

## Why the Young Should Serve God?

### INTRODUCTION:

1. When Israel first became a nation, it was impressed upon them the importance of their young knowing and serving the Lord faithfully (Deut. 6:1-9).
  - A. Their willingness to do this was intended by God for their “good always” (Deut. 6:24-25).
  - B. Many here today are young and just starting to experience life away from your parents’ oversight, while others are nearing the time of determining their own way which involves decisions about life, love, and your faith.
    - i. To you Solomon exhorted, “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” (Eccl. 12:1).
    - ii. He also said, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, *for this is man’s all*. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.” (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).
  - C. For some, God’s expectations will be enough, seeing if God says to serve Him in His word, then you will do it with your heart and soul, seeking out God and His way for your life.
  - D. For some, however, there will be questions, uncertainties, a desire to experience the world, opportunities to seek wealth and position, etc., which may cause you to wonder whether God’s way is the answer, or at least the path to the fullness of life.
2. So, today I want to address the question of “why the young should serve God?”
  - A. I want to do so because this is a fair question.
    - i. Was Solomon right and will life truly be meaningless without serving God first in life?
    - ii. Or, should you believe the world that says you are only young once and now is the time to “do *your* thing,” seeing *God and His ways can be addressed later!*
  - B. I approach this knowing that the draw of the world is real and it is strong.
    - i. So, I hope that I can answer this question with compelling biblical and practical accuracy to help you see the need to serve God now, in your youth!
    - ii. And, to the others who may not be so young, I answer this with the understanding that God’s answers also apply to you as well.

### BODY:

- **I. You ought to:**
  - A. “Ought” is a stern word which lays in different ways on the ears of different hearts.
    1. It can be a strong motivation for the duty-minded, while producing dread in some, and rebellion in others.
    2. Yet *ought* refers to what is *right*, or what should be done, and everyone will answer to God in accordance with whether their heart and actions were *right*.
  - B. Why is serving God right, what you *ought* to do?
    - 1. Because He is your **Creator** and you owe Him your life, as Paul said in Acts 17:28, “for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’” So, He is deserving of your devotion.
    - 2. All that you **have**, all that you **enjoy**, all that makes your life **wonderful** and **worth living** you owe to God’s *steadfast* love (Jas. 1:17 – “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”).
    - 3. He is the eternal, Almighty **God**, and as such there is no other to whom you owe such allegiance (Isa. 45:22 – “Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I *am* God, and *there is* no other.”).
    - 4. He is your only **Savior**, showing amazing grace and love in sacrificing His Son for your salvation (Rom. 5:6-8 – “For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a

good man someone would even dare to die. <sup>8</sup> **But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**”).

- C. So, I ask you whether you have seriously considered your relationship to God and its obligations placed upon you?
  1. You have (or should have) felt obligated to your parents to love and obey them because they brought you into this world and love, care for, and protect you.
  2. But what are their actions compared to that of God who created you, your parents, and all the blessings beyond counting that you enjoy?
  3. Is not serving God what you *ought* to do?!
- **II. Choosing any other path of life is wrong!**
  - A. You have a choice. You can choose to go your own way—to reject the Lord.
    1. I have observed the wrong path chosen by those who were just getting started, by high school and college students, by the young workers/professionals, by young couples, by young parents.
    2. This happens because the draw of the world’s excitement and wonders can be extraordinarily strong and alluring, especially with Satan pouring on the pressure through friends, fellow students, co-workers, societal expectations, etc.!
    3. So, what can I say to help *you* see that following the world is the wrong choice?
  - B. Following another path is to reject the one sure and constant **anchor** for your life in this chaotic world.
    1. To look at the spiraling, degrading condition of our society that has lost its connection to its Creator should show the importance of this anchor!
      - a. We have all the world has to offer in this country—food, money, freedom, physical comfort, entertainment, and fun at our fingertips.
        - i. Since 2011 the average American’s income has been in the **top 10-12%** of the world and **10 times** what the average person of the world makes.
        - ii. Yet, the National Survey on Drug Use & Health in 2018 showed that among those in their early 20’s, depression/suicide rates doubled from 2009-2017.
        - iii. And I can only imagine what those rates are like now!
      - b. We are crumbling as a nation and unravelling at the seams because we do not know God and have no solid foundation upon which to anchor our lives in its storms.
        - i. Hara Estroff Marano [editor] (Psychology Today – 2015): “For increasing numbers of students all across the United States, **disappointment now balloons into distress and thoughts of suicide. Lacking any means of emotion regulation** and generationally bred on the **immediacy of having needs met**, they know no middlepsychic ground: **Mere frustration catapults them into crisis.**”
          - ii. Life without God has not produced utopia! And, it will not!
      2. The emptiness and heartache of godlessness and materialism are evident.
        - a. Although *things* are not wrong in themselves, it is foolish to make them the focus of life (Lk. 12:15 – “And He said to them, ‘Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.’”).
        - b. God offers so much more (Prov. 14:26-27 – “In the fear of the LORD *there is* strong confidence, and His children will have a place of refuge. <sup>27</sup> The fear of the LORD *is* a fountain of life, to turn *one* away from the snares of death.”).
        - c. All that God offers for those who will trust Him is good (Deut. 5:29 – “Oh, that they had such a heart in them that they would fear Me and always keep all My commandments, that it might be well with them and with their children forever.”).
      3. To reject God’s position in your life is to let go of the **only anchor** in this life, opening yourself up to the destruction of the chaotic waves slamming our world today!
    - C. Following another path is to fight against the purpose of your existence.

