

Forethought

After an experience of fifty years in the ministry, I am impressed with the fact there is great need of forethought on the part of the young. To all the youth of our land I would say "Stop, and Think!" Do not take too much for granted or do things because others do them. Try and ascertain what you are here for. Is it reasonable to believe that God intended you to be a mere animal? Are you with your powers and capabilities to be satisfied with mere physical pleasures? Were these powers given to be spent in idleness or folly? Surely we were created for a higher end and purpose. The Master has no use for us to do. Find what it is and begin early to prepare for it. Aim high. The world needs leaders. The reward is sure.

T. C. BROWN (1863).

Strenuous Christians

In that sad and pathetic moment when Captain Scott is thinking of his wife and little boy, of the boy he said, "Make him a strenuous man." Young Methodists! our times and our country demand strenuous men and women, strenuous Christians. Set before yourselves lofty and pure ideals. Live with the poets, the thinkers, the workers for the good of humanity, the saints. Above all, live in constant fellowship with Jesus Christ. Dedicate yourselves, young friends, to the cause of Christ. Do noble and true deeds. Vindicate yourselves under God's heaven as God-made men and women, boys and girls. Make the Epworth League a powerful means for righteousness in social and civic life during 1914.

W. QUANCE (1869).

His Custom

Jesus Christ found himself in Nazareth on the Sabbath day, and, as was his custom, went into the sanctuary on that day. Who the teacher was we do not know, but he went. It was his habit or custom. Such has been the custom of good men in all ages. King David said that those that are planted in the House of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age. The promise is glorious to the man that walketh in the law of the Lord; "whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." May the new year find you, dear young friends, following the custom of our Lord, that wherever you are you may be found attending public worship and Sunday school on the Sabbath, and, though unseen, may He, the Master of assemblies, meet you there.

R. CADE (1852).

Learn to Pray

To all our youth I would say, learn to pray while young. As you learn your language in youth by daily speech, so learn the words and meaning of prayer by praying. As the Holy Spirit creates the desire and aspiration for prayer by personal intercession within us, "quench not the Spirit." Learn to pray audibly in your League prayer meetings. Pray for all saints. Pray for missions. Pray for the whole Kingdom of your Lord that He may reign in all hearts. Do not let pride bury your talents, for "he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." Make the practice of prayer your daily habit. Pray without ceasing.

A. E. RUSS (1851).

Guard the Eyes

Be careful of the eyes. Eve looked on the fruit of the tree, and brought ruin on her posterity. Achan looked on the Babylonish garment and the wedge of gold, and brought death on himself and family. Lot looked on the well-watered plains of Sodom, and lost his wife, his daughters, and nearly lost himself. Peter looked on the wave, lost sight of Christ, and was well-nigh drowned. David looked on Bathsheba, and suffered heartache all the rest of his life. Belshazzar looked upon the sparkling

wine, and trembled at the handwriting on the wall. Take Paul's advice, and, laying aside every weight and well-circumstanced sin, look unto Jesus. Mind your eyes.

J. KENNER (1855).

Christianity, a Life

We ought to see in the lives of all professed Christians proof of the divineness of Christianity. The Christianity of the Bible is a wonderful thing—wonderful for its simplicity, for its beauty, for its power. It is not a systematized theology, not a mere creed, not a profession of religion merely, but a *life*, which is the best creation of Almighty grace and truth which the world contains, and the best instrumentality God uses in the uplift of the human race. It is the Christ-like life that is only possible when a saved soul is in vital union with Him who is "the way, the truth, and the life." Wherever it exists it is the expression of a Christ-like condition, the image of the divine Christ, visible and effective. Do our lives bear that "stamp divine"? If not, *why not?*

W. S. PASCOE (1853).

Be Heroic

Heroes and heroines of the Bible, of Christianity, of Britain, of Methodism—thank God for them. Young friends: Study often and critically their record, become familiar with their history, find out their secret, emulate their spirit, follow their steps. Such lives as the heroes of the past lived are needed in Canada to-day. They were never needed more. "Who follows in their train?" Who of you will aspire to blessedness in sacrifice rather than to self-ease and indulgence? Who of you will prefer to give a life in service to others rather than the acquisition of fame or gold for yourselves? Let the heroic spirit of the Master inspire you to noble deeds.

GEO. WASHINGTON (1858).

Full-orbed, Manhood

Dear young people: Life is before you. Make the most of it. Have an aim. Don't drift. Drifting leads to failure or to ruin. Have the best aim; not wealth, position, power, or pleasure, but full-orbed manhood or womanhood. Be not lopsided, but strive to attain to the best possible physical, mental and spiritual development. Such can only be secured and maintained by receiving the best knowledge and help from God and man and then employing every God-given power in the service of your Lord and Master. Those who thus scatter blessings shall be most blest here and hereafter.

W. C. WASHINGTON (1860).

Study God's Word

Read God's Word that you may become wise in all the Way of Life. Pray, as you read, that you may not only become wiser each day, but that your life and influence may be blest to others. Diligently and with a devotional spirit peruse the Psalms frequently, committing to memory many of them, especially the first and twenty-third. Make yourself familiar with the sublime teachings of our Lord, that your steps may conform thereto daily. My prayer for you all,—boys and girls, young men and women,—is that God will greatly bless you in the study of His Word, that life may be to you richer and more beautiful, as well as fuller in influence for the spread of His Kingdom, during 1914 than ever before.

J. R. GUNDY (1860).

The Covenant Service

It is much more than holding up the hand, or standing up, or even giving the name for fellowship in the church. It is the surrender of the will to God. The abandonment of self to the Lord Jesus Christ. It is asking God for a new, a clean heart. This new life must come from God and be fed by Him. Our part is the hiding of *His* word in our heart, and watching unto prayer.

J. C. WILSON (1862).