colossians 3:16

³ Ephesians 5:19
⁴ Psalm 104:33

⁵ Colossians 3:17
⁶ Revelation 1:15

(9)

Can I Be Popular? . . .

- Is it possible for a young person to be a true Christian and be popular *too*? This question has perplexed not a few of us. We want to have friends and be well thought of. But can we do this and still retain the valued companionship with our greatest Friend, Friend¹ Jesus?
- Well, look here a minute. I believe that your friends will thoroughly respect you if your Christianity is genuine, and if you live what you profess. And I sincerely believe it to be possible for you to live for Christ and have a large circle of friends and acquaintances. I know for I've seen it demonstrated.
- But don't forget this, that the world in which we live is sharply divided into two great groups.² One group is Christian, and the other non-Christian. One group has God as its father and the other Satan.³ One group is bound for heaven and the other for hell. Now you tell me this—if you as a Christian⁴ live a godly, consistent, righteous life before the world group, do you really expect them to be crazy about you? Certainly not.
- Here's the reason. Your life lived for Christ is a constant *reproof* to them concerning the sinfulness of their hearts. Day by day you are silently⁵ preaching about their upright-ness and their need of a Saviour. All this is unpopular and distasteful to the natural heart. Folks just don't like to be told they're sinners⁶ even if they sorely need it. Sometimes they vent their displeasure upon the one⁷ who points out their sin. In this case it might be you. Do you see?
- It isn't that your character is lovely, or that you have something that even your best friends won't tell you. You see, it isn't personal dislike at all. It's just that sinners don't like saints. You remind them of their sins. And this hurts. But don't worry, perhaps someday they'll be reminded enough to forsake their sins for the Saviour.

¹ John 15:13-15
² Matthew 7:24-27
³ John 8:44

⁴ II Timothy 3:12
⁵ II Timothy 4:2

⁶ Romans 3:23
⁷ John 8:40

(10)

- Take for example the life of Christ. Here was the blessed, sinless Son of God living a righteously perfect life before the world. What is the story of His popularity? Well, thank God, many of the sinners,¹ the publicans, the common folk opened their hearts to Him and were eternally blessed. But the other gang, the pseudo-religionists,² the graters, the selfish, avaricious crowd opposed Him all the days of His earthly life, and one day laid sinful hands on Him and murdered Him by nailing Him to a tree. Do you think Christ was popular?
- The Bible says some interesting things about the matter of popularity. On one occasion Jesus gave a long message³ to His disciples on this subject, telling them not to be surprised if, instead of loving them, the world *hated* them. He too was hated without a cause. Christians are promised tribulation⁴ in the world. Both Peter and Paul write of present sufferings and coming glory. On the whole the message of the New Testament points to constant conflict between the Christian and the world. So be forewarned.
- The best thing is not to worry too much about popularity. Place this matter, too, in the hands of your Lord. Think much of your popularity with *Him*. For as His dear face fills the horizon⁵ of your life all other things will assume greatly lesser importance. Build up a circle of friends who love the Lord, and who think and talk your language. Continually carry the story of Christ to others, thus gaining real friends⁶ who will last not only through time, but through eternity. Study your Bible on this subject to learn what it says about the world's attitude toward Christ and Christians. Strive mightily for heavenly popularity.⁷
- It seems to resolve itself down to this. You can't be popular with God and with Satan, too. If you would do God's will you must turn your back on the world, the flesh and the Devil. To do Satan's will would be to crucify your Saviour anew. I'm sure there's no question in your mind as to whose popularity you seek.

¹ Luke 5:32
² Matthew 26:3-5
³ John 15:15-25

⁴ John 16:33
⁵ Philipians 1:21

⁶ Matthew 6:19, 20
⁷ Matthew 25:21

(11)

Athletic Participation? . . .

- Shall a Christian take part in athletics, games, contests, sports? Why *most assuredly* he may, and in doing so should exhibit the best in honesty,¹ clean living, good sportsmanship and above all the love of the Lord Jesus Christ. God has given each one of us an amazingly wonderful body, with vast capacities for development and enjoyment. It's quite right that we should keep these bodies in the pink of good health² and athletics serve toward that end.
- You see, on the athletic field the same principles prevail for us as in the church auditorium. We're to glorify God in our bodies³ *always* whether we're playing a set of tennis or singing the Psalms. God is the same one over the baseball match as over the Sunday-school classroom. We must live for Him as carefully in the one as in the other.
- Christians ought to strive to do well in everything, they do. In their book studies they should endeavor to be honor students. In their jobs they should be the most reliable and trusted employees. In athletics they should always play⁴ to win. By so doing, opportunities will be presented to give honor and glory to the Christ they love and serve. Athletics should always be viewed as a *means*⁵ to an *end*, first to edify our bodies so that we may be of better use to the Lord, and to open avenues of testimony so that we may speak of Him.
- Satan often uses athletics to cover up some of his nefarious business. Christians will remember this, and take care never to become enmeshed in anything that is shady or defiling. Pray⁶ much about your athletics.
- Suffer this word of warning. Today's world makes much of athletics. But they mix into "pure" athletics certain corrupting influences such as betting, graft, commercialism, sensationalism. Of course these things are off the beam for Christian athletics. We play to edify the body and train the mind so that we may the better endure hardships for the cause of the Lord Jesus Christ.