1. You derived your existence from God and your purpose is to seek Him (Acts 17:24-30 – “The **God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth**, does not dwell in temples made with hands; <sup>25</sup> nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself **gives to all people life and breath and all things**; <sup>26</sup> and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, <sup>27</sup> **that they would seek God**, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; <sup>28</sup> **for in Him we live and move and exist**, as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we also are His children.’”).
  2. You were created *through* Christ and *for* Christ (Colossians 1:16 – “For by Him [Christ] all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created **through Him and for Him.**”).
  3. To refuse to serve God now is to rob yourself of life’s one true purpose and to rob God of His divine right of your service and devotion as your Creator!
- D. To neglect your service to God is *ingratitude!*
    1. Of all the attitudes of man, one that we hate the most is *ingratitude*.
      - a. If we hate it, how much more should God hate it who has given you life, the capacity for knowledge, love, happiness, etc.?
      - b. These do not even begin to touch the magnitude of His greatest gift of grace in Jesus, His Son, who died on the cross for your sins (1 Jn. 4:9-10 – “In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.”).
    2. I ask you today to think of the blessings you have *received* and that you *now* enjoy, and if you can, estimate God’s claim upon your gratitude. Does anyone or anything else have such a claim on you? No!
  - **III. If you choose to serve God in your youth...**
    - A. You set the stage for a good life to come!
      1. It has always been true that what begins well is far more likely to end well.
        - a. This is the general rule for raising kids (Prov. 22:6 – “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”).
        - b. Yet, the opposite also rings true, seeing that if you choose to neglect God now, the odds are stacked against you that you will ever faithfully serve God later.
        - c. The time of youth may well be regarded as the path of your destiny!
      2. Why? Because youth is the “springtime” of your life, the time of planting seed.
        - a. You only have one springtime in life. If you do not plant the right seed now, how good do you think the harvest will be later?
        - b. Now is the time to allow the seed of God’s word to affect your life, seeing that the tender heart of youth is far more easily impressed with God’s love and care.
          - i. So, Paul encouraged young Timothy to “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart” (2 Tim. 2:22).
          - ii. Remember, sin hardens you (Heb. 3:13 – “but exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin”).
    - B. You will have the least number of obstacles in your way to establishing a faithful and pure life of service to God!
      1. Youth presents most of you with health, strength, enthusiasm, and energy to do the greatest amount of good for the Lord!
        - a. Your life has not been weakened through years of toil and sickness; and your heart has not been perverted by error, prejudice, and sin’s deceptiveness.

- b. How do you believe God will respond if you choose to take the very best years of your life and waste them on selfish, sinful living, only to decide later to give to God what sin and selfishness has caused to be worn and damaged goods?!
          - i. I am not saying that the older cannot turn to God, seeing He calls to all to awake from the stupor of unrighteousness and death and live in Christ.
          - ii. But anyone who is older will tell you that choosing not to put God first now is to offer to God the leftovers from the field of your life from which Satan has carried away the greatest of the harvest! What a shame that would be!
  - 2. So, now is the time to choose to serve, seeing you can be more clearly focused upon the ways of God to establish a straight path for your future!
    - a. The cares and concerns of the world only grow stronger as life goes longer (Luke 8:14 – “Now the ones *that* fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity”).
    - b. Your decision right now is going to play an incredibly significant and likely permanent role in the direction of your future.
- C. You can avoid the traps Satan places before the young!
  - 1. Many of you are experiencing the beginnings of your independence and are now, or will very soon, set the patterns for your life that will shape your future!
    - a. To enter a path of life unaided by a clear love and devotion for God is to ask for spiritual and physical disaster.
    - b. The wise man of proverbs sums this up well (Prov. 1:32-33 – “For the turning away of the simple will slay them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; but whoever listens to me will dwell safely, and will be secure, without fear of evil”).
  - 2. So, I ask you to think about what kind of traveler you will be in this world—for that is all that you are in this world—a traveler quickly passing through to eternity.
    - a. What would you think of one who would embark on a long journey without proper preparation, without needed supplies, and with no real direction or goal? Foolish!
    - b. Well, those who have followed the path of righteousness from their youth will tell you that life is sweetest and most gratifying when you begin your journey with God as your Lord (Psalm 119:103-105 – “How sweet are Your words to my taste, *Sweeter* than honey to my mouth! <sup>104</sup> Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way. <sup>105</sup> Your word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”).

CONCLUSION:

1. Why not determine now to follow the Lord, giving Him your all, your best, that you may begin a life-long journey of meaning and true fulfillment.
2. Sin and selfish living have never produced anything but emptiness, pain, and destruction. Do not be fooled by them.
3. Choose life now...while you are young.
4. If you have not come to Christ, do so by F-R-C-B-LF!