

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What keeps the youth from coming to the Lord?
2. Is it harder to give one's heart to the Lord later in life? Discuss.
3. Why are both our evil works and our good works going to be judged by God?

SUMMARY:

Solomon made a charge to all young people of the responsibility of living a self-willed and self-centered life and the need of giving an answer for it to the all-righteous God who will judge in all things. [\[SoF:6\]](#) He stressed the perils of "putting off" the greatest of all decisions of life and what man's greatest duty is, namely to serve God, [\[SoF:15\]](#) fear Him and keep His commandments.

NOTES:

[\[SoF:6\]](#) We believe that all are sinners and lost, awaiting the judgment of God, but God is not willing that any should be lost. [\[SoF:15\]](#) We believe that the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ is an invitation for everyone to live a life of abandonment to Him, Who loved us and gave Himself for us - surrendering His personal ambitions and possessions in an unreserved committal to take the proclamation of the Gospel throughout "all the world to every creature".

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #1

October 1, 2017

Fourth Quarter

THE GOAL OF LIFE

LESSON TEXT: *Ecclesiastes 11:9 through 12:14*

LESSON SETTING: Written by King Solomon probably in Jerusalem.

TIME: Approximately 980 B.C.

- I. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUTH.** Ecclesiastes 11:9-10
 - A. God will Judge (vs. 9) Jeremiah 17:10; Matthew 16:27; 2 Corinthians 5:10
 - B. Therefore put Away Evil (vs. 10) Romans 12:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:22; 1 Peter 3:11
- II. THE PERILS OF DELAY.** Ecclesiastes 12:1-7
 - A. Weariness of Life (vs. 1) Ecclesiastes 2:17; Jonah 4:8
 - B. Feebleness (vs. 3) Psalm 71:9; Zechariah 8:4; Hebrews 11:21
 - C. Death (vs. 6-7) Ecclesiastes 8:8; Hebrews 9:27
- III. MAN'S GREATEST DUTY.** Ecclesiastes 12:8-14
 - A. Fear God (vs. 13) Deuteronomy 10:12; Matthew 10:28; 1 Peter 1:17
 - B. Keep His Commandments (vs. 13) Matthew 19:17; 1 John 5:3; Revelation 14:12

GOLDEN TEXT: *FEAR GOD, AND KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS;
FOR THIS IS THE WHOLE DUTY OF MAN.* Ecclesiastes 12:13

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Luke 1:5-25

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Judges 13:1-23

QUARTERLY THEME: Christ, the Son of Man

TOPIC: JOHN THE BAPTIST'S BIRTH PROMISED

INTRODUCTION:

God makes no mistakes in choosing certain people for certain tasks. We read that Zacharias and Elizabeth were righteous before God, and we can be sure that this was the reason God used them for the tremendous responsibility of being the parents of the forerunner of Christ.

In this light we can see that faithfulness to God will bring responsibility, and more faithfulness will bring more responsibility. To the bystander or on-looker this may not sound very appealing, but to the one being used of God in special ways, the rejoicing and fullness of life far outweighs the burdens of responsibility.

Brother or sister, God is seeking those who are useable for His great tasks. Get prepared! Start now; be prayerful; walk in the Spirit; surrender to His will; dig into the Word.

Then, when God opens the door of service for you, however insignificant it may seem at first, go do it. Show true faithfulness in the small things first, and let God lead on as He sees fit. Then, like Zacharias and Elizabeth and John your life too can really count for Christ.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Righteous, holy living prepares for God's service.

GOLDEN TEXT: *FOR HE SHALL BE GREAT IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD*

Luke 1:15

God stated that this son would become "great." Certainly, as worldly standards might have judged, John's life did not show promise of greatness. No doubt the parents were tempted to wonder just how this greatness would be manifested, especially as they saw him grow to manhood with no position of honor, or power, no political persuasion, no great following, etc.

However, notice the phrase "great in the sight of the Lord". Greatness "in the sight of the Lord" is often different from greatness in the eyes of men, and is far more important. Jesus stated an eternal principle when He said, "He that will be great among you will be servant of all" and "even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve." (Matthew 21:25-28; 23:11)

True greatness, then, should be measured by dedicated, useful and fruitful service to God and to men. In this light we recognize the greatness of John the Baptist.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF October 2 – 8

M. Certain Instruction. Luke 1:1-4

T. *Right Living. Luke 1:5-19

W. *Reproach Removed. Luke 15:20-25

T. Savior Promised. Luke 15:26-38

F. Wise and Foolish. Proverbs 15:1-10

S. Proper Conduct. Proverbs 20:1-8

S. Good Attitudes. Proverbs 22:1-9

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