¹ Philippians 3:8
² 1 Timothy 4:8

³ 1 Corinthians 3:20
⁴ 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

⁵ 1 Corinthians 9:19-23
⁶ Philippians 4:6, 7

(12)

- Of course athletics, (or anything else) are definitely wrong and harmful when they become so demanding and important that they assume the most prominent place in one's life. That place is unalterably reserved for the Lord Jesus Christ. If you're wondering about this, you can check by asking yourself, "Are athletics robbing me of the time with my Bible?" "Will my taking part in this sport cause my prayer life to be neglected?" "If I accept a place on the team will my love for the things of God, the souls of men or the meetings of God's people become less?" If the answer to any of these is "yes," then athletics are *out* of their proper place and there's danger.
- Jesus was very much an outdoor person during His sojourn here with us. His thirty-three years were almost wholly lived in the hills,² valleys or near the bodies of water which in the beginning He had created. The hillside were His favorite classrooms. By the sea He taught many wonderful lessons. The fowls of the air, the fish of the sea, the grass of the field furnished sermon topics for Him. Some modern city folks live too artificially. The out of doors is God's great athletic field.
- Paul, too, is very fond of the athletic metaphor. He likens the Christian life to a great race in the stadium³ of time. On either side there are myriads of spectators watching. With earnestness he coaches you, advising the laying aside every weight. Dramatically he points to the tape, the goal wherein the judges' box stands the Judge of all races, God's Son. He exhorts that we press⁴ forward keeping our eyes on Jesus, remembering the crown⁵ that will be given to all those who run well.
- Life is a race and may we run it with an undivided heart. Satan would seek to deter us by subtlety and subtleties. Look not to him but upon the face of Christ at the end of the race. To some who run God will say, "Well done." To you?
- Winners in earthly races receive perishable rewards. But to winners in the race of life the reward given will outlast eternity. That's worth striving for, isn't it?

¹ Colossians 1:18
² Matthew 5:1

³ Hebrews 12:12
⁴ Philippians 3:13, 14

⁵ 1 Timothy 4:7, 8
⁶ Matthew 25:21

(13)

Shall I Dance? . . .

- Yes, I know quite well that dancing is universally popular and overwhelmingly approved, and that many church people dance. I know that dances are widely promoted by many character-building organizations and even by some churches. I am aware that in educational and Christian circles hardly a voice is being raised against it. But I'm dead in earnest as I tell you the dance is the Devil's territory and way out of bounds¹ for real lovers of Christ.
- There isn't a shadow of doubt that the root of the dance's attraction is sex, and its intention to arouse and stimulate passion. Take away the opportunities for improper physical proximity and you'd kill the dance in a week. Who would want to dance if girls danced only with girls and boys with boys? That shows what the dance is built² upon. To the one whose body is the temple³ of the Holy Spirit of God there need be no other argument.
- The companions of the dance are a sorry lot when dragged out into the open. Usually there is drinking nearby, and smoking and profanity. The lights are always turned low as if to hide what goes on there. The music strange, jungle music, with the tempo calculated to make the dancer throw off restraint and indulge to the full. The whole thing reeks of sensuality and lust. Tell me, ought born again Christians⁴ to be there?
- I know that the dance is almost irresistibly attractive to some young people. They dearly love to dance. But please for Christ's⁵ sake as well as your own, examine carefully the facts of the case. The dance destroys modesty, promotes impure thinking, soils lives and in many cases causes immorality of the worst sort. The dance crowd is the Devil's⁶ crowd, and the worst of bad company for children of God.
- There are those who maintain their ability to dance and remain pure in thought. Well, if you can . . . you will certainly be the exception. What about your companion . . . is she or he pure minded too? It's a real problem.

¹ Philippians 4:8
² Romans 1:24

³ I Corinthians 6:19, 20
⁴ I Thessalonians 5:22

⁵ Colossians 3:17
⁶ Mark 6:22-29

(14)

- Or, come to the positive. Does dancing *glorify*¹ my Heavenly Father? May I dance in the name² of my Lord Jesus Christ? Will my divine Guest³ *approve*? Will I be a better Christian if I participate? There would certainly need to be some hesitation before one could truthfully answer "yes" to these questions. The devotees of the dance claim many things for the dance but never do they say it is to the glory and praise of God. I have yet to hear of a dance being opened with "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," or stopped in the middle for a prayer, or closed with an earnest invitation for the ones present to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Saviour.

- Not a few arguments are rushed to dancing's defense which look rather silly in the daylight. Dancing is said to be good exercise. Well, I'll leave it to you to compare the exercise one would get in a smoke filled and liquor laden atmosphere of a ball-room with the exhilaration of a brisk walk in God's great out of doors. At that time of night one doesn't require exercise anyway, it's time to sleep. It is claimed that the Bible encourages dancing, but you know the dancing of the Bible is not even remotely⁴ related to the modern dance. Many parents sanction dancing, saying that it promotes grace. Well, perhaps this is true, but at an awful cost in purity of life. The snake is graceful too. There are many clean sports which would be a much better teacher of grace.

- Some will say that all the crowd dances, and if one doesn't he or she will be left out. Well, I'm afraid that's true, for you will be left⁵ out. But you'll be in good company on the outside, for all the real Christians will be there with you, and your Lord Jesus⁶ too. Others ask, what of home dancing with just a few select friends? Well, you should ask the Lord about this, but my advice is "no." All the dangerous elements are still there, and home dancing has a habit of growing into something else. There are scores of interesting and profitable ways of enjoying yourself which are free from question. Try these.

