

Daily Bible Study

“Youth Gone Wild”

Selected Scripture

October 28 –November 3, 2012

THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY –This week we are going to take a break from Mark’s gospel and spend the week looking at a potpourri of issue’s pertaining to our young people. We have entitled the study *“Youth Gone Wild”*. I have thought for some time there are some Scriptural principles I would like to address to our young people so we will take this time and do that. This is not to say that these Scriptural principles are irrelevant for the rest of us but they are poignant and timely for those who are younger, maturing and making first time important decisions that will form their futures. The title for this study came to me from a song popular when I was “younger” and in the Army in the late 1980’s. It was by the group “Skid Row” of all things and here are some lyrics: “Since I was born they couldn't hold me down, another misfit kid, another burned-out town. Never played by the rules, I never really cared; my nasty reputation takes me everywhere. I look and see it's not only me; So many others have stood where I stand. We are the young so raise your hands. Boss screamin' in my ear about who I'm supposed to be, Getcha a 3-piece Wall Street smile and son you'll look just like me. I said "Hey man, there's something that you oughta know. I tell ya Park Avenue leads to Skid Row." I look and see it's not only me, we’re standin' tall ain't never a doubt we are the young, so shout it out. They call us problem child, we spend our lives on trial, we walk an endless mile, we are the youth gone wild. We stand and we won't fall, we’re the one and one for all, the writing's on the wall, we are the youth gone wild.” Much could be said concerning those sad, empty, misguided, self-glorifying, rebellious lyrics but instead we will look to Scripture this week and see its teaching concerning youth and living for God’s glory. As opposed to “Skid Row’s” counsel meditate upon the warning and instruction given to us by Solomon in **Ecclesiastes 12:1**: *“Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, “I have no pleasure in them”*”.

Suggestion for Prayer: *Father, teach me from Your Word this week as I study.*

TUESDAY – **Psalm 119:9-16**: *“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You. Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes. With my lips I have declared all the judgments of Your mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your Word.”* I will be using material for this study from a book by Douglas Bond, entitled *Father’s & Sons; Stand Fast in The Way Of Truth*. As our Scripture pointed out the first thing we will talk about is *“Young People: And Their Way”*. In this passage the Psalmist asks an

important question about a young man and his way. Teenagers are bombarded with choices (ambitions, jobs, money, relationships, education, etc...). You are faced with consequential questions about how you will spend your time, on what you will spend it and with whom. Also, what you will choose to think about, and who and what you will become. God cuts through all those questions by asking, “*How can a young man cleanse his way?*” or as rendered in the ESV “*how can he keep his way pure?*”? If you get distracted by the seeming “importance” of all the immediate questions so that you lose sight of this fundamental question, you will NOT keep your way pure. You will not be blessed, not walk in God’s ways, and bring grief and sorrow to your life now and for eternity. On the other hand, the person who does desire to know how to keep his way pure will hear the answer of Scripture and obey, “*By taking heed according to Your word.*” If you live according to the Bible, you’ll never be put to shame and you will be blessed in all you do. Because of God’s grace and forgiveness, you will find happiness and contentment even when your way is strewn with sorrows and difficulties. Many will try to tell you that you don’t need the Bible to guide your way, just follow your heart. Mark it down, whomever you listen to; what you believe about the Bible will profoundly affect your way in this life and the next.

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me make decisions with a greater sense of the long term affects. Help me cultivate a heartfelt desire for a pure life and live according to Your Word.

WEDNESDAY – 1 Timothy 4:7-8: “*But reject profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness. For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.*” Today we begin to look at “Young People: And Their Idols”. The saying goes: “Men worship their work, work at their play, and play at their worship”. Although the saying is using “men” as the subject we find this to be true of both men and women; young AND old. It’s about turning your priorities upside down; about running the wrong race; climbing the wrong mountain and worshipping the wrong God (money). Much of the problem in the disordering of priorities is the love of “play”. Selfish young people love to play and worship what they love, making idols out of their games. Men almost constantly give themselves, body and soul, to the wrong things. We have looked at this passage from Paul to Timothy in times past here at church but let’s look again briefly. Paul often uses sports analogies and illustrations in Scripture and to prove the point about men changing their priorities, these passages are often taken out of context or misquoted and misunderstood in an effort to justify an inordinate love of the idol of sport. Here he says in short; athletics has some value but Godliness is far more important. Why? Temporary versus eternal. Sadly men young people have switched religions and worship the games. We even in this high tech age have sophisticated video games in which people can invest hours and energy while they continue to convolute their priorities. God didn’t make you for a fake race or for a temporal race but rather for the eternal race. Stop working at your play and stop worshipping your play and *exercise yourself toward godliness* for it is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me put my greatest energy into things that last forever and to think of my life as a race with heaven and eternal life as the finish line.

