

Leaving Home

by Bill Crews

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never to return. The casualties are especially high in going off to college and going off for military service. *“Not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more as ye see the day drawing nigh” (Hebrews 10:25)*. There will be temptations to deny the faith and embrace human philosophy or religious error. *“Take heed lest there shall be any one that maketh spoil of you through his philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ” (Colossians 2:8)*.

When you leave home, (1) you are going to show what kind of person you are and want to be, (2) you are going to reflect the failure or success of your parents in rearing you, (3) you are going to live in such a way that your parents will be proud of you, and, more importantly, live in such a way that God will be proud of you. Or ashamed of you. (As a student, worker, soldier, husband or wife, above all things, be a faithful Christian.) and (4) study your Bible, pray, live right before others, and be an active, functioning member of a faithful and sound congregation.

“Rejoice, O young man in thy youth, and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thy heart and in the sight of thine eyes; but know thou that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. Therefore, remove sorrow from thy heart and put away evil from thy flesh; for youth and the dawn of life are vanity. Remember also thy Creator in the days of thy youth, before the evil days come and the years draw nigh when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them” (Ecclesiastes 11:9 – 12:1). Dare you read **verses 11- 12**?

Substitutionary Death

by Wayne Goff

2 Corinthians 5:21 says *“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”* **1 Peter 2:24** also says of Jesus, *“Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness – by whose stripes you were healed.”* These verses teach us the concept of Jesus’ substitutionary death. He died in our place! I wonder how often we think of this fact. Jesus died on the cross of Calvary two thousand years ago so that you and I wouldn’t have to suffer **eternal death** for our own sins. And as wonderful and precious as is that thought, few people today seem to have any concept or idea of it. They just go about their lives, doing their own thing, living solely for the here-and-now, without a worry or concern for their eternal well being. And all the **funeral sermons** that always place the dear loved one in some kind of **“heaven”** do not help one bit. Have you ever heard a funeral sermon that admitted the dead person was probably in hell? But sin is **real** – heaven is **desired** – hell should be **avoided** – and people need to **PREPARE** for their eventual death! Dear reader, are you prepared to meet your God? Jesus died to save your soul. Won’t you consider what should be your response to heaven’s invitation?

Jesus

Born in another man’s manger,
 Preached in another man’s town,
 Ate at another man’s table,
 Wore another man’s crown;
 Suffered another man’s beating,
 Took another’s disgrace,
 Bore another man’s sin, when
 He died in another man’s place. — Sara Cade