¹ I Corinthians 10:31
² Colossians 3:1, 2

³ I Corinthians 3:16
⁴ II Samuel 6:14

⁵ John 16:2, 3
⁶ Hebrews 13:5

(15)

To Smoke or Not to Smoke? . . .

- I'm going to be absolutely honest with you. It is possible, medically speaking, for one to be a smoker more or less throughout a lifetime and still apparently live out the normal span of years. This is not because there is no harm in tobacco, for there is. Rather it's because of the amazing recuperative powers which God placed in the human body, which enables it to eliminate the poison of the *smoke* as quickly as possible.
- No amount of smooth talking, however, will change the fact it is cruel punishment to subject the delicate membranes of the respiratory system to the various irritants contained in smoke, any kind of smoke. Anyone is infinitely better off, healthier, wealthier and happier who abstains entirely from the foul weed, as the majority of smokers will testify.

• But the physical harm of smoking is not the basis of my appeal to you. This habit has a tremendous strangle-hold on people today. It seems as if just everybody from grandmas to grammar school kids indulges. Many Christians smoke too, saying the Bible doesn't forbid¹ it, and they see no harm² in it. Well, I'll admit that the Bible doesn't specifically forbid it,³ and I'll further admit that you can be a Christian and still smoke, but what kind of a Christian? That's the point. Are you to be content with just being a Christian? Is not the challenge of the New Testament to be entirely surrendered⁴ to Christ? Aren't rewards⁵ to be handed out when we see Christ on the basis of whether or not we have served Him to our last degree of ability? You see the question is not, can I smoke and still be a Christian? Rather it is, will smoking make me a better Christian?⁶ Will I love Christ more and serve Him better through this? And anything, smoking or anything else, ought to be ruled⁷ out which will not draw my life nearer to the heart of Christ.

• The Christian life, you see, concerns not only you. How does smoking affect those who watch you. Are they edified?

¹ Ephesians 4:21-24
² I Corinthians 6:19, 20
³ I Timothy 5:22

⁴ Romans, 12:1, 2
⁵ II Corinthians 5:10
⁶ I Corinthians 10:31
⁷ Ephesians 5:3-5

(16)

• Tobacco in all its forms belongs to the world.¹ It fits perfectly into the face of the fellow or girl who wants to be so smart, ultra-sophisticated, worldly wise and entirely independent of all restraining influences, including God. The gambler, the drinker, the prostitute and the gangster all look and smell perfectly natural with cigarettes drooping out of their mouths or tobacco juice oozing down their chins. On the other hand, tobacco and the principles² of the Bible do not agree. Smoking doesn't go with churches or prayer meetings. If Christ were to walk in our land today you know that He would utterly disapprove.³

• The true character of tobacco is aptly illustrated by one of the first acts of the newly-born-again Christian. When the sinner has known the cleansing power of the blood of Christ one of his first prayers is for cleansing from this degrading thing. Why? Because smoking belongs to the old life. It is a mark of the Kingdom of Satan.

• Smoking Christians are always carnal worldly, fleshly⁴ Christians. They are the kind that hasn't grown in the things of God. But the spiritual Christian,⁵ the one who is daily asking the heavenly Guest to direct his life, has long ago put this vile habit away. It's rather a dangerous practice to defile⁶ the temple of God. And surely this habit is a defiling one.

• Advertising of the tobacco companies is a laugh, as any reputable M.D. will tell you. Don't be fooled by it. And testimonies so widely acclaimed on the billboards are all bought and paid for by tobacco-stained money. This habit is a filthy one, is degrading, wasteful and harmful, and the spending of millions of dollars to deny it won't change it one iota. It still stinks.

• If you are already enslaved to this odorous monster there is deliverance for you. Call upon the all-powerful⁷ Christ to help you, and decide that never again will your lips be soiled by this degrading habit. The better way is to never allow yourself to become addicted.

¹ I John 2:16
² Galatians 5:17-23
³ Matthew 5:48

⁴ I Corinthians 3:1-3
⁵ I Timothy 4:12
⁶ I Corinthians 3:17
⁷ Matthew 28:18

(17)

What of the Movies? . . .

• Moving pictures are such fun! I suppose it's because everyone loves to hear a story, only in the case of pictures, you see the story as well as hear it. Truly this invention ranks among the greatest even in this age of great inventions. It's marvelous to sit and watch people and places which are over on the other side of the world. Or to see events transpiring before your very eyes which have since passed into history. Governmental, educational and religious agencies are rightly awakening to the tremendous possibilities of the motion picture as a teaching agent. It's certainly true that you remember what you see.

• But listen, when it comes to the matter of the "movies" that's another story. By movies we mean that industry which produces and markets films for entertainment. For this industry we have only the severest condemnation. They have ignored their high opportunity to be a powerful force for good upon our land, and have prostituted their powers in order to gain wealth¹ and influence. They have become a monster, rich, unprincipled and corrupt. The commercial movies of today are dramatized and produced by sinful, wicked people and their influence is a vile curse upon our land.