THURSDAY – **Luke 16:13**: *“No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money”*. We said yesterday that “Men worship their work” and they do this in part because it is their source of money. Men are creative at rationalizing their obsession with money, insisting they are doing it for their children, the church, foreign missions, etc... Truth be known...it’s for themselves, their pride, their covetousness and lust. You can read and see the young man in **Matthew 19:16-30** preferred to keep the god of his possessions over the Lord of Glory. He chose to follow after earthly wealth rather than follow after Jesus. Money won’t buy lasting happiness yet so many people including Christians, seem painfully destined to prove the lesson true yet again. The need for food, clothing, and shelter quickly explodes into the “need” for disposable money for millions of “things”. The fact is financial gain doesn’t bring contentment; Godliness does (**1 Timothy 6:5-10**). So if you’re chasing money you’re not growing in Godliness. As a matter of fact, that passage says people who want to get an abundance of material possessions fall into temptation and a trap, into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. Instead of envying the rich and famous athlete or movie star you should pity them young person. Riches will most likely be their ruin. Don’t try to serve two masters. It’s Christ or money, not both.

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me not daydream my life away about being rich. Help me to only have what will keep me in proper relationship with You. Teach me to give You my first fruits and to set my affections on things above every time I get paid.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY –**1 Thessalonians 4:3-8**: *“For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.”* Another topic we will now discuss is; “Young People: And Their Relationships”. Our text has clearly put the focus on the physical aspect of those relationships but make no mistake; the physical aspect is in direct relation to the non-physical. Another way of saying it: actions are linked to attitudes. One thing we need to learn, develop and strengthen which is taught in Scripture is self-control. In his book, Douglas Bond has one heading in a section dealing with this topic and text entitled, “How not to please God”. The short answer is to have no self-control and don’t abstain from sexual sin. Self-control is a fruit of The Holy Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-23**). God calls us to a very high standard of living in the matter of holiness. The Lord calls believers to *“establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father...”* This is a high standard but it is God’s standard. In the beginning of Chapter 4 we are told these instructions are given to us so we may know *“how you ought to walk and to please God”*. God desires pure relationships. This covers not only what we do, but what we think upon mentally and desire in our hearts as well. We will discuss some particulars including “kissing” this Lords’ Day. We will see that purity and self-control is both inside out and outside in. That is to say we learn and practice holy thinking and living from within

our hearts and minds by filling them, yielding to, and obeying God's Word and Spirit. But we also need to be careful the influences that come upon us from without that would destroy Holy living. Everything and everyone that comes upon us or into our lives influences us. There is power and influence from our friends, music, hobbies, entertainments, etc... One area we will discuss is music. "Neutrality Debunked" is what Bond says of the influence of music upon the human being as he argues and illustrates the effects of music upon behavior. Music and the Soul, Music and the Bible, Music and Religion, Music and Sex, and Music Ennobles or Degrades are headings Douglas uses which we will touch upon. Finally and somewhat linked to this area is our last topic to discuss; "Young People: And Their Hero's and Loyalties". I say there is a link here because there are not many young people (older folk also) who do not admire a "band" or musical singer or group thinking they are "cool". We need to be careful to have hero's that point us to Christ or Godliness and Christ like character at the very least. This is one way in which we *love God with all your heart...* Love of country that deters us from love of God is sinful. Don't love political science over Jesus young person. Having the right hero's also helps us to build courage, honor and faith. But beware of false heroes; fantasy boyfriends or girlfriends among others. Just cause you get paid millions of dollars to play a sport doesn't mean your life is worthy of emulation. TV airplay doesn't make you honorable. True greatness according to Jesus is found in quiet, serving, humility (**Mark 10:42-44**); not loud proud boisterous; "look at me; I'm cool and the best at_____." Remember if you honor heroes with worldly lives you can expect to become more gradually impressed with heir worldliness. Make Jesus your ultimate Hero and follow Him.

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, help me to be holy and pleasing to you in how I think about and relate to others, including those of the opposite sex. Help me cultivate self-control avoiding even a hint of sexual sinning. Help me not place too much honor where it doesn't belong and love Your kingdom above America's kingdom. Help me honor true greatness cutting off my rivals to Christ and adore and worship You alone; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.