• The proof? An impartial survey (obtainable in your public library) conducted by prominent educators over a period of years, reveals, that the theme of the vast majority of pictures is a sorry trio,—crime, love and sex. The crime pictures show the life of crime as almost desirable, and are a horrible school producing young criminals. The love of the pictures is not our kind of love,² but is illicit, indecent and lustful. The pictures are liberally sprinkled with scenes of drinking and smoking. Bedroom scenes with semi-nudity and immoral situations abound. The sacred things of God, the church, the institution of marriage and honest living are held up to ridicule. Tell me, how can followers of the Lord Jesus Christ support this degrading thing?

¹ 1 Timothy 6:9, 10 ² 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 ³ Galatians 5:18-21

(18)

• The movies *are* attractive and almost irresistible I'll admit. They're gay and glittering and most young people are just crazy about them. But the unvarnished truth is, that for Christians it just isn't possible to sit and watch pictures of this sort and not defile¹ your mind and weaken your spiritual life. No child of God who allows the deadly virus of the commercial movie² to enter his mind, can be the person his Heavenly Father desires him to be. Inevitably his love for Christ grows cold. Other sins follow. Listen, friends, you just can't keep looking to Jesus³ and keep looking at the movies, too. There must be a choice here. What'll it be?

• Well, what about travel pictures, educational school films, home movies? They're all right. It's not the invention of the moving pictures that's wrong, it's the improper use being made of them by an industry without conscience. There are also some films being produced by earnest Christians and to the glory of God which merit the confidence of the Christian public. If you're in doubt about a picture ask the Lord for wisdom.⁴

• What about the "good" picture, the historical film, the recommended film? True, there are some good pictures produced with nothing objectionable in them. Occasionally they are shown alone, but more generally they are sandwiched in with undesirable films. In these films the same actors are seen which play in the vile ones. And even in seeing a good picture you're paying tribute to an industry which is rotten to the core.

• I wonder if these "good" pictures aren't just *bait* to lure into the movie palaces those who have scruples against going. And in doing this the movie industry creates a theatre habit which is difficult to break.

• Truly it's a real problem. I wonder if the best and safest course⁵ to pursue isn't to renounce all theatre going? Would you do this for Christ's sake? Because of your love for Him and your desire to live⁶ for Him? Because you want your mind and body to be clean for His use? I know of a surety that He'll make it up to you in satisfaction and blessing.

¹ Galatians 6:8
² 1 John 2:15-17
³ Hebrews 12:1, 2

⁴ James 1:5
⁵ Philippians 4:8
⁶ Philippians 1:21

(19)

Drink Drinking . . .

- Can one drink intoxicating liquor and be a Christian, too? Why surely he can. He can be the poorest, meanest, most no account Christian¹ on the face of God's earth. He can be the Christian who utterly despises his God-given birthright, who scorns his opportunities to count for Christ, who breaks every commandment² the Lord ever gave. Such a Christian would be a disgrace to the Name he bears.
- Listen, young Christian, the worship and service of the Lord Jesus Christ and the liquor industry and habit are on diametrically³ opposite ends. They have absolutely nothing in common. Life which is for Christ embraces all which is clean, unselfish, pure, righteous and noble. Whereas liquor, and those who market it, represent everything which is foul, criminal and sinful. Nowhere is the difference between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Satan more clearly marked out than here.
- To hear and see the gay advertising of liquor you might be led to think that it's quite harmless, everybody drinks and it's the modern thing to do. Don't believe it. What is not shown in the glittering glass is the appalling sight of the finished product. One should really take the post graduate course and view liquor's victims.⁴ Look at them, bleary, senseless, dirty, bleeding and floating in their own vomit. Here's the true character⁵ of this despicable thing.
- You really should know the family of John Barleycorn. He's the father of crime and debauch, the husband of heartache and bitter tears, the brother of adultery and sensuality and the uncle of poverty and disease. He's an arch-thief, taking his victim's judgment, self-respect, character, health, home, loved ones, money and eventually life. Liquor is death in solution. It is the poison of hell. As you value your life, don't⁶ touch it.
- If there's any habit that is a thousand per cent on the side of sin, senselessness and Satan, it's this despicable thing. Christians ought to despise it.

¹ 1 Corinthians 10:21

² Galatians 5:17-23
³ Proverbs 23:29-35

⁴ Proverbs 20:1
⁵ Ephesians 5:20

(20)

- Don't you believe the Devil's lie that the Bible doesn't censure the liquor habit. Many times the Spirit of God warns of the danger of drunkenness.¹ It is something with which Christians are not to associate.² It is a bar from the Kingdom³ of God. It is the cause of hell enlarging⁴ its borders. It is the companion of all kinds of evil. As Christians we should earnestly hate it.
- Why does the young person take his first glass? Why, the Devil whispers in his ear that drinking is smart, it's modern and everyone drinks. But the Devil lies as he always does. Drinking is smart like beating in your skull. It's modern like death. It's popular like the broad road which leads to eternal destruction. Far better to jump into a den of rattlers than to begin this horrible thing.

- Can one drink in moderation? Listen to me carefully as I tell you that a child of God can't afford to touch this evil which is responsible for so much sin and wrongdoing. No one can ever drink in moderation. The ones who claim they can take it or leave it always take it. The first glass robs you of the ability of sound judgment. Then, you would be supporting an industry which is Hell's own and might be using your influence to send a weaker brother or sister to a drunkard's grave. The right way, the safe way, the Christian way is total abstinence.⁵

- The positive side of course is, will my drinking glorify God? Will Christ be more honored by my life as a drinker? Will the Heavenly Guest within my heart be pleased? The answer to these is a thunderous "no." Not by the wildest stretch of imagination could one believe that God would be pleased in the defilement of my body through drink. So, let our decision be that by God's grace we will drink⁶ no liquor while the world standeth.

- Very few people, even preachers, lift their voices against this hateful habit today. The reason is not hard to find. In the slimy clutches of the liquor habit is unbelievable wealth. So those who ought to know better are silenced by the pay off. But don't be deceived. God will reserve for such betrayers the lowest pits of hell.

¹ Romans 13:13, 14
² 1 Corinthians 5:9-11

³ 1 Corinthians 6:9, 10
⁴ Isaiah 5:11-14

⁵ 1 Thessalonians 5:22
⁶ 1 Corinthians 8:13

(21)

Clothes, Make-up, etc. . . .

- While these two pages apply to our girl readers I want the boys to read them, too. Listen now, in the question of dress it's altogether possible for the Christian young person to be chic and attractive in appearance, and charming in manner without following the extreme styles dictated by ungodly people. In this matter of clothing, as well as in all other questions, we must remember that our bodies¹ are Christ's, and that our task is to care for them, and that includes clothing them, to please² and honor Him. Don't think for a minute that this can't be done.
- Present day styles as advertised by the movie and magazines exert a tremendous influence on the clothing habit of the world. Many people rush headlong to follow the latest dictates of fashion. They'll wear anything, or nothing at all, if it's the latest. And modern clothing, particularly athletic and bathing dress, seems to be geared to the idea of shamelessly and brazenly exhibiting as much of the body as the law will allow. Unknown to many people this matter has roots deep in moral³ principle.
- The Bible tells us that our first parents, fresh from the creative hand of God, wore no clothing⁴ for they were without sin. But when sin entered, the first thing God did was to clothe⁵ them, for clothing hinders and prevents sin. Also clothing is a constant reminder that sin necessitates the provision of a blood sacrifice. Today when people openly uncover their bodies they are flaunting their naked sinfulness in God's face. Why, the first thing the jungle savages desire, when their hearts are cleansed by the blood of Christ, is to be clothed. Modern indecent styles are an attempt on the part of people who should know better, to defy God and His commandments. Christian young people will have nothing to do with this thing.
- Surely the key to this problem of dress is God-honoring modesty and moderation.⁶ One need not revert to the styles of the past century, but neither should the Christian blindly follow⁷ the latest fashion. This applies to boys as well as girls.

¹ I Corinthians 6:19, 20
² Romans 12:1, 2
³ Revelation 19:8

⁴ Genesis 2:25
⁵ Genesis 3:21

⁶ I Timothy 2:9, 10
⁷ I Peter 3:3-5

(22)

• One of the most revolting sights of today is the shameless display of the male torso at our bathing beaches. Most observers will instantly and gladly agree that, so far as beauty is concerned, the exposure of hairy chest and protruding abdomen should be fully and forever covered. And as for the benefits of sun tanning, skin specialists tell us that undue exposure to the sun is a too frequent cause of skin cancer, and that the beneficence of the sun's rays can just as readily be absorbed through light clothing. The argument for freedom in swimming is also a myth, for surely there is no benefit in shedding 75 per cent of already skin tight suits.

• One of the mysteries of the modern world is why girls who so earnestly strive after beauty will dress up like a circus and paint up like an Indian on the war path. Beauty does not come this way. Loveliness comes from a radiant personality¹ and a happy heart combined with careful habits of cleanliness. Charm can never be painted on. Christian girls should strive to look their best so that as friends are attracted to them, they may have the exquisite joy of pointing them to the loveliness² of Christ.

• When make-up is to be used the secret is to use it so sparingly and skillfully that no one will be aware of its presence. Care for the hair is right and proper and is a true source of womanly³ beauty. But this becomes a sin when most of the waking thoughts of the girl is centered on her hair looks. Finger nails, too, should be well groomed and neatly polished, but never with screaming colors.

• All the problems connected with clothing and care of the body are to be understood as a means to an end. The end is that everything we are, and all we possess must serve to add⁴ glory and honor to the Name of the wonderful Lord whose we are. To center our thoughts on everything else is to rob Christ of that which is rightfully His. But when He occupies the throne⁵ of our hearts, all else falls into its rightful and proper place.

• The question of adornment are secondary. The primary matter is the testimony we maintain before others. And our adornment should contribute to this end.

¹ Proverbs 31:10-31
² Colossians 2:9

³ I Corinthians 11:15

⁴ I Corinthians 10:31
⁵ Colossians 1:18

(23)

Impure Literature . . .

- Be on guard. We're living in a day when there is a disgusting flood of indecent and immoral literature available. On every hand there is that which is snappy smart and arty art. Magazine racks are filled with confession and detective stories which seem to specialize in sexy filth put up in narrative form. More and more periodicals are entirely devoted to displays of immodest and suggestive pictures. The Sunday and daily newspapers play up what is lurid and sensational. Modern best selling books go into intimate details concerning situations which would not have been allowed several decades ago. Even advertising is designed to be eye-catching. All these things are extremely pernicious¹ to the spiritual health of the Christian. It's impossible to allow his mind² to dwell on this literary sewage and remain pure.
- Some Christians are surprised to find something within their breast³ which subtly condones this impurity. They will do well to remember that when we are saved, and Christ gave us His new nature, He did not destroy the old, sinful nature but gave an explicit command that it should be controlled by His power. Nowhere is the old nature more ready to pop up than in our thought life. We may earnestly ask God for His help⁴ here.
- This modern literary looseness has its effect on the thoughts, actions and tongues of our worldly acquaintances. Some will always have a questionable story to tell, or an obscene picture to pass around. But we must avoid these as we avoid the breath of hell. Nothing will so inflame our imaginations wrongly or become the parent of such grievous sins, as indulgence here. Take heed and run from this as you would from Satan himself.
- Much of the answer to this peril is positive Christianity. Nail your colors up immediately. Let everyone know just where you stand. Surfet yourself on the literature⁵ of Christ. Focus on the screen of your mind the picture⁶ of the Lord Jesus. Remember your eyes no longer belong to you, but to Him who purchased them with His own precious⁷ blood.

¹ Proverbs 4:23
² Proverbs 23:7a
³ Galatians 5:17

⁴ Philippians 4:6
⁵ II Timothy 2:15

⁶ Hebrews 12:2
⁷ I Corinthians 6:19, 20

(24)

Cards and Gambling . . .

- What's the harm in card games? Well, that depends upon what card games you mean. Some games with cards are intellectually stimulating and entertaining as well as instructive. But if you're speaking of the deck of modern playing cards, while there may be nothing inherently wrong in the cards themselves, you'll have to admit that they are inseparably associated with worldly things and ungodly people. The bridge player, the palm reader, the saloon operator and the professional card swindler all make use of the common playing card. Cards, gambling, worldly habits and sinful people invariably are found together. For a Christian to play with these cards would identify¹ him with such things. And for one whose heart is fixed on the Lord Jesus, this is unthinkable.
- Gambling is different. It is inherently wrong, for the principle of gambling is that of getting something for nothing at the expense of robbing² others. Carried to its logical analysis, gambling is robbery by chance. This is the sport of wastrels, the business of thieves, the father of dishonesty,³ and the school for crime. Gambling dangerously stimulates the appetite for easy gain, and becomes an insatiable mania. It readily fosters hatred and strife. This applies to all kinds of gambling, even apparently innocent forms.
- Don't say that gambling is all right because business, farming, and even life is a gamble. To be sure, these things are risks, but we do not enter the risk of business merely for thrill of taking the risk. There's a vast difference between the hazards of honest investment and the folly of chancing your wealth on the turn of a wheel. Anyway, Christians don't live on the basis of mere risk. Nothing can enter our lives but God must first approve.⁴ As we love God, all things must work together⁵ for our good.
- Time spent at a card table or in the gambler's den is time forever lost. And time is exceeding precious, for every moment must be accounted⁶ for. For Christians who foolishly waste it there will be God's stern condemnation.⁷ There are scores of other ways a "born-gambler" may profitably and enjoyably spend his time.

¹ I Thessalonians 5:22
² Proverbs 26:18, 19
³ Proverbs 16:8

⁴ John 10:28-30
⁵ Romans 8:28

⁶ II Corinthians 5:10
⁷ Matthew 25:26

(25)

Profanity . . .

- Born again ears are shocked at the prevalence of profanity today. It sounds like some fellows and girls went to hell for their education the way they defame God's name. But don't be deceived. Don't think that God has repealed His commandment¹ forbidding blasphemy, or will fail to bring into judgment² everyone who is guilty. There is a day of reckoning coming.
- Profanity is not a mark of toughness. Rather it's an indication of weakness, of stupidity. Those who so boldly profane God's name just indicate their mental poverty and lack of self control. They are, as it were, just lifting the curtain so that all may see the fact that their heart is filled to overflowing with profanity. Surely every child of God will place a triple guard³ upon his lips so that he sin not in this matter.
- Many Christians who would shrink from using outward profanity are guilty of employing minced oaths. They commonly say "gosh," "golly" or "gosh darned," which any dictionary defines as substitutes for saying "God" and "God damned." Or they explode with the terms "gee" or "judas priest" which most certainly refer to Jesus and Jesus Christ. Others regularly say "mercy," "gracious," "goodness," which have a familiar ring when we remember that goodness, mercy and grace are attributes of the Most High God. There are said to be 400,000 other words in the English language which we are sure may be used with impunity.

• Today seems also to be the day of the wise crack, the smart answer or the gay repartee. Just what place should these world-wise words have in the vocabulary of the surrendered child of God? Rather should not our speech be always sound,⁴ with grace, seasoned⁵ with salt. Life is serious business, too. In this connection, think of the speech⁶ of the Lord Jesus. He made every word count. Hell make our words count, too, if we'll turn over the key⁷ of our lips to Him.

¹ Exodus 20:7.
² Revelation 20:11-15
³ Psalm 141:3

⁴ Titus 2:7, 8
⁵ Colossians 4:6

⁶ Luke 4:22
⁷ Romans 12:1, 2

(26)

Petting . . .

- Good companionship and happy fellowship¹ among young people is a delightful and necessary part of the Christian life, and adds real zest to living. Parties, picnics,² socials and get-togethers are excellent, stimulating to both body and mind, and should by all means be encouraged. God doesn't expect us to live as recluses. We're to enjoy one another,³ help and encourage one another. But when innocent friendship degenerates into that promiscuous embracing, fondling, kissing known as petting, this is wrong,⁴ decidedly wrong and "out of bounds" to every young fellow or girl who desires to please the Lord.
- You see, not only the minds, but the bodies of Christians are a sacred trust. Having been cleansed *by* Christ, they should be kept clean *for* Christ. And to permit them to be used to "paw" over, or to be "pawed" over is to follow the diabolical suggestion of hell itself. Petting makes common and vulgar that which God intends shall be sweet, noble and pure. Petting whets the appetites of passion and impure desire. Petting soils the mind, weakens the body and stains the soul. Petting pulls down the bars for all kinds of grosser sins.

• You know of course, that within our bodies are certain natural functions which are honorable only within the bonds of the marriage tie. These functions are exceedingly strong, and when aroused may overwhelm both modesty and reason, causing actions which could blight the life and bring bitter regrets. Petting unlawfully arouses these tendencies. Now carasses are right and proper between husband⁵ and wife, and to a limited extent between a fellow and a girl who had solemnly pledged themselves to each other. But to all others, promiscuous carasses are a sin against purity.

• The safe course for the Christian is one of "hands off." Let the girls insist on this, and the fellows⁶ will respect their wishes and them. Don't think that you're strong enough to be careless about this and not be harmed. Remember that you want the girl or fellow you eventually marry to be clean and pure,⁷ and act accordingly.

¹ Hebrews 13:1
² 1 John 1:3, 4
³ Acts 2:46, 47

⁴ Colossians 3:5, 6
⁵ Hebrews 13:4

⁶ 1 Timothy 5:2
⁷ 1 Timothy 5:22

(27)

Courtship and Marriage . . .

- Next in importance to becoming a Christian is the choice of a life partner. Nothing in all of life will bring either so much happiness or so much heartache as this. But in this momentous choice we are not alone for our Heavenly Father is vitally interested. And to those who earnestly¹ desire, He will bring forth "Miss Right" or "Mr. Right" in His good time.
- The Bible is quite vehement, however, in warning that Christians shall marry only Christians.² For a believer to marry an unbeliever brings confusion, division and bitterness. You understand, the unsaved loves the things of the world and the flesh, while the saved loves spiritual things, the things of Christ. One's father is Satan,³ and the other's is God.⁴ And the home in place of becoming a miniature heaven on earth is anything but that. Christians will do well to ponder this. One needs to guard against even falling in love with a non-Christian.
- Courtship may be a time of rich blessing. For after both have pledged their hearts' affection to each other, then together they should pledge allegiance to the Lord. And in the planning for the days ahead, the home and the business, the preminence of Christ should always be understood, and His matchless wisdom⁵ constantly sought. There is nothing that will insure the permanence and happiness of the home as the enthronement of Christ. The happiest marriages it seems are consummated within the sacred walls of a church.
- Marriage for Christians is till death.⁶ The world may marry, divorce and remarry, but never for two children of God. God has said that they are now one flesh. And if disagreements arise, why there is recourse unto an all wise Heavenly Father who surely is able⁷ to solve every problem. In the home the motto will be "each for each other, both for the Lord." The foundation stones will be confidence, respect and unselfishness. The family altar will be built and observed. God's Word will be the guide. The atmosphere will be prayer. The result, unalloyed happiness.

¹ Philippians 4:6, 7
² II Corinthians 6:14-18
³ John 8:44

⁴ I John 3:2
⁵ Colossians 3:2

⁶ Matthew 19:6
⁷ II Corinthians 9:8

(28)

Answering Evolution . . .

- Many young people are inclined to tremble a little in their boots at the glittering array of scientific pomposity on the side of the evolutionary hypothesis. Hearing the thunderous battle cry that "all scientists agree" causes them to wonder if perhaps the simple Scriptural story of creation¹ by the hands of God is not wrong after all. Consequently if the Bible can be mistaken about beginnings, might it not be questionable on other trusted themes.
- Well, don't be afraid to continue placing your implicit trust² in this ancient Book. Never, and we do mean never, has it been finally found to be in error, and it is not in error³ here. Remember this, that the evolutionary hypothesis and a theory is a supposition, and a supposition is a guess. And *you* have just as much right to venture a guess as the next fellow. The sad part about the whole matter is that many professors lacking in personal honesty, or in intestinal fortitude, teach the theory as an established fact. It is nothing of the sort!
- Far from forming a phalanx of agreement the truth is that scientists widely differ at every point in the theory. Thank God a goodly percentage have altogether rejected it, holding that it is absolutely untenable in the face of established facts. The horse evolutionary ladder is an eclectic myth pure and simple, and deserves the horse laugh. The argument of the placement of fossils in the strata is founded on the quicksands of scientific disagreement. The imposing plaster-paris busts of missing links are composed of 99 per cent imagination. Don't be fooled.
- It's not strange that worldly minded, God-rejecting men and women want a theory⁴ of beginnings which leaves out God entirely. If they were to accept the fact that God is responsible for creating them, then they must also accept the consequent fact that they must face⁵ Him some day. The sin in their hearts demands that all such thoughts be cast⁶ aside. The evolution theory is, in its final analysis, Satanic, and Satan is the father⁷ of lies.

¹ Genesis 1:1-2:3
² Matthew 24:35
³ II Timothy 3:16

⁴ Romans 1:22
⁵ Revelation 20:12

⁶ Romans 1:28
⁷ John 8:44

(29)

What'll I Do? . . .

• I can hear you sobbing this very question. If worldly amusements are sinful and unfit for the Christian's participation, then how'll I have fun? Why, bless your heart, there are literally hundreds and hundreds of things to do. Look—God has jam packed¹ the world with intriguing and mysterious surprises for you to discover and enjoy. There are trees, multitudes of them, each one different, for you to climb and catalogue. There are thousands of insects, birds, animals, flowers, all waiting for you to know about them. What is more exhilarating to body and soul than a bracing hike? On the mountain summit with your eyes full of sunshine and your lungs full of air, you'll thank God for life! Or, learn the mysteries of the sea. And in this modern world, explore the stratosphere. The nursery rhyme puts it, "the world is so full of a number of things, I'm sure we should all be as happy as kings."

• Or, if you would rather stay close to home, get a hobby. Collect something, coins, stamps, yellow cats. Make something out of wood, clay, sheet metal. Borrow a telescope and find² a new star. Plant a garden and watch the mysteries of growth. Decorate your home. Play a tuba. Get interested in the wonderland of books. Join a singing class and thrill to the Hallelujah Chorus. Save and buy a microscope and see the world in your own back yard. Ride a horse.

• Have you forgotten that there's fun in friends? Get up a kid party or a treasure hunt. Take the gang to a Chinese dinner or a boat ride. Install a volley ball court or start a tennis club. Go on a picnic and auction off the box lunches. Organize a literary society and debate whether debates are profitable. Plan a bicycle ride or a skating party. Fill the truck with hay and take a drive. Use that old gray matter and learn what real fun is.

• True happiness is found in love³ and service to others. There are many opportunities in your community and church for this. Prove that Jesus⁴ was correct.

¹ Psalm 24:1
² Psalm 19:1

³ 1 John 1:3, 4

⁴ Acts 20:35

(30)

YOUTH'S IDEAL . . .

• Many young people are besieged with problems of conduct simply because they have never caught a vision of the loveliness of Christ. They know Him only in a vague sort of way. In the minds of some He still hangs on a cross, bleeding, dead. They need to be thrilled to the very core by electrifying news that He's risen! He lives! He's real—today! They need to hear His voice. They need to learn that life with Christ is glorious adventure. Say, friend, when was the last time you took a long, satisfying look at Jesus Christ?

• Did you observe the wonder of His person? He who was without beginning, who existed from all eternity,¹ became in time a wee babe born of a virgin mother. In His life there was no sin yet He was tempted² in all points like as we are. He became hungry, thirsty, weary in order that He might understand us. Yet He is truly the Bread of Life, the Water of Life. He is altogether lovely to our souls.

• Have you seen the glory of His Work? In the beginning it was He³ who spoke the world into existence. He is the one who maintains them by the word of His power. Every blade of grass obeys His will. He sets the boundaries of the rolling sea. Remember too the wonderful works of His earthly ministry. How He spoke⁴ as none other had ever spoken, and wrought as never man had wrought. At the end of all this He presents His life⁵ on the cross for the sins of the world, and yours and mine.

• Have you experienced the thrill of His companionship? It is true that the Lord of glory desires to walk⁶ with you. Wonder of wonders, He desires our fellowship. He wants to live His risen life through His blood-bought ones. He wants to bless the world by means of our lives. He wants to publish the gospel through our lips. What else matters but Christ? That He is yours and you are His? The world and all its pride grows very dim when one fastens his eyes upon the Sons⁷ of the Living God. May God help us to do just that.

¹ John 1:1

² Hebrews 4:15

³ Colossians 1:15-17

⁴ John 7:46

⁵ 1 Peter 2:24

⁶ Galatians 2:20

⁷ Revelation 1:12-18

(31)

Ten Reasons Why . . .

• Christian young people should be soundly convinced in their own hearts that the Bible is indeed the Word of God. Many problems will be automatically solved by our perfect confidence in the Scriptures. The credibility of the Bible is firmly founded on many lines of irrefutable proof. Let me list some briefly for you:

1. The Bible is perennially fresh. It's been applicable to ages. It's ancient yet up to date as tomorrow. It's a living Book. It never grows old.
2. The character of its teachings: It hates sin, loves righteousness. Deals with otherwise unknowable subjects: God, heaven, hell, angels, demons, Satan.
3. The marvelous unity. 1600 years in composition, many countries, various languages, 40 writers with varying abilities and under strange circumstances—yet one Book, coherent, progressive in thought, complete.
4. The prophecy. Detailed, minute, complete foretelling of events and persons given centuries before fulfillment. Today's conditions predicted, and tomorrow's.
5. Its indestructibility. Nations, Kings, Emperors hating, threatening, burning it. Friends neglecting it, yet today it is the best seller in the world.
6. The unusual honesty of the writers. They write of the evil as well as the good. They show the hero's faults as well as his good points. Sin never condoned.
7. The completeness of its message. No problem in human life left out. The story sweeps from eternity past to eternity future.
8. Its power to alter lives. Makes sinful people holy; dishonest people honest; unclean, clean; vile, pure, in millions upon millions of cases.
9. The character of those who love it. Always the finest, the noblest, the righteous are aligned on the side of the Bible. Wicked, sinful men oppose it.
10. The revelation of the God-man, Jesus Christ. Here is the crowning feature of the Book. Here is portrayed the matchless birth, life, deeds, teachings, death, resurrection, ascension and return of the greatest Man who ever lived, the Son of God.

Many valuable books are obtainable on this subject. Read them.
